



# CITY OF PALM DESERT

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

December 5, 2024

Sharon Pudlo, JD, BSN  
Chief Executive Officer  
Coachella Valley Behavioral Health  
81555 JFK Court  
Indio, CA, 92201

Subject: Letter of Support for Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Hospital - 40 Bed Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Pudlo:

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I am pleased to express our strong support for Coachella Valley Behavioral Health's proposed 40-bed expansion project.

Coachella Valley Behavioral Health, an 80-bed inpatient facility in Indio, CA, provides critical mental health services, including crisis stabilization, detoxification, Partial Hospitalization (PHP), and Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) for adults, seniors, and adolescents. Guided by a compassionate care model, the facility is poised to become a cornerstone of mental health services in the Coachella Valley when it begins accepting patients in late 2024.

With over 7.7 million Californians experiencing a mental health need annually and 1.5 million reporting severe thoughts of suicide (CDC), the need for expanded behavioral health services is urgent. Tragically, suicide claims more lives in California than alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention). Additionally, California ranks 34th in the nation for access to mental health care (Mental Health America's 2023 The State of Mental Health in America), underscoring the necessity of projects like this. We anticipate that demand for services will increase even further with the implementation of SB 43 in 2026.

The proposed expansion will not only address the growing demand for mental health care in Coachella Valley and Riverside County but also reduce the burden on emergency departments and ensure timely access to specialized psychiatric services. The project aligns with state goals to improve mental health outcomes and meets the criteria for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready funding.

We also appreciate Coachella Valley Behavioral Health's proactive efforts to engage with the community by establishing a neighborhood council to provide information and gather input on potential facility or service changes. This initiative reflects a thoughtful and inclusive approach to addressing neighboring resident concerns while enhancing transparency and community trust.

The City of Palm Desert is committed to supporting this important initiative and believes it will be a significant step forward in addressing mental health needs in the region. We fully endorse Coachella Valley Behavioral Health's application for Bond BHCIP Round 1 funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karina Quintanilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Karina Quintanilla  
Mayor, City of Palm Desert