

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Homelessness Committee  
April 17, 2019**



**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Request from Assemblymembers Chad Mayes and Eduardo Garcia for State Funding to Combat Homelessness in Coachella Valley

**Contact:** Tom Kirk, Executive Director ([tkirk@cvag.org](mailto:tkirk@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation:** (1) Authorize Chair to sign letter in support of Assemblymembers Mayes and Garcia's request for state funding to combat homelessness in Coachella Valley; and (2) request that other agencies consider issuing a similar letter of support.

**Background:** Staff for Assemblymembers Chad Mayes and Eduardo Garcia contacted CVAG regarding funding needed to combat homelessness in the Coachella Valley. As a result, the Assemblymembers sent a joint proposal to Governor Newsom requesting \$10M in state funding for homelessness initiatives in Coachella Valley. This funding would bolster our regional housing first approach through projects that would expand the inventory of crisis stabilization housing and rapid rehousing units, create a new navigation center, and provide additional support for existing services. The proposal directly aligns with many of the Governor's top priorities. Funding would benefit the entire region, as well as provide targeted support in the western valley.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez has submitted a letter in support of the Assemblymembers' request.

**Fiscal Impact:** If the request for state funding is approved, an additional \$10M would be earmarked specifically for efforts to address homelessness in our region.

**Attachments:**

1. Letter from Assemblymembers Mayes and Garcia
2. Draft Letter of Support
3. Letter of Support from Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

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# Assembly California Legislature



CHAD MAYES  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE  
41608 INDIAN TRAIL, SUITE 1  
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(760) 346-6342  
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April 9, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your leadership on the issue of homelessness in California. As you are well aware, this issue is at a crisis level in every community across this state. Since 2016, we have experienced a larger increase in homelessness than any other state in the country. That is why your focus on this issue is so welcome. We are in agreement that this is a moral responsibility and the crisis must be addressed head on.

We believe the state must partner with local governments who are often best positioned to combat this issue. That is why we respectfully request \$10 million in state funding for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) effort to combat homelessness in the Coachella Valley.

CVAG will distribute these funds with a formula of 70% going towards "projects" in the Western Coachella Valley and 30% allocated towards existing "programs" for homeless services within the broader Coachella Valley. There is strong regional support for this funding as it would greatly assist the Coachella Valley in addressing the root causes of homelessness.

- **Property Acquisition:** CVAG is ready to work with the Riverside County Housing Authority to purchase properties to utilize for Crisis Stabilization Housing or Rapid Rehousing. Currently, the CVAG Housing First Program is at capacity in crisis stabilization beds. While CVAG leases these units, purchasing through the Housing Authority that already owns and operates housing would solidify long-term housing availability. This type of housing is also critical to the successful outcomes of Housing First programs.
- **Hotel/Motel Renovations:** Palm Springs is currently doing an inventory of unused hotel/motel space that could be acquired and renovated for the purposes of serving homeless or at-risk individuals or families, in turn increasing the amount of crisis stabilization housing available. This funding could be used to support those efforts or similar efforts in other cities in the Western Coachella Valley.
- **Navigation Center:** These are taking the place of the old traditional shelter model. While the center would still have some emergency shelter beds, the focus is to utilize the centers for intake into Housing First programs with the full array of wrap-around services. Funding is

needed to help with first-year operational costs, land acquisitions, as well as design and planning.

- Support for existing homeless services to provide food, clothing, and other basic necessities for the disadvantaged in the broader Coachella Valley region.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact John Knobel at [John.Knobel@asm.ca.gov](mailto:John.Knobel@asm.ca.gov) or 319-2942.

Sincerely,



Chad Mayes  
Assemblymember, 42<sup>nd</sup> District



Eduardo Garcia  
Assemblymember, 56<sup>th</sup> District

**Item 7B Attachment 2**

**Sample Letter of Support**

April XX, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of (Name of jurisdiction or agency) I am writing to lend our full support of the budget request submitted by Assemblymembers Chad Mayes and Eduardo Garcia to address homelessness in the Coachella Valley. The proposal is a compilation of allocations that will specifically address gaps in homelessness funding in our region.

The Coachella Valley bears an overwhelming percentage of homelessness in Riverside County and (Name of jurisdiction or agency) is working with our local stakeholders to expand homelessness programs and services. Our region is uniquely positioned to utilize these proposed resources in a data-driven and results-oriented fashion. For the past two years, we have worked in a regional capacity through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to implement a housing first strategy as well as support our current shelters and service providers. Additionally, after months of analysis of our landscape with the assistance of a nationally-renowned expert hired by the Desert Healthcare District, we are establishing a groundbreaking collective impact collaborative that will maximize our ability to work together to end homelessness in Coachella Valley.

We want to thank you for putting California's homelessness crisis at the top of your agenda. The request submitted by Assemblymembers Mayes and Garcia directly aligns with many of the proposals you have highlighted. An investment in our historically under-served region would provide the necessary resources to implement programs that would serve as a model for other regions in California.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to having the proposed line items included in the budget. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact (Name of Contact) at (Contact phone and email).

Sincerely,

Name  
Jurisdiction or Agency

# County of Riverside

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## **SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ** **FOURTH DISTRICT**

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the residents of Riverside County's 4<sup>th</sup> District, I am writing to lend my office's full support of the budget request submitted by Assemblymembers Chad Mayes and Eduardo Garcia to address homelessness in the Coachella Valley. The proposal is a compilation of allocations that will specifically address gaps in homelessness funding in our region.

The Coachella Valley bears an overwhelming percentage of homelessness in Riverside County and my office is working with our local stakeholders to expand homelessness programs and services. Our region is uniquely positioned to utilize these proposed resources in a data-driven and results-oriented fashion. For the past two years, we have worked in a regional capacity through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to implement a housing first strategy as well as continue to support our current shelters and service providers. Additionally, after months of analysis of our landscape with the assistance of a nationally-renowned consultant hired by the Desert Healthcare District, we are establishing a groundbreaking collective impact collaborative that will maximize our ability to work together to end homelessness in Coachella Valley.

I want to thank you for putting California's homelessness crisis at the top of your agenda. The request submitted by Assemblymembers Mayes and Garcia directly aligns with many of the proposals you have highlighted. An investment in our historically under-served region would provide the necessary resources to implement programs that would serve as a model for other regions in California.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to having the proposed line items included in the budget. If you or your staff have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Greg Rodriguez in my office at 760-863-8211 or [grodrigu@rivco.org](mailto:grodrigu@rivco.org)

Sincerely,

V. Manuel Perez  
Riverside County Supervisor, 4<sup>th</sup> District