

(Continued from page 1)

SHADOWROCK

grading and putting utilities above ground. But Measure C exempts the Shadowrock from these reasonable standards, and others. Measure C allows the Shadowrock project to be just another second-rate housing development, with no requirement for a hotel, in spite of the fact that a hotel with its tax revenues has been touted as the main selling point for the project. Measure C also exempts Shadowrock from the requirement for a Community Facilities District, something all other developments in the City are required to have. Measure C does this, in spite of the fact that the project is far away from existing fire and police and the project will create the need for costly new services. So, as you can see why we’re saying NO on Measure C – no on the Shadowrock development agreement extension – it’s a Bad Deal for the environment and a Bad Deal for the City of Palm Springs.

We urge all Palm Springs voters to vote NO on Measure C this November 6, because Measure C is a Bad Deal any way you look at it. Please don’t forget to go to the polls -- your vote could make the difference.

Palmwood Victory!

.....Giant project next to Big Morongo ACEC looks doomed

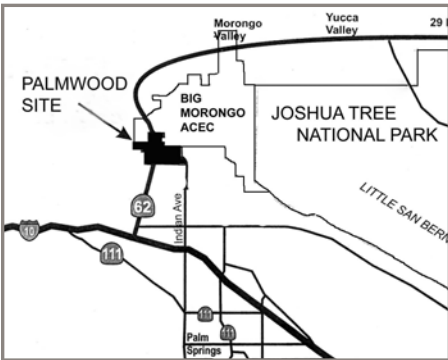
By Joan Taylor, Conservation Chair, Tahquitz Group

In a stunning victory for conservation in the Coachella Valley and Morongo Basin desert areas of Chapter, the giant Palmwood project was recently given a huge setback when Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) reversed its earlier decision, and ended up denying the annexation of the more than two square mile project into the City of Desert Hot Springs.

The Palmwood site is surrounded by public land near Joshua Tree National Park as well as Morongo Canyon Environmental Conabutting it to the homes, over 1 of commercial hotel, and two posed in this senarea that’s home species including rowing owls, the mouse, Palm ground squirrel, and loggerhead shrike, as well as rare and endangered plants with extremely limited distribution. Moreover, most of the Palmwood site lies within areas designated for conservation in the proposed Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (“MSHCP”).

Earlier this year, Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity challenged the City of Desert Hot Springs’ decision to approve Palmwood. Later, we also sued LAFCO for approving the annexation of the project area into the City of Desert Hot Springs. LAFCO then reconsidered its approval, taking into account information regarding the financial deficiencies of the project as well as the project’s grave implications for the Coachella Valley MSHCP. LAFCO wisely reversed its prior decision, stating that Palmwood must show consistency with the MSHCP as well as financial viability if it is to be annexed into Desert Hot Springs.

What next? The project has been approved by the City, but it remains under County jurisdiction, so the City’s approval has no effect. Meanwhile, our lawsuit versus LAFCO is likely to settle, but our suit against the City’s Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) will go forward, and the EIR is very vulnerable. Said Jonathan Evans, Staff Attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, and the attorney on the case “This project will destroy vital habitat of some our most endangered species in the Coachella Valley. It should never have been approved.” At this point, it will probably never be built.



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