

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0047  
(916) 319-2047  
FAX (916) 319-2147

DISTRICT OFFICE  
41608 INDIAN TRAIL, SUITE D1  
RANCHO MIRAGE, CA 92270  
(760) 346-6342  
FAX (760) 346-6506

Assemblymember.Wallis@assembly.ca.gov  
<https://ad47.asmr.org/>



COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR, INSURANCE  
BUDGET  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND  
HOUSEHOLD IMPACT  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

SELECT COMMITTEES  
CLIMATE INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
EFFECTIVE POSTSECONDARY CAREER  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
HOUSING FINANCE AND AFFORDABILITY  
INDEPENDENT RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IN  
CALIFORNIA  
MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN  
CALIFORNIA  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3 ON  
EDUCATION FINANCE  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON STATE  
ADMINISTRATION

March 25, 2026

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

**RE: Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control Sterile Mosquito Project – Support**

Dear Congressman Calvert:

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District's Sterile Mosquito Insectary and Emergency Operations Center project warrants strong support for Community Project Funding.

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District plays a vital role in protecting residents and visitors from mosquito-borne diseases. In recent years, the rapid spread of the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has significantly impacted quality of life across the Coachella Valley. Unlike traditional mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are active during the day and present a heightened public health concern due to their ability to transmit diseases such as dengue and other pathogens not currently established in Riverside County. Addressing this emerging threat requires innovative and proactive strategies.

The district's implementation of sterile insect technique represents a forward-looking and sustainable approach to mosquito control. By releasing sterilized mosquitoes to reduce the overall mosquito population, the district is applying proven scientific methods that provide long-term, community-wide benefits. Because mosquito control efforts are most effective when implemented regionally, federal support for a Sterile Mosquito Insectary would strengthen public health protections throughout the entire Coachella Valley.

The project also includes the development of an Emergency Operations Center that would enhance regional emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Located near

Hon. Ken Calvert

March 25, 2026

Page 2

Interstate 10, the district's facility provides a strategic location for a secondary Emergency Operations Center serving the eastern Coachella Valley, an area that currently lacks sufficient government operations capacity. Establishing this facility would strengthen regional coordination and improve response capabilities for earthquakes, natural disasters, and public health emergencies.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting public health and emergency preparedness investments that protect residents and strengthen community resilience throughout the Coachella Valley. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 760-346-6342 or at [Assemblymember.Wallis@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Wallis@assembly.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Wallis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

GREG WALLIS

Assemblymember, 47<sup>th</sup> District

GW:fo



TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS

P.O. Box 1160

Thermal, CA 92274

(760) 397-0300 – FAX (760) 397-8146

March 26, 2026

**Letter of support for Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control Sterile Mosquito Project**

Dear Congressman Ken Calvert,

I am writing to express my support of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District's funding request for the Sterile Mosquito Insectary and Emergency Operations Center.

a. Sterile Mosquito Insectary

We appreciate the work of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, protecting valley residents and visitors from mosquito bites and the pathogens that they can transmit. In recent years, the increase in the black and white mosquito *Aedes aegypti* has changed how we are able to enjoy our homes. These mosquitoes bite throughout the day. We also understand that these mosquitoes can transmit dengue and other pathogens that we do not have in Riverside County.

We're excited about the technique that the District is beginning to use to release sterilized mosquitoes to reduce the mosquito population. The long-term benefits of this control method, providing a sustainable solution, demonstrates the creativity and the commitment to that the District has to our residents. We support their request for Community Project Funding, as mosquito control is most successful when applied to the entire community.

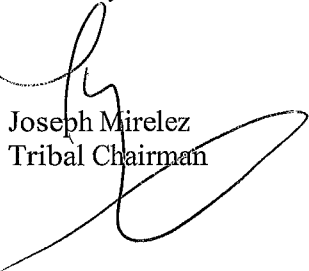
b. Emergency Operations Center

The District is an ideal location for an Emergency Operations Center given their proximity to Interstate 10. The eastern Coachella Valley is critically underserved for government operations. A secondary Emergency Operations Center is needed to improve the region's response to earthquakes and other emergencies. Additionally, placing an EOC in a mosquito control district would allow for responses to public health emergencies.

I respectfully encourage you to support this proposal and look forward to seeing this project's successful implementation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at (760) 397-0300.

Sincerely,



Joseph Mirelez  
Tribal Chairman

**Dr. Jennifer R. Chevinsky, MD MPH FACPM**  
4065 County Circle Drive  
Riverside, CA 92503

Letter of support: Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control Sterile Mosquito Project

Dear Congressman Calvert,

I am writing to express my support of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District's funding request for the Sterile Mosquito Insectary and Emergency Operations Center.

a. Sterile Mosquito Insectary

We appreciate the work of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, protecting valley residents and visitors from mosquito bites and the pathogens that they can transmit. In recent years, the increase in the black and white mosquito *Aedes aegypti* has posed growing concerns for our community. These mosquitoes bite throughout the day and can transmit dengue and other pathogens that can impact the health of our residents.

We understand that the District is beginning to use a technique to release sterilized mosquitoes to reduce the mosquito population. The long-term benefits of this control method, providing a sustainable solution, demonstrates the creativity and the commitment that the District has to our residents. We support their request for Community Project Funding, as mosquito control is most successful when applied to the entire community.

b. Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The District would make a fitting location for an EOC given their proximity to Interstate 10. A secondary EOC could improve the region's response to earthquakes and other emergencies. Additionally, placing an EOC in a mosquito control district would allow for responses to public health emergencies, such as potential local transmission of dengue.



I respectfully encourage you to support this proposal and look forward to seeing this project's successful implementation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Chevinsky".

**Dr. Jennifer R. Chevinsky, MD MPH FACPM**  
Public Health Officer  
Riverside University Health System - Public Health  
Riverside County Department of Public Health  
Executive Assistant – Mehrak Makooi (T: [951-358-5121](tel:951-358-5121))  
Website: [www.rivcoph.org](http://www.rivcoph.org)



## Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

📍 43-420 Trader Place, Indio, CA 92201 📞 (760) 342-8287 📠 (760) 342-8110  
🌐 [www.cvmosquito.org](http://www.cvmosquito.org) ✉️ [CVmosquito@cvmosquito.org](mailto:CVmosquito@cvmosquito.org) 📱 @cvmosquito

---

Dear Congressman Calvert,

As Board President of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, I write to express our strong support for the District's Community Project Funding request for the Sterile Mosquito Insectary and the Emergency Operations Center. These projects represent an important investment in regional public health and emergency preparedness and will benefit residents across the entire Coachella Valley, not just a single city or jurisdiction.

### **Sterile Mosquito Insectary**

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has long carried the responsibility of protecting our residents and visitors from mosquito bites and the diseases they can carry. In recent years, the arrival and establishment of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, an aggressive, day-biting species capable of transmitting dengue and other pathogens, has fundamentally changed how our communities live in and enjoy their homes and public spaces. These shifts underscore the urgent need for innovative and sustainable control strategies.

The District's deployment of the sterile insect technique, a science-based method that releases sterilized male mosquitoes to suppress local mosquito populations, represents one of the most promising advances in sustainable vector control. A dedicated insectary facility will allow the District to rear and release these sterile males at scale, increasing operational efficiency and enabling valley-wide application. We strongly support this funding request because comprehensive community coverage is critical to the success of this control method.

### **Emergency Operations Center**

In addition to ongoing vector control work, the District is uniquely situated to serve as a hub for emergency management given its proximity to Interstate 10 and its operational footprint across the eastern Coachella Valley. This region remains significantly underserved with respect to regional emergency infrastructure, and a secondary Emergency Operations Center would enhance coordination and response capabilities for earthquakes, large-scale weather events, and other regional emergencies.

---

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**President** BENJAMIN GUITRON IV Indio | **Vice President** JOHN PEÑA La Quinta |  
**Secretary** DR. DOUGLAS KUNZ Palm Springs | **Treasurer** FRANK FIGUEROA, Ed.D. Coachella |  
NANCY ROSS Cathedral City | GARY GARDNER Desert Hot Springs | JOHN VALLAT Indian Wells | DOUGLAS WALKER Palm Desert |  
STEVE DOWNS Rancho Mirage | BITO LARSON County at Large | FELIPE ORTIZ County at Large | JEREMY WITTIE General Manager

Locating an Emergency Operations Center within the District further strengthens public health emergency response capacity by integrating specialized vector surveillance and control expertise with broader emergency management functions. This synergy would improve preparedness and protect the health of residents across multiple threat vectors.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage your support of this proposal. These projects represent a meaningful investment in public health, regional collaboration, and the protection of communities across the Coachella Valley. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

*Benjamin Guitron, IV*

Benjamin Guitron, IV  
Board President  
Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District





TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS

P.O. Box 1160

Thermal, CA 92274

(760) 397-0300 – FAX (760) 397-8146

March 4, 2026

**Letter of support for Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control Sterile Mosquito Project**

Dear Congressman Ruiz,

I am writing to express my support of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District's funding request for the Sterile Mosquito Insectary and Emergency Operations Center.

a. Sterile Mosquito Insectary

We appreciate the work of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, protecting valley residents and visitors from mosquito bites and the pathogens that they can transmit. In recent years, the increase in the black and white mosquito *Aedes aegypti* has changed how we are able to enjoy our homes. These mosquitoes bite throughout the day. We also understand that these mosquitoes can transmit dengue and other pathogens that we do not have in Riverside County.

We're excited about the technique that the District is beginning to use to release sterilized mosquitoes to reduce the mosquito population. The long-term benefits of this control method, providing a sustainable solution, demonstrates the creativity and the commitment to that the District has to our residents. We support their request for Community Project Funding, as mosquito control is most successful when applied to the entire community.

b. Emergency Operations Center

The District is an ideal location for an Emergency Operations Center given their proximity to Interstate 10. The eastern Coachella Valley is critically underserved for government operations. A secondary Emergency Operations Center is needed to improve the region's response to earthquakes and other emergencies. Additionally, placing an EOC in a mosquito control district would allow for responses to public health emergencies.

I respectfully encourage you to support this proposal and look forward to seeing this project's successful implementation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at

Sincerely,

  
Joseph Mirelez  
Tribal Chairman

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0036  
(916) 319-2036  
FAX (916) 319-2136

DISTRICT OFFICE  
81893 DR CARREON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5  
INDIO, CA, 92201  
(760) 347-2360

1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D  
IMPERIAL, CA 92251  
(760) 355-8656



COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR, MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VICE CHAIR, WATER, PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE  
AGRICULTURE  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,  
AND TOURISM  
HIGHER EDUCATION

March 25, 2026

Congressman Ken Calvert  
2205 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Letter of support for Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control Sterile Mosquito Project**

Dear Congressman Calvert,

I am writing to express my support for the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District's funding request for the Sterile Mosquito Insectary and Emergency Operations Center.

Sterile Mosquito Insectary

I appreciate the work of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, protecting valley residents and visitors from mosquito bites and the pathogens that they can transmit. In recent years, the increase in the black and white mosquito *Aedes aegypti* has changed how we are able to enjoy our homes. These mosquitoes bite throughout the day. I also understand that these mosquitoes can transmit dengue and other pathogens that we do not have in Riverside County.

I am excited about the technique that the District is beginning to use to release sterilized mosquitoes to reduce the mosquito population. The long-term benefits of this control method, providing a sustainable solution, demonstrates the creativity and the commitment to that the District has to our residents. I support their request for Community Project Funding, as mosquito control is most successful when applied to the entire community.

Emergency Operations Center

The District is an ideal location for an Emergency Operations Center given their proximity to Interstate 10. The eastern Coachella Valley is critically underserved for government operations. A secondary Emergency Operations Center is needed to improve the region's response to earthquakes and other emergencies. Additionally, placing an EOC in a mosquito control district would allow for responses to public health emergencies.

I respectfully encourage you to support this proposal and look forward to seeing this project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Gonzalez", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Gonzalez  
Assemblyman, 36<sup>th</sup> District