



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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April 8, 2025

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the City of Indian Wells – Community Project Funding Request for Fiscal Year 2026

Dear Congressman Calvert:

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Indian Wells' request for Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding for the Whitewater Channel Lining Project ("Project").

This critical project will restore the structural integrity of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel ("WWRSC"), which serves as the primary flood conveyance system for the entire Coachella Valley. With a drainage area of approximately 743 square miles, the WWRSC plays a vital role in protecting our region from flooding. However, the channel is currently unlined and highly susceptible to erosion—posing risks not only to the channel's stability but also to the safety of adjacent properties and communities.

The proposed Project includes the installation of approximately 7,400 linear feet of concrete slope protection along the north and south banks of the channel. This essential work will stabilize the embankments, reduce sediment transport, and mitigate risks from intense storm surges—especially those exacerbated by the growing impacts of climate change.

As neighboring communities, we understand the shared importance of regional infrastructure that supports stormwater management, flood mitigation, and climate resilience. The City of Indian Wells' proposed improvements will strengthen our collective ability to respond to increasingly severe weather events and protect public safety across the valley.

We respectfully urge your support for this important project and encourage consideration of the long-term benefits it will provide to communities throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik
Mayor, City of Palm Desert