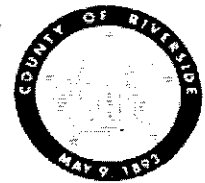


**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

822



FROM: Parks Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Willis Palms Trail to Moon Country Trail Connector and Allocation of Development Mitigation Funds – District IV

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board:

- 1) Approve the use of up to \$50,000 from Development Mitigation – Public Facilities Fund No. 30550 (Fourth District) to assist with construction costs of the trail segment; and
- 2) Direct the Executive Office to transfer up to \$50,000 from Development Mitigation – Public Facilities Fund No. 30550 (Fourth District) to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy as needed, pursuant to contracts and billings received for the Willis Palms Trail to Moon Country Trail Connector.

BACKGROUND:

The contribution will be used to help fund construction of a new 1.8 mile multi-purpose trail connecting the Willis Palms Trail to the McCallum Trail in the Moon Country area of the Indio Hills near Thousand Palms Oasis. *(continued on page 2)*

652/Willis Palms to McCallus Trail
AG/mg

Scott Bangle, Assistant Parks Director
for Paul Frandsen, Parks Director

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 50,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 50,000	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	FY 08/09

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Development Mitigation – Public Facilities Fund No. 30550 – Fourth District	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: Alex Gann
Alex Gann

County Executive Office Signature

Dept's Recomm.: Consent Policy
 Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** IV | **Agenda Number:**

3.65

SUBJECT: Willis Palms Trail to Moon Country Trail Connector and - Allocation of Development Mitigation Funds – District IV

This segment of trail is located in a very popular hiking area, including significant use by local residents. Currently hiking opportunities in this area are limited to the west side of Thousand Palms Canyon Drive. The construction of this trail will complete a 5 to 6.5 mile loop. This will provide an opportunity for hikers to climb to the summit of an unnamed 1,308 foot peak in the Indio Hills, which will provide commanding views in all directions as far as San Gorgonio Peak.

The anticipated increase in traffic is expected to have a positive effect on the nearby low income and minority population centers. It will also afford users the opportunity to experience a variety of habitats and resources. The nearby visitor center at Thousand Palms Oasis provides a hub for visitor use, information, and environmental education.

The following agencies and groups were consulted for the design and impact of this trail: the Bureau of Land Management, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (on behalf of the Friends of the Desert Mountains), the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for Coachella Valley, the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission, the Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Preserve Management Committee, and trail users (including the Coachella Valley Hiking Club).

Construction of the new trail segment is expected to be completed this fall and winter 2008, using a trail building machine and hand work. The trail will be constructed using accepted Bureau of Land Management standards and methods. The project will not impact access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites and will minimize impacts to the natural resources. Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy will be managing the project. The Parks Department will provide technical guidance to the Executive Office by analyzing invoices to ensure expenditures are consistent with the project description and that the funding commitment is utilized appropriately. The Coachella Mountains Conservancy should provide invoices that include project cost estimates of overall project costs to show a relationship to the overall funding provided.

Additional funding for this project will be provided through a grant made to the Friends of the Desert Mountains by the Southern California Edison Company.