

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TWENTYNINE PALMS BAND OF MISSION INDIANS GRANT APPLICATION FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify a letter of support for the Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians grant application for surface transportation infrastructure improvements in the Dillon Road corridor and near the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians requested a letter of support for its grant application to the Department of Transportation for surface transportation improvements in the Dillon Road corridor and near the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport. At the direction of the City Council Subcommittee on Legislative/Governmental Affairs, consisting of Mayor Harnik and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee, these letters were issued on February 7, 2025.

Dillon Road Corridor Improvements: The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians is pursuing federal funding to widen Dillon Road from two to six lanes between Cabazon Road/Avenue 48 and the SR-86 interchange, enhancing traffic flow and safety for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. The project includes dedicated bike lanes, sidewalks, a median for improved traffic management, and drainage improvements to mitigate stormwater runoff.

Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport Access and Service Roads: This project aims to rehabilitate and improve the access road and associated service roads within tribal lands adjacent to Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport. The upgrades will enhance connectivity for commercial and logistics operations, supporting the Tribe's vision of an intermodal transportation hub for commerce, customs processing, and workforce development.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Support
2. Project Description – Dillon Road Corridor
3. Project Description – Jacqueline Cochran Airport