



# CITY OF PALM DESERT

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September 25, 2025

Kome Ajise  
Executive Director  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

## RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RIVERSIDE COUNTY APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL FUNDING

Dear Executive Director Ajise,

The City of Palm Desert supports the 17 applications submitted by Riverside County agencies to SCAG through its Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 Call for Project Nominations (Call) for a variety of regionally significant multimodal projects totaling \$327 million.

The projects being proposed across our county bring a strong balance of multimodal solutions serving a large swath of Riverside County's expansive geography. If funded, these projects would:

- Expand the regional express lanes network from Corona to Lake Elsinore, giving travelers a reliable trip and mode choice options
- Rebuild outdated freeway interchanges and widen regional arterials that no longer serve our county's exploding population in Menifee, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Indio, Corona, and Wildomar
- Ensure residents and visitors have safe active transportation corridors in Hemet, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Indian Wells, and unincorporated Riverside County
- Make it safer and more efficient to travel in the Coachella Valley by optimizing existing transportation assets with synchronized traffic signals and modernized traffic management systems in Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert
- Reduce transportation's carbon footprint by grade separating road from rail in Beaumont, installing solar-covered parking and electric vehicle chargers in unincorporated Riverside County, and purchasing zero-emission buses that will service a 2,500 square mile area

Riverside County applications to this year's Call paint a clear picture of what our subregion is all about: balance. Of the \$327 million requested, 41 percent is for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding, further demonstrating the Inland Empire is not just focused on widening projects.

I encourage SCAG to give the Riverside County applications your full consideration. Should you or your staff have any questions about our region's applications, please contact Jillian Guizado, Planning and Programming Director at [JGuizado@rctc.org](mailto:JGuizado@rctc.org) or (951) 787-7141.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik  
Mayor, City of Palm Desert