



# CITY OF PALM DESERT

73-510 FRED WARING DRIVE  
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260-2578  
TEL: 760-346-0611  
INFO@PALMDESERT.GOV

February 20, 2025

Cameron Hamilton  
FEMA Administrator  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

**RE: BRIC 2024 City of Palm Springs Western Coachella Valley Flood and Blowsand Mitigation Project - Support**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The City of Palm Desert supports the application of the City of Palm Springs' BRIC 2024 City of Palm Springs Western Coachella Valley Flood and Blowsand Mitigation Project. The project will advance safety and strengthen key community connections by mitigating the risk associated with flooding and blowsand on Indian Canyon Drive. By hardening Indian Canyon Drive and mitigating the flooding and blowsand impacts, this project will improve the safety of the region's transportation network.

Since 2023, Indian Canyon Drive has closed for a total of 165 days due to flooding and blowsand. Indian Canyon Drive is an arterial road in the City of Palm Springs that crosses the Whitewater River and a sand dune conservation area. This road provides a critical connection to access essential goods, services, and jobs and the region's only Level I Trauma Center and Desert Regional Medical Center. Storms bring sudden and severe conditions, making travel along Indian Canyon extremely risky. It hinders the ability of first responders to address emergency situations and get people needing emergency medical care to Desert Regional Medical Center. It also negatively impacts the regional economy, hindering the ability of people to access their jobs and hampering the movement of goods and services.

Even after the flood waters subside, the impacts of weather events last for days and weeks as debris and sand remain on the roadway and inspections and road repairs are made. The project incorporates resilience measures to avoid adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts of road closures due to flooding and blowsand. The project's bridges will help to keep the road open to improve public safety, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to the region.

For these reasons, we strongly support the City of Palm Springs' BRIC 2024 City of Palm Springs Western Coachella Valley Flood and Blowsand Mitigation Project and look forward to your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik, Mayor  
City of Palm Desert