



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
777 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208
Palm Springs, California 92262



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, California 91764

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/CDFW-RIV-2025-0040628

January 14, 2025
Sent by Email

Gabriel Perez
City of Coachella
53990 Enterprise Way
Coachella, CA 92236
gperez@coachella.org

Peter Satin
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
74-199 El Paseo, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260
psatin@cvag.org

RE: Wildlife Agencies' Concurrence Regarding Proposed Like Exchange to Conservation Areas for the KPC Coachella Specific Plan


Dear Gabriel Perez and Peter Satin:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Wildlife Agencies) reviewed the equivalency analysis for the proposed like exchange for the East Indio Hills Conservation Area (EIHCA) and Dos Palmas Conservation Area (DPCA) associated with the KPC Coachella Specific Plan. The Wildlife Agencies concur that the proposed like exchange would result in equal or greater benefits to Covered Species and conserved natural communities as compared to those benefits analyzed in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).

One notable concern of the Wildlife Agencies regarding the conservation area design is that the land to be added to the DPCA will result in a donut-shaped configuration of the DPCA with unconserved land in the center. The Wildlife Agencies are concerned about the potential for increased edge effects associated with potential future development within the center area. To address this issue, the Wildlife Agencies request that CVCC incorporate the conservation of parcels within this center area into the acquisition strategy for the DPCA.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jacob Skaggs, Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, at jacob.skaggs@wildlife.ca.gov; or Lory Salazar-Velasquez, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at lory_salazar-velasquez@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Heather Brashear
Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

MARY WOULFE Digitally signed by MARY WOULFE
Date: 2025.01.14 10:02:59 -08'00'

Mary Beth Woulfe
Acting Division Supervisor, Colorado Desert Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

cc:

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