

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



ITEM: 2.6  
(ID # 30798)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, June 23, 2026

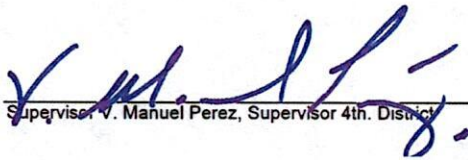
**FROM :** SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ

**SUBJECT:** Supervisor V. Manuel Perez: Receive and File Oswit Land Trust update on Desert Dunes project located in unincorporated Riverside County, Fourth District [\$0]

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

1. Receive and file Oswit Land Trust update and presentation on Desert Dunes project located in unincorporated Riverside County.

**ACTION:Consent**

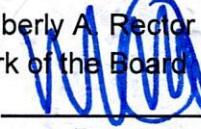
  
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Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor 4th. District 6/17/2026

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is received and filed as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: June 23, 2026  
xc: BOS-D4

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

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

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b>	<b>No</b>
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b>	25/26

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

Oswit Land Trust is a non-profit based in Palm Springs, California. The organization was created to save one of the last unprotected Alluvial Fans in the Coachella Valley, Oswit Canyon. Now, the non-profit acquires other desert land including the Prescott Preserve and Palm Hills.

Oswit Land Trust is spearheading the creation of the Desert Dunes Conservation and Education Center. Oswit Land Trust currently holds a long-term lease and option-to-purchase agreement on the approximately 177-acre former Desert Dunes Golf Course property, located in unincorporated Desert Hot Springs. The vision for the property and the 13,000 square foot building is the creation of a regional Conservation and Education Center, which would preserve one of the last remaining dune and mesquite hummock ecosystems in the Coachella Valley while providing public access, environmental education, wildlife conservation programs, and cultural resource protection. The project is supported by a broad coalition of local conservation organizations and community members who recognize the site's significant biological, hydrological, and cultural importance. The Desert Dunes site is home to many native desert animals, like burrowing owls, great horn owls, rabbits, badgers, kit foxes, lizards, road runners, bob-cats, coyotes, and more.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- a. Desert Dunes Brochure



# DESERT DUNES

Proposal: Create a 600-acre nature preserve

Why Desert Dunes is the ideal location for the nature preserve:

Biologically diverse with a rare intact dune system, mesquite trees, large lakes, and numerous birds and wildlife

Preserve can be established in phases and expanded to add surrounding properties.

Centrally located in Riverside County.  
Property owners are willing to sell.

# Potential Sensitive Species

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## Species of concern:

- Burrowing Owl

## Sensitive Plants:

- Coachella Valley milkvetch

## Sensitive Reptiles:

- Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard
- Northern Red Diamond Rattlesnake

## Sensitive Birds:

- Cooper's Hawk
- Golden Eagle
- Prairie Falcon
- Burrowing Owl
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Le Conte's Thrasher
- Least Bell's Vireo

## Sensitive Mammals:

- Western Yellow Bat
- Palm Springs Pocket Mouse
- Palm Springs Round-tailed Ground Squirrel

## Sensitive Insects:

- Coachella Giant Sand Treader Cricket

## Sensitive Natural Communities:

- Mesquite Bosque

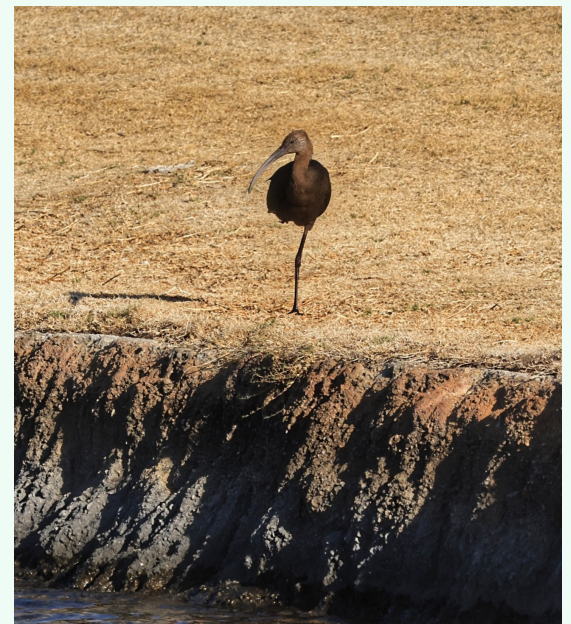


# Observed Species

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## Vegetation & Flora

- Desert Tea
- Annual Bursage
- Burrobush
- Cheesebush
- Mule Fat
- Sweetbush
- Desert Pincushion
- Horseweed
- Desert Diroria
- Brittlebush
- Linear-leaf Goldenbush
- Desert Sunflower
- Broom Snakeweed
- Telegraph Weed
- Alkali Goldenbush
- White Layia
- Desert Dandelion
- Spanish Needle
- Arrow weed
- Desert Chicory
- Wire-lettuce
- Viguera
- Devil's Lettuce
- Narrow-leaf Cryptantha
- Bearded Cryptantha
- Cryptantha
- Notch-leaved Phacelia
- Wild Heliotrope
- Plicate Coldeni
- Spectacle Pod
- Peppergrass
- Beavertail Cactus
- Jumping Cholla
- Silver Cholla
- Bladderpod
- Four-wing Saltbush
- Altscal
- Bush Seepweed
- Coyote Melon
- Desert Sand Mat
- California Croton
- Stillingia
- Catclaw
- CV Milk-vetch
- Arizona Lupine
- Honey Mesquite
- Emory Dalea
- White Rhatany
- Chia



**DESERT DUNES - BIRD SPECIES OBSERVED (FALL 2024)**

(on site and surrounding parcels)

Species	ID	Status	Date:	Identified by:	Date:	Identified by	Date:	Identified by
American Coot	1		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
American Crow	2		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan				
American Kestrel	3		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan			11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
American Robin	4				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
American Wigeon	5				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Anna's Hummingbird	6						11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Belted Kingfisher	7		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan				
Bewick's Wren	8				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Black Phoebe	9		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Black-throated Sparrow	10		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan			11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Brewer's Blackbird	12						11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Brown-headed Cowbird	13		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan				
Bufflehead	14						11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Cactus Wren	15		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Common Raven	16		9/17/2024, 9/21/2024	Kurt Kosek, Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Cooper's Hawk	17		9/17/2024	Kurt Kosek	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Costa Hummingbird	18				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Gambel's Quail	19		9/17/2024, 9/21/2024	Kurt Kosek, Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Great Blue Heron	20				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Greater Roadrunner	21		9/17/2024, 9/21/2024	Kurt Kosek, Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Horned Lark	22		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan			11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
House Finch	23		9/17/2024, 9/21/2024	Kurt Kosek, Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
House Sparrow	24		9/17/2024	Kurt Kosek				
Hummingbird sp.	25		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan				
Killdeer	26		9/17/2024	Kurt Kosek				
Lark Sparrow	27		9/17/2024	Kurt Kosek	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Lesser Goldfinch	28				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Loggerhead Shrike	29	IUCN NT	9/17/2024,	M. Fisher, Noelle Ronan				
Mourning Dove	30		9/21/2024	Kurt Kosek, Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Northern Mockingbird	31		9/17/2024,	Noelle Ronan Kurt Kosek	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	32		9/21/2024 9/21/2024					
Orange-crowned Warbler	33		9/17/2024		10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Phainopepla	34				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Pied-billed Grebe	35				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Red-tailed Hawk	36				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Red-winged Blackbird	37				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Ring-necked Duck	38				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	39		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	40				10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Ruddy Duck	41						11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Savannah Sparrow	42		9/17/2024	Kurt Kosek Kurt Kosek,	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek		
Say's Phoebe	43		9/17/2024,	Noelle Ronan Kurt Kosek,	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Turkey Vulture	44		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan Noelle				
Verdin	45		9/17/2024,	Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Vesper Sparrow	46		9/21/2024 9/21/2024				11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
Western Meadowlark	47		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
White-crowned Sparrow	48		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper
White-faced Ibis	49		9/17/2024	Kurt Kosek				
Wilson's warbler	50		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan				
Yellow-rumped warbler	51		9/21/2024	Noelle Ronan	10/21/24	Kurt Kosek	11/11/24	Kurt Kosek, Tom Crusse, Scott Bedrick, Rob Tanner, Christian Cooper

# Recirculated Final Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan

**Natural Communities**

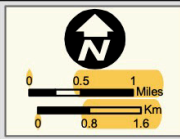
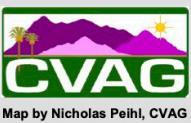
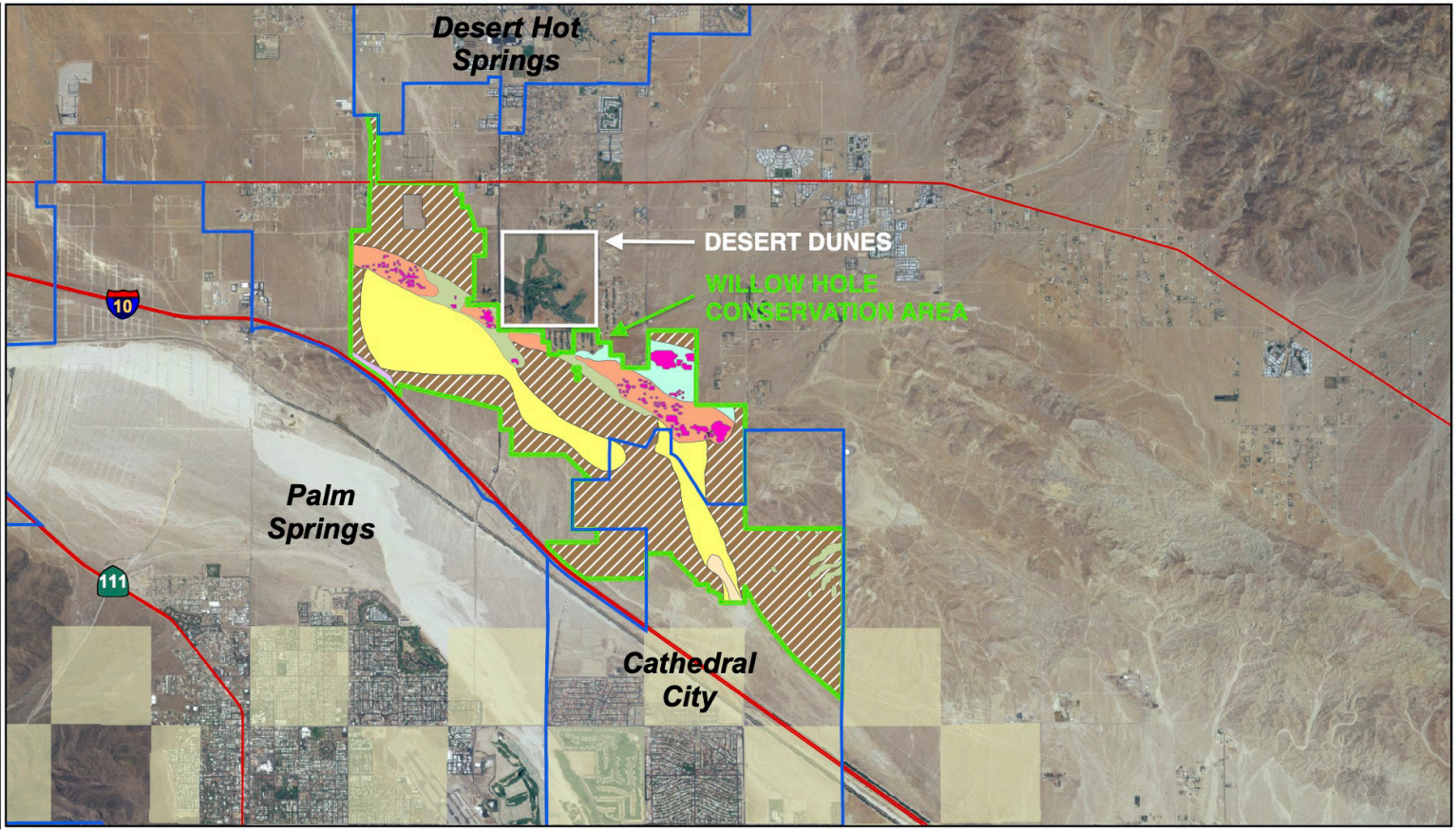
- City Boundaries
- Willow Hole Conservation Area
- Active sand fields
- Desert fan palm oasis woodland
- Desert saltbush scrub
- Ephemeral sand fields
- Mesquite hummocks
- Sonoran creosote bush scrub
- Sonoran mixed woody & succulent scrub
- Stabilized desert dunes
- Stabilized desert sand fields

**Other Features:**

- CVMShCP Boundary
- Willow Hole Conservation Area
- Indian Reservations (Not a part)
- Major Roads

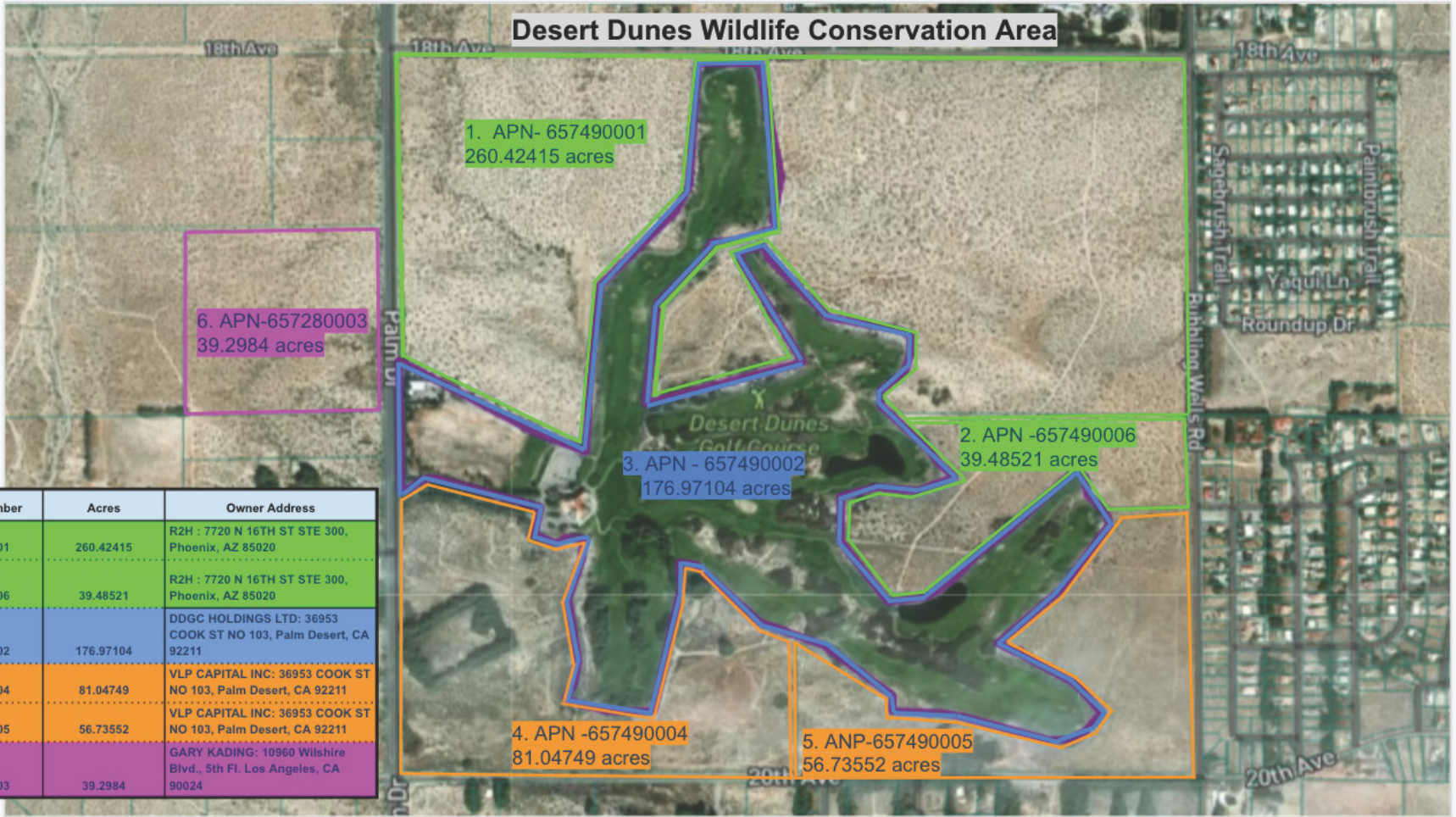
2005 natural color mosaic courtesy of National Agricultural Imagery Program.

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## Figure 4-13c: Willow Hole Conservation Area

### Desert Dunes Wildlife Conservation Area



No.	Parcel Number	Acres	Owner Address
1	657490001	260.42415	R2H : 7720 N 16TH ST STE 300, Phoenix, AZ 85020
2	657490006	39.48521	R2H : 7720 N 16TH ST STE 300, Phoenix, AZ 85020
3	657490002	176.97104	DDGC HOLDINGS LTD: 36953 COOK ST NO 103, Palm Desert, CA 92211
4	657490004	81.04749	VLP CAPITAL INC: 36953 COOK ST NO 103, Palm Desert, CA 92211
5	657490005	56.73552	VLP CAPITAL INC: 36953 COOK ST NO 103, Palm Desert, CA 92211
6	657280003	39.2984	GARY KADING: 10960 Wilshire Blvd., 5th Fl. Los Angeles, CA 90024

