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## **Board of Directors Solidifies Funding Commitment for *One Coachella Valley***

*\$6 million over 20 years of unrestricted funds allocated to support expansion to the east*

COACHELLA VALLEY – Feb. 28, 2018 – The Desert Healthcare District’s Board of Directors yesterday approved a resolution for \$6 million in expansion funding, which is \$300,000 annually for 20 years of unrestricted funds, as part of the Riverside County Local Formation Commission (LAFCO) expansion application. This represents a self-funded revenue source that would support programs and services to the residents of Eastern Coachella Valley upon successful voter approval of the expansion initiative in November of this year.

“Our action today reaffirms the Board’s determination to become a *One Coachella Valley* healthcare district,” said CEO Herb K. Schultz. Significant community feedback, which has been sought over the last two years from throughout the Valley, was evident again at the Feb. 19 Special Board Meeting. The community input was in support of the Board of Directors’ direction to move the expansion process forward while continuing to secure long-term funding, which would match the roughly \$4 million invested annually in the current District territory.

Assembly Bill 2414 by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, supported by the Board of Directors, was written to authorize the expansion of the District to the Eastern Coachella Valley; the bill was signed into law by Gov. Brown September 2016. As required, the District submitted its initial application to LAFCO in January 2017. To complete the application process, LAFCO required that the District identify and quantify a long-term funding source.

With the Board of Directors strongly supporting the expansion being placed on the November 2018 ballot, the process continues and requires a resolution from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for the LAFCO application. Upon submittal of the resolution, LAFCO would hold the necessary expansion public hearing.

If approved by the East Valley voters in November, the District’s service area would expand from 515 square miles and more than 200,000 residents in the west to a new total of 2,275 square miles and roughly 240,000 more residents from the east. It would encompass the remainder of Palm Desert (east of Cook Street), the cities of Bermuda Dunes, Coachella, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Mecca, North Shore, Oasis, Thermal, Vista Santa Rosa and other unincorporated areas of Riverside County.

“A *One Coachella Valley* healthcare district will enable us to work in a unified fashion to connect health and wellness services to the people and help provide for those that are in need,” explained Schultz.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Michele McKinney, Director of Communications & Marketing, [mmckinney@dhcd.org](mailto:mmckinney@dhcd.org), 760-835-5220

### **About Desert Healthcare District/Foundation**

The Desert Healthcare District is local government agency formed in 1948 whose mission is to achieve optimal health at all stages of life for all District residents. The District includes more than 200,000 residents and encompasses the cities of Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert (west of Cook Street), and unincorporated areas of Riverside County. The District and its affiliated nonprofit Desert Healthcare Foundation, together, are one of the largest funders in the Coachella Valley, granting roughly \$4 million annually to nonprofit, community-based and provider organizations. These funds are used to assist residents — especially the underserved — in accessing vitally needed resources, such as primary and behavioral healthcare, housing, food, and transportation resources.