
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA PACKET

SEPTEMBER 2024



AGENDA

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

8:30am to 10:00am

UCR-Palm Desert

Room B114-117

1. Call to Order
2. Board Member Attendance
3. Approval of July 17, 2024 Minutes
4. Executive Committee Report - Chair Deborah McGarrey
5. Presentation of Laptops to CVEP by Charter Communications - Sandra Cuellar
6. 2024-2025 Budget Review and Approval
7. CEO Report - Laura James
8. Letters of Support Requests
 - a. Measure AA – Desert Regional Medical Center Lease
 - b. Chuckwalla National Monument
9. Strategic Planning Project - Status Update - Laura James and Dr. Tom McWeeney
10. Board Member Updates/Comments
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Location TBD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROSTER



Investor Agency/Organization	Representative(s)	Jul 17	Aug Dark	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 15	Dec Dark	Jan 17	Feb 21	Mar 20	Apr 17	May 15	Jun 19
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	To Be Determined												
Banc of California	Tracy Tremblay	X											
Charter Communications/Spectrum	Sandra Cuellar	X											
City of Cathedral City	Mark Carnevale/Ernesto Guterrez	X											
City of Indian Wells	Bruce Whitman	✓ Z											
City of Palm Desert	Gina Nestande/Amy Lawrence	✓											
City of Palm Springs	Grace Garner/Ron de Harte	✓											
City of Rancho Mirage	Steve Downs	X											
College of the Desert	Rodrigo Garcia	X											
Eisenhower Medical Center	Ken Wheat	X											
Greater CV Chamber of Commerce	Brandon Marley	✓											
Gulf-California Broadcast Co./KESQ	Jerry Upham	X											
Hunter Johnsen	Chris Hunter	✓											
LifeStream Blood Bank	Martin Arredondo/Izsak Lopez	✓											
Osborne Rincon	Lee Osborne	✓											
Palm Springs Life	Paulina Larson	X											
Riverside County EDA	Joaquin Tijerina/Bob Wright	✓											
Southern California Edison	Shane Massoud	✓											
Southern California Gas Company	Deborah McGarrey	✓											
Sunrise Company	Phil Smith	✓											
The Desert Sun LOCALIQ	Tom Niva	X											
University of California, Riverside	Agam Patel	✓											
U.S. Bank	Alan Brimmer	✓											
Wells Fargo Bank	Amanda Kramer/Moises Aguirre	X											
<i>Honorary Board Member</i>													
CSUSB	Edna Martinez, Ph.D.	X											

- ✓ In Attendance
- ✓ Z In Attendance via Zoom
- X Absent/Excused

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 17, 2024
UCR Palm Desert
75080 Frank Sinatra Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Chair, Deborah McGarrey.

ALSO PRESENT [unless otherwise noted, attendees were “in person”]

Laura James, CVEP
David Robinson, CVEP
David Powell, CVEP

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Chair Deborah McGarrey welcomed the board, attendance was noted and self-introductions were done.

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2024, meeting was reviewed. Motion to accept by Amy Lawrence; Second by Shame Massoud. Unanimous acceptance.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair McGarrey provided a brief update on the Executive Committee meeting of July 17, 2024, held immediately prior to this meeting. Primary topic was Executive Committee structure/officers.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee proposed and voted on new board leadership positions. These are Deborah McGarrey, Chair; Grace Garner, Vice-Chair; Bruce Whitman, Secretary; Tracy Tremblay, Treasurer. Motion to accept made by Phil Smith; Second by Brandon Marley. Unanimous acceptance.

CEO REPORT

Laura James presented the CEO report that was included in board packet.

INTERACTIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Laura introduced Dr. Tom McWeeney (CSU-San Bernardino) who has been brought on-contract to facilitate a CVEP Strategic Planning process, along with CVEP staff members. Community leaders and stakeholders will be interviewed about perceptions about CVEP, and a new 2025+ Strategic Plan will be developed for sharing in December 2024.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

No updates provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.

Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget

**CVPEP
Draft - 9-2024**

Revenue

Revenue Source/Type	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	Notes
Public Support														
Cathedral City	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
La Quinta	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Rancho Mirage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	CVPEP not included in 24-25 budget
Palm Springs	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	Per conversations with staff. Difficulty of iHub transition was a contributing factor to reduction. iHub contract expired 6/30 and we do not expect to renew.
Palm Desert	\$ -	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	Second installment payable with delivery of a "work plan".
Desert Hot Springs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	Possible re-investment after launch of BRE program.
Indio	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	Possible re-investment in CY 2024.
Riverside County	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
Indian Wells	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Coachella	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	Summit sponsorship included in this amt.
Agua Caliente	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
College of the Desert	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Total Public Support	\$ 85,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 170,000	
Healthcare Sector														
Lifestream	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Eisenhower	\$ -	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
Desert Care Network	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Kaiser Permanente	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Total Healthcare Sector	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ 35,000	
Banking Sector														
Union Bank	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	
Bank of America	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
US Bank	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
Wells Fargo	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
BBVA Compass	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	
Bank of California (Pacific West)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Sun Community FCU	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	We have proposed board-level investment for 24-25.
Chase	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Banking Support	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	
Private Entity Support														
Charter	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
KESQ	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	In-kind support of \$10K+
Sunrise	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
Visit Greater Palm Springs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Ceased investing in 2021. We have proposed in-kind support in 24-25 (sharing a data subscription).
Gannett Foundation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	In-kind support of \$10K+
SoCal Gas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	
Southern California Edison	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	
New Investors/Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Osborne-Rincon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	
PICV	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	The future of PICV is uncertain.

Refunds & Credits	\$	1,000	\$	5,966	\$	5,967	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	12,933	All related to Accelerator Campus. \$1k security deposit refund to Moducan Corp. 11,933 is rents collected to be remitted to City.	
Bank Charges		0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
Computers & IT	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	900	Upgrade/update one computer per year	
Education & Training	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	400	This would cover 2-3 webinars from IEDC or other appropriate providers.	
D&O Insurance	\$	2,082	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,082		
Insurance	\$	2,182	\$	2,182	\$	2,182	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	10,910	This will go down - pending disposal/donation of automobile owned by CVEP	
Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	350	\$	4,200		
Mileage Reimbursement	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	250	\$	250	\$	250	\$	250	\$	250	\$	2,700		
Lodging		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		1000	Lodging Expense: IEDC Leadership Summit. Our other usual conference is IN2 in Denver each May, but the ROI on that one is questionable.	
Meals	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	20	\$	370		
Misc. Expenses	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
Subscriptions and Dues	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,160	IEDC Membership renews in January. Annual Esri Subscription renews in May.	
Web-based subscriptions	\$	222	\$	72	\$	72	\$	72	\$	72	\$	72	\$	72	\$	72	\$	72	\$	72	\$	1,014	Zoom is annual in July. Dropbox is billed at \$18/user.	
Office Supplies	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	150	\$	1,800		
Copier Lease	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	218	\$	2,616	Used by staff and tenants	
Travel Expense	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	450	Two conferences per year, normally: IEDC Leadership and NREL IN2. Skip NREL IN2 this year for financial reasons.	
Website Expenses	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	100	Domain renewals for cvep.com and cvep.org. General maintenance included in marketing retainer.	
Janitorial Expense	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		Common areas now maintained by City of PS.
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
Utilities	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
EIDL Loan Payment	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	1,350	\$	16,200	SBA - Economic Injury Disaster Loan	
Phone & Internet	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	200	\$	2,400	In-office phone/internet	
Total Other	\$	23,024	\$	30,758	\$	10,759	\$	4,792	\$	53,792	\$	2,610	\$	5,300	\$	2,660	\$	3,760	\$	2,660	\$	145,435		
Total Expenses	\$	58,048	\$	65,464	\$	48,853	\$	94,156	\$	56,524	\$	41,191	\$	38,551	\$	44,471	\$	46,045	\$	44,945	\$	628,499		



Morning Insights:

Since we last met:

- **August 14.** *The Proposed Chuckwalla National Monument* with guest speaker Karin Jaffie, Marketing & Development Associate, Friends of the Desert Mountains.
- **September 11.** *Where our water comes from, and the need to conserve our natural resources.* Lorraine Garcia from CVWD (Coachella Valley Water District) and Xochitl Peña from DWA (Desert Water Agency). Lorraine and Xochitl presented on behalf of CV Water Counts.

Upcoming:

- **October 9.** *The Economic Impact of the Port of Long Beach* with guest speaker Joel Perler, Economic Development Manager, Port of Long Beach.
- **November: DARK**

Economic Summit:

November 19 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Agua Caliente in Rancho Mirage. Sponsorship deadline is Friday. DATA. OPPORTUNITY. GROWTH.

Operations:

- We have reached a new agreement with Osborne Rincon for the coming year at a more affordable rate.
- Staff is meeting tomorrow with a new TPA provider for our 401k plan. We have been consistently disappointed with the service from our current company, FuturePlan.
- We are reviewing current insurance policies to ensure appropriate coverage.
- Priority One Coachella Valley – Working with the City of Palm Desert and what remains of the P1CV board to bring all administrative tasks up to date.

Palm Springs iHub:

- Staff is reorganizing current tenants at the Palm Springs headquarters to meet demand for shared office space. We have also added a mail-only option. Tenant MOUs will be re-done to allow for an escalating price scale.
- CVEP's Innovation/Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Group continues to draft a vision for a more agile, modernized iHub program. The group now meets twice monthly.
- One-on-one meetings with iHub clients Nima Pauline (EcoCulture Manufacturing), Rossana Jeran (Hello Computer, Inc), Larry Tubor (Birds Eye Aerial Drones)
- Group meeting with City of Palm Springs Economic Development and Palm Springs iHub Accelerator Campus tenants was held on July 31.



Meetings of Interest:

- Matt McCleary, WT Partnership and Eric Ceja, City of Palm Desert
- Katie Stice, Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce
- Nathan Truesdell, Local IQ/USA Today Network
- Jim Gomes, TCA Ventures, Palm Desert
- Dr. Justine Ross, UCR Center for Community Solutions, Riverside
- Garrett Falzone, municipal securities professional, Palm Springs
- David Harlow, Foreign Trade Zone consultant
- Kathleen Kelly, City of Palm Desert
- Scott White, Davis Meyer, Sean Smith, Visit GPS
- Paul Marttila, Business Location Dynamics
- Neftali Galarza, representing NextEra Energy
- Mona Babauta, SunLine Transit
- Anne Ambrose, Charlie McClendon, Andrew Firestine, City of Cathedral City

Events of Interest:

- July 22 – Inland SoCal Accelerate iHub Kickoff, Riverside
- July 23 – Happy Hour with Hope, Cathedral City
- September 6 – Rancho Mirage Chamber Legislative Business Breakfast

Investor Spotlights:

- July 25 – Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce (Included in Insights newsletter to 4,952 unique addresses, 24% open rate)
- August 7 – Hunter Johnsen (Included in Insights newsletter to 4,948 unique addresses, 26% open rate)
- August 22 – SCE (Included in Insights newsletter to 4,949 unique addresses, 27% open rate)
- September 5 – Cathedral City (Included in Insights newsletter to 4,953 unique addresses, 27% open rate)

Facts on Measure AA

PROTECT DESERT CARE



The Desert Regional Medical Center lease expires in 2027, risking disruptions to care at Desert Regional, loss of funding for healthcare services in the Coachella Valley, and the potential for new taxes for residents to cover the costs of operating the hospital.

Measure AA renews Desert Regional's lease, ensuring lifesaving care at Desert Regional is not disrupted, providing nearly \$650 million to the local government to continue programs expanding access to healthcare, and **guaranteeing continued professional operation** of the hospital — **at no cost to taxpayers.**

Yes on AA Ensures Continued Professional Operation of Desert Regional Medical Center

- 27 years ago, the Desert Healthcare District, a local government agency, was responsible for operating Desert Regional Medical Center. The hospital was \$95 million in debt and on the verge of shutting down. If the lease is not renewed, the District will be forced to take over Desert Regional again.
- In 1997 a professional operator, Tenet Healthcare, signed a 30—year lease to operate Desert Regional, saving the hospital from closure. The operator paid off the District's debt, and invested hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade Desert Regional — including establishing the only level 1 trauma center in the area.
- The District voted to put Measure AA on the ballot to ensure **continued access to care** and professional operation of Desert Regional Medical Center.

Desert Healthcare District, Our Story, July 2024
Desert Sun, February 22, 1997

Yes on AA Saves Taxpayers from Paying Millions to Keep the Hospital Operational

- Start-up costs for the District to run the hospital could exceed \$200 million dollars — more than triple their operating budget — and could force the District to seek new taxes to cover the cost.
- CA law mandates all hospitals complete earthquake safety upgrades in 2030. These required renovations are estimated to cost over \$220 million at Desert Regional — another cost the District can't afford.
- Measure AA ensures **the hospital operator, not the taxpayers, pay for operating Desert Regional Medical Center**, and any required renovations and upgrades to the hospital.

Gibbins Advisors Desert Healthcare District Report May 2024





Yes on AA Provides Ongoing Funding for Vital Community Programs

- To date, funds from the existing lease have provided almost **\$100 million to community organizations** and nonprofits that support important healthcare services throughout the Valley.
- Measure AA **provides an additional nearly \$650 million to the District** in lease payments to continue to expand their work improving local healthcare in our communities.
- Programs to recruit new physicians to the Coachella Valley are helping **address our shortage of 240 doctors**. Measure AA protects these programs, and brings more doctors and nurses to the Valley.

*Desert Healthcare District, Historic Grants, May 2020
Tenet-Desert Lease-Purchase Agreement, 2024*

Yes on AA Protects Coachella Valley Patients and Continues Lifesaving Care at Desert Regional

- Desert Regional Medical Center **treats over 238,000 patients a year**. The Protect Desert Care Measure protects patients from disruptions to life-saving care.
- **18% of Coachella Valley residents live in poverty** with limited access to healthcare. Desert Regional provides the most hospital care to Medi-Cal patients in the Coachella Valley.
- Since taking over operations at the hospital, Tenet has invested **\$339 million to improve facilities and lifesaving services** at Desert Regional Medical Center, establishing:
 - The District's only Level 1 Trauma Center — the highest designation for a trauma center that treats the most severe cases.
 - The first recipient of the Joint Commission Advanced Certification in Perinatal Care in the Inland Empire.
 - The first Comprehensive Community Cancer Program in the area accredited by the Commission on Cancer, meeting all 34 quality care standards.
 - The first comprehensive stroke center in Riverside County, receiving the Gold Plus Stroke Achievement Award from the American Heart Association's Get With the Guidelines program.
 - The only hospital in the District with a 100 rating in the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index.

*Tenet-Desert Lease-Purchase Agreement, 2024
City-Data.com, Coachella Valley Poverty Levels, 2024*

Local nurses, doctors and patients support **Yes on AA**, because it protects lifesaving care and ensures upgrades and renovations are made to the Desert Regional Medical Center without disruptions — and **at no cost to taxpayers**.

Ad paid for by Yes on AA: Protect Lifesaving Care at Desert Regional Medical Center.
A Coachella Valley Coalition of Doctors, Nurses, Patients, and Community Groups.
sponsored by Tenet Healthcare Corporation.
Ad Committee's Top Funder
Tenet Healthcare Corporation

September 19, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Support for Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument and Protecting Lands Adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park

Dear Mr. President:

The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership Board of Directors supports the effort to designate the Chuckwalla National Monument and protect lands adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park. These lands are a national treasure and represent a suite of important values that are central to the well-being of countless individuals, including plants and animals. This initiative, which has already garnered widespread support, would:

- Help ensure more equitable access to nature for local communities;
- Honor the traditional homelands and protect the sacred places and landscapes of the Iviatim, Nüwü, Pipa Aha Macav, Kwatsáan and Maara'yam peoples (Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano Nations);
- Protect critical biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and wildlife migration corridors; and
- Safeguard World War II-era training sites and other areas with historical significance.

As you may know, the beauty of California's desert region attracts millions of visitors each year. In particular, the proposed monument would include places that are highly visited by a wide array of people, including many residents from the Eastern Coachella Valley area to Blythe. These public lands are cherished by many for the incredible outdoor recreation opportunities they award, like rock climbing, stargazing, and hiking. Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument would simultaneously help boost local economies through tourism, and ensure more equitable access to nature for generations to come.

In addition, safeguarding these public lands will significantly contribute to the Administration's important goal of protecting 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030 while simultaneously respecting the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan's overall mission of balancing development, conservation, and recreation. Also, this proposal aligns with the Administration's expressed commitment to honoring the sovereignty of Tribal Nations by providing methods for willing Tribes to steward their homelands as partners with federal agencies. For these reasons, we are thrilled to add our organization's name to the long list of supporters for this campaign.

We want to thank you for your leadership over the years in protecting our nation's federal public lands, especially those in the California desert. Please continue that leadership by using your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the Chuckwalla National Monument and expand Joshua Tree National Park today. Our children, grandchildren, and future generations would be extremely grateful if you do.

Sincerely,
Laura James
Interim CEO

cc: Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler, and Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz

CVEP POLICY PLATFORM

Identified Areas of Focus

- **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE (WIRED AND WIRELESS)** – Support availability, accessibility and affordability. Support a regional collaboration to achieve priorities.
- **EDUCATION** – Support all efforts for the expansion of the California State University Campus in Palm Desert. Support College of the Desert expansion plans and other relevant educational efforts. Support increased coordination and collaboration with COD and higher education institutions to align curriculum and programs to workforce needs to support economic development and sustainability in the region.
- **ENERGY** – Support energy technologies that are safe, reliable, and affordable. Encourage carbon reduction efforts, battery storage, lithium extraction, hydrogen, renewable natural gas, clean vehicles, solar, wind, and energy storage.
- **JOBS** – Support diversification of the work force, including remote workers. Support the iHub, to include training and incentives for a diverse work force, including IT and a coding academy. Support internship at all levels.
- **DIGITAL TECH** – Support coding academies, a trade council, and vocational training that supports broadband and connectivity. Promote the Coachella Valley as a test ground for technical vocational workforce.
- **HEALTH & MEDICAL** – Support healthcare innovation and the development of advanced technologies. Support the regional healthcare industry in creating a recruitment pathway.
- **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING** – Support biomed, cannabis, clean-tech, development of the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport, food and beverage manufacturing, sporting industry, and lithium production.
- **ENVIRONMENT** – Support ongoing Salton Sea restoration efforts.
- **REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT** – Support streamlining processes and removing boundaries to all types of real estate development.

SAVE THE DATE

DATA.
OPPORTUNITY.
GROWTH.

THE 20TH
GREATER
PALM SPRINGS
ECONOMIC
SUMMIT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

8AM - 11AM

AGUA CALIENTE CASINO

RANCHO MIRAGE

For Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities,
or for more information, visit cvep.com
or call 760.340.1575.

