



COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND: The diverse desert landscape of the Coachella Valley provides habitat for dozens of plant and animal species, some found no where else in the world. One of the fastest growing areas in rapidly expanding Riverside County, the Valley has a projected population growth of 600,000 over the next 10 years. The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) provides a regional vision for balanced growth to meet the requirements of federal and state endangered species laws, while promoting enhanced opportunities for recreation, tourism and job growth.

THE PLAN: The CVMSHCP aims to conserve over 240,000 acres of open space and protect 27 plant and animal species. By providing comprehensive compliance with federal and state endangered species laws, the Plan not only safeguards the desert's natural heritage for future generations, it allow for more timely construction of roads and other infrastructure that is essential to improving quality of life in the Coachella Valley.

Participants include Riverside County, the cities of Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs (I-10 annexation area only), Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage as well as Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and Caltrans.

UPDATE: The City of Desert Hot Springs completed a Major Amendment on August 24, 2016 and the entire city is now covered by the Plan.

BENEFITS:

- Preserves the Coachella Valley's native desert wildlife and creates a magnificent system of open space parks, trails and reserves
- Safeguards significant habitat linkages and wildlife corridors that enable animals to move safely from one habitat area to another
- Assures critical freeway and freeway interchange projects can be built without delays resulting from endangered species conflicts
- Offers certainty for the business community ultimately making the Coachella Valley a more attractive place for businesses to relocate or expand

KEY FACTS:

- The Plan received its California state permit in September 2008 and its federal permit in October 2008.
- Overall management of the Plan is provided by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC), a joint powers authority of elected representatives.
- Incorporates the existing Fringe-Toed Lizard Preserve.
- Approximately one third of the land proposed for conservation (80,000 acres) has already been acquired.
- Expedites construction of all currently planned road projects in the Coachella Valley in the next 25 years, as well as construction and widening of regional roads such as Indian Avenue, Palm Drive, Gene Autry Trail, Airport Road, and Avenue 66.