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October 28, 2025

RE: Support for the Thriving Salton Sea Community Trail Network

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA) strongly supports the **Thriving Salton Sea Community Trail Network** proposed by Alianza Coachella Valley. This visionary effort will expand the CV Link into unincorporated communities near the Salton Sea, beginning with trail connectors in the communities of Thermal and North Shore. These trail connectors will play a vital role in addressing long-standing transportation, health, and environmental equity issues in Eastern Coachella Valley. By linking neighborhoods to destinations such as the North Shore Beach & Yacht Club, the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, and the broader CV Link, this project will:

- **Improve Mobility:** Safe, paved, and lighted trails will offer residents—especially those without reliable vehicle access—improved ways to reach schools, parks, community services, and economic hubs.
- **Support Climate Resilience:** Incorporating climate adaptation features like solar-powered shade structures, EV charging stations, and dust suppression infrastructure, the project directly addresses the environmental challenges of the receding Salton Sea.
- **Boost Local Economies:** The inclusion of a community marketplace will provide spaces for local entrepreneurship and cultural expression, while also enhancing recreation and tourism opportunities.
- **Advance Environmental Justice:** For decades, residents of the Salton Sea region have endured underinvestment and environmental harm. This trail network offers a tangible solution that centers their voices and improves quality of life.

We support the **Thriving Salton Sea Community Trail Network** as more than a transportation project—it will be a lifeline for communities long overlooked, and an investment in a healthier, more resilient future for the region.

We also recognize the importance of state-level support, including through funding sources such as **Proposition 4**, California's recently passed climate bond. With over 57% of voters in Imperial and Riverside counties supporting this measure, it's clear that the public is ready for bold solutions like this trail network.

MBCA is pleased to stand with Alianza Coachella Valley and the many partners working to bring this vision to life. We urge your support for this critical project and the resources necessary to ensure its success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Bardwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Steve Bardwell, President
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