



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

April 30, 2024

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

RE: City of Palm Desert: Funding for Construction of the Cook Street Bridge

Dear Congressman Calvert,

I am writing in support of the City of Palm Desert's application for Community Project Funding to support the construction of the Cook Street Bridge. The Whitewater Channel was devastated by the effects of Tropical Storm Hilary, prompting the City to begin a wide variety of flood mitigation efforts. Constructing a fully elevated bridge for Cook Street within the City will allow the channel to flow unimpeded and protect this critical community arterial which connects our residents to healthcare, education (high school), and community resources.

This project will construct the bridge over the channel and will be a critical next step in the City's efforts to build flood resistant and climate resistant infrastructure throughout the City and mitigate future flood risks.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karina Quintanilla
Mayor
City of Palm Desert

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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April 8, 2024

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

RE: City of Palm Desert: Cook Street Bridge over the Whitewater Channel Funding Request

Dear Congressman Calvert,

As Executive Director of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, I am writing in support of the City of Palm Desert's request for federal funding the Cook Street bridge over the Whitewater Channel. The City's efforts to plan, design and construct a cost-effective, elevated bridge will help ensure residents and visitors have full access to schools, medical services, job centers and other essentials during storm events

CVAG is a joint powers authority comprised of all nine cities in the Coachella Valley, including the City of Cathedral City, the County of Riverside, and four local Tribal Nations. CVAG has worked extensively with its member agencies to improve our regional transportation network. For example, CVAG is building CV Link, a 40-mile plus active transportation pathway that spans the length of the Coachella Valley, from the Cities of Palm Springs to Coachella. This active transportation pathway is part of CVAG's efforts to build active transportation that increases travel options, as well as making travel more efficient and reducing vehicle miles traveled and associated emissions.

Recent storms, such as Tropical Storm Hilary in 2023, have shown the negative impacts floods have on our local roads, hindering the ability for people to reach key destinations. To increase the reliability of local roads during storm events, the City of Palm Desert is proposing a bridge over the Whitewater was along Cook Street, which is a vital arterial road that provides vehicle access in all types of emergencies. This vital corridor must always remain unimpeded, especially during extreme storms and flooding events. These events are occurring more frequently in our region, and the residents, visitors, and emergency personnel cannot safely traverse these washes when these events occur. Cook Street is also one of the region's arterial corridors, which is included in CVAG's CV Sync, a regional traffic signal synchronization program. In addition, Cook Street is being planned to help convey the CV Link regional pathway across the Whitewater Channel to connect with Hovley Lane East.

For these reasons, the I write in strong support of the City of Palm Desert's application for federal funding. If you have any questions or would like to request additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at 760-346-1127 or at tkirk@cvag.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Kirk
Executive Director