



**STAFF REPORT**  
**12/11/2019**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** William P. Pattison, Jr., City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2019-73 of the City Council of the City of Coachella, California, Honoring and Recommitting to the Safeguards that have been put in place over the past 25 years as a result of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution No. 2019-73 of the City Council of the City of Coachella, California, Honoring and Recommitting to the Safeguards that have been put in place over the past 25 years as a result of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This resolution will honor the important role that the 1994 California Desert Protection Act has played in catalyzing efforts to protect desert wildlife, natural areas and military installations through subsequent legislative and administrative efforts over the past 25 years. The resolution also expresses the City's support in continuing these important efforts to maintain protected lands of the California desert as a recreational resource, as part of the larger ecosystem, and as wildlands.

**BACKGROUND:**

October 31, 2019, marks 25 years since the signing of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act (CDPA), which, in addition to enlarging and re-designating Joshua Tree and Death Valley as national parks, established the Mojave National Preserve. The CDPA also created 69 wilderness areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the California desert, including the Mecca Hills Wilderness. The CDPA catalyzed 24 years of desert protection measures that have brought enormous benefits to the desert region, including five national monuments and millions of acres lands specifically to be used for recreation and conservation. Those include: the San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain National Monuments, the National Conservation Lands identified through the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, and places like the Whitewater River and Alabama Hills.

A variety of stakeholders including national parks, the Wildlands Conservancy, Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Sierra Club (among others) joined together to

show their support for these protected lands and develop a resolution that highlights the important benefits that these lands provide for desert communities. Cities across the Coachella Valley are being asked to adopt this resolution given the tremendous economic, recreational, and quality of life benefits that these lands provide directly to our communities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.