Dear Commissioners,

RE: "Petition 2021-024: Request to allow retention of some western Joshua trees after disturbance, in consultation with a certified arborist"

The photograph below illustrates a narrow 16" deep trench within 10 feet of a Joshua tree. The Town of Yucca Valley has informed the owners of this property that under the conditions of the 2084 regulation granted to the Town of Yucca Valley, they must require the property owner to either (1) transplant the tree or (2) destroy the tree.

In regards to the matter before you today, we request that a waiver be granted to permit this tree to be left in place. We believe the intention of the ordinance must be recognized and supported by granting this waiver. We request that the Commission create a third course of action that, upon consultation with a certified arborist, a Joshua tree tree may be left in place when excavation occurs close to the tree. This third option would serve to protect Joshua trees that would otherwise be irreparably damaged or killed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve Bardwell, president
Morongo Basin Conservation Association