Conservation of Natural Lands:
Toward Climate Resilience

ICARP Technical Advisory Council
Meeting
September 20, 2019
Integrating Natural And Urban Lands...
Wildlife in the Coachella Valley
Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Legend
- Green = Natural Conservation Lands
- Red = Natural Lands to be acquired

91,000 acres conserved since 1996
How Does it Work?

Balancing Conservation & Economic Growth

• Covers 1.1 million acres
• Builders & environmentalists support
• Protects natural communities
• Protects 27 plant and animal species
• Pay a Fee; fee used to buy land
Diversity of Habitats Conserved
Biological Corridors and Linkages
Protected
Plan Benefits: Development, Infrastructure
Compliance with Endangered Species Act

- Water and Electric Infrastructure
- Transportation Infrastructure
Plan Benefits – Open Space/Quality of Life

✓ Open space, parks, trails and reserves for present and future generations

✓ Enhanced recreation, ecotourism, wellness
Natural Lands and Climate Impacts

How do natural lands help us meet state (and local) goals?
Habitat Areas: An Urban Limit Line

- Strict limits on acres that can be developed
- Plan has hardline Conservation Area boundaries

Protect from conversion to more emissions-intensive uses
Enhance carbon sequestration

Desert plants have deep roots

Deep roots = buried carbon
Where is Carbon Stored?
Developed or Disturbed Lands = Carbon Loss to the Atmosphere
Conservation Lands = Carbon Stored
Track Progress of Climate Change
We Monitor, Manage, do Research

Ongoing Surveys of Species & Invasives

Vegetation Mapping
Coachella Valley
We Manage Threats and Weeds
Follow Nature’s Lead
Plant trees, go native, save water . . .
All it takes...

A Willingness to Find a Different Path
Plan documents available at

www.cvmshcp.org