



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 1, 2014 CONSENT CALENDAR

SUBJECT: APPROVE A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER ADJACENT TO JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

FROM: David H. Ready, City Manager

BY: Manager, Office of Sustainability

---

### SUMMARY:

This action is to approve a resolution supporting the City of Palm Springs endorsement of the National Park Services creation of a NatureBridge environmental education center at the Joshua Tree National Park.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Council adopt the resolution as presented.

### STAFF ANALYSIS:

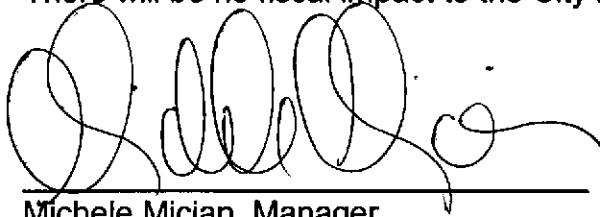
Joshua Tree National Park and NatureBridge seek to create an environmental education center that will benefit children within the City of Palm Springs and throughout the Valley. The National Park Service seeks the endorsement of the City of Palm Springs City Council to support this endeavor. NatureBridge is the largest residential education partner of the National Park Service and serves more than 30,000 students each year at Yosemite National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Olympic National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Channel Islands National Park, and Prince William Forest Park. They now seek to develop a similar program at Joshua Tree National Park. This outdoor environmental education center will connect students to the wonder and science of the desert while inspiring them to be the stewards of tomorrow.

NatureBridge fosters environmental literacy to sustain our planet. Through hands-on environmental science programs in nature's classroom, their programs bring science to life for tens of thousands of students each year. With a vision for a more sustainable planet, NatureBridge advocates for effective environmental education in our schools to create pathways to environmental literacy for all young people.

The addition of an environmental education center here in our desert will be of an immense positive impact. The City's Sustainability Commission voted to endorse the resolution at their September 2014 meeting and the commission supports this program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no fiscal impact to the City resulting from the adoption of the resolution.



---

Michele Mician, Manager,  
Office of Sustainability



---

David H. Ready, City Manager

Attachments: NatureBridge Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, ENDORSING THE CREATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER ADJACENT TO JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK THAT WOULD UTILIZE THE PARK AS AN OUTDOOR, LIVING LABORATORY TO TEACH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO RESIDE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, ABOUT DESERT ECOLOGY, HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY AND RECREATION.**

Whereas the City of Palm Springs is a gateway community to Joshua Tree National Park, a national treasure and biological gem where three diverse ecosystems converge, encompassing almost 800,000 acres and attracting 1.4 million annual visitors who enjoy the park's stunning scenery, remarkable biodiversity, rich history and archaeology, outstanding recreational and educational opportunities and starry night skies;

Whereas Joshua Tree National Park is a living outdoor laboratory whose purpose includes providing environmental and outdoor education experiences for youth to learn about desert ecology, history, archaeology, sustainability and outdoor recreational skills;

Whereas Joshua Tree National Park and NatureBridge, the largest residential education partner of the National Park Service that serves more than 30,000 students each year at Yosemite National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Olympic National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Channel Islands National Park, and Prince William Forest Park, seek to develop a Joshua Tree National Park outdoor environmental education center that would connect students to the wonder and science of the desert while inspiring them to be the stewards of tomorrow.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** by the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, as follows:

Section 1. Endorses the creation of a residential outdoor environmental education center that will serve youth from the Palm Springs area and southern California; will be located adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park; and under the direction of NatureBridge and the National Park Service.

---

David H. Ready, City Manager

ATTEST:

---

James Thompson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ) ss.  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS )

I, JAMES THOMPSON, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

James Thompson, City Clerk  
City of Palm Springs, California

---