February 19, 2021

Sent Via Email

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget And Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
Senate Subcommittee 4
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: $30 Million General Fund Appropriation For Oasis Mobile Home Park Relocation And To Provide Access To Affordable Housing In The Eastern Coachella Valley
Dear Chairs Skinner and Caballero:

Working closely with Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, we write to request $30 million to relocate residents of Oasis Mobile Home Park (Oasis MHP), to avoid homelessness, and to provide access to quality affordable housing in the Eastern Coachella Valley. As has become more apparent during the pandemic, it is imperative that all Californians have the opportunity to live in a safe community with access to clean water. We ask for your support to make environmental and social justice a reality for Oasis MHP residents.

These organizations and individuals work alongside or in support of communities throughout California in advocating for access to quality affordable housing, safe and affordable drinking water, healthy communities, and environmental and social justice.

Oasis MHP is a community of families, children and essential workers in the Eastern Coachella Valley. It is home to more than one thousand majority Latino and Purépecha residents and is plagued by unsafe and unhealthy conditions:

- The water is contaminated with arsenic nearing ten times the drinking water standard;
- The mobile homes are many decades old, dilapidated and deteriorating;
- Raw sewage pools throughout Oasis MHP in the streets and near homes;
- Water and electricity shut-offs and failures are common in extreme summer heat;
- The unpaved streets flood when it rains or water pipes burst.
- Trash piles up in empty spaces, common areas, and at an onsite garbage dump.
- It appears that residents are overcharged for electricity;
- The owner has engaged in retaliation, including increased rent and apparent coordination with immigration authorities based on perceived immigration status.

Because of a lack of quality affordable housing in the region, Oasis MHP residents are trapped in an untenable situation. Like the “Duroville” mobile home park a decade ago, the solution is clear. **Oasis MHP must be shut down, and funding must be appropriated to construct affordable housing and relocate residents.**

The requested $30 million appropriation will be used by affordable housing developers and leveraged against other funding sources, including but not limited to AHSC and USDA grants, to acquire site(s), to complete design and environmental review, fund construction, and provide relocation assistance.

This situation requires urgent action. Residents of Oasis MHP ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Claiborne, Directing Attorney
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Patricia Leal-Gutierrez, Program Manager
Alianza Coachella Valley
Mily Trevino Saucedo, Director & Founder
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas

Michael Milan, President
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, Inland Empire Chapter

Michelle Castillo, Jennyliza Ramoran, and Edwin Ramoran, Co-founders and Co-organizers
Bayanihan Desert

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Erika Ramírez-Mayoral, Program Manager California Institute of Rural Studies

Brian Augusta California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Ivette Torres, Policy Coordinator Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCEA)

Caroline Farrell, Executive Director Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

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Jonathan Becerra, Director Desert Recreation District (For Identification Purposes Only)

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Cc: Joe Stephenshaw