

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Roy Wilson

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** February 27, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Federal Grant for \$2.15 Million Grant for Critical Habitat Acquisition in 4<sup>th</sup> District

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

Formally request a \$2.15 million Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriation to the Bureau of Land Management, for BLM acquisition of 1,000 acres of Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Senator Dianne Feinstein established a deadline of February 22 for appropriations requests, and therefore Chairman Tavaglione has already written a letter to Senator Feinstein requesting such funding pending Board approval.

Departmental Concurrence

**BACKGROUND:** The 8,881-acre Cathton property in the northern Coachella Valley protects a key wildlife linkage between the Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park, conserves an essential sand transport ecological process necessary to the long-term viability of the Preserve's sand dune habitat, and protects the hydrological regime that supports the desert fan palm oases on the Preserve. BLM agreed to purchase 1,000 acres of the total 8,881-acre property, with the remaining 7,881 acres acquired by state and local funding partners. Because of the timing involved, Friends of the Desert Mountains borrowed \$3 million in 2004 to acquire the 1,000 acres the BLM was obligated for. With accrued interest, repayment of that debt amounts to \$3.4 million, of which \$1,250,000 was paid down in 2006, leaving a deficit of \$2.15 million.

*Roy Wilson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Wilson, Fourth District Supervisor

- Policy
- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Per Exec. Ofc.:
- Sup. Recomm.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: 4

Agenda Number:

3.19