



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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October 17, 2025

Ms. Elizabeth King, Executive Director
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 112
Palm Desert, CA 92260

RE: Letter of Support – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens’ Central Valley Pollinator Pathway Project

Dear Ms. King:

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I am pleased to express our strong support for *The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens’ Central Valley Pollinator Pathway Project* and its grant application to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

The project will restore approximately 37.5 acres of native habitat during its first two years and expand to 23 sites throughout the Central Coachella Valley over two subsequent years. Through propagation and outplanting of native pollinator species, the initiative will enhance ecological linkages between conservation lands managed by The Living Desert and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, as well as gardens at up to 20 public spaces, including Desert Recreation District facilities and local schools.

These native plantings will replace invasive species with drought-tolerant, climate-resilient vegetation that supports at-risk pollinators such as monarch butterflies and other vital insect species. The project advances regional conservation goals under the *Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018* and the State’s 30x30 initiative by improving public access, promoting habitat connectivity, and demonstrating water-wise restoration techniques.

The City of Palm Desert is proud to support this “shovel-ready” project, which will make a measurable contribution to biodiversity, water conservation, and community education. We commend The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens for its leadership in ecological restoration and stewardship within our region and respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik
Mayor, City of Palm Desert