



June 18, 2021

Frank Haggard, Recreation Superintendent
Special Districts Department, San Bernardino County
6171 Sunburst Ave.
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Dear Frank:

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association enthusiastically supports the San Bernardino County Special Districts' effort to seek funding for electric vehicle charging stations at the Joshua Tree Community Center.

For over 50 years, MBCA has pursued our mission of advocating for the healthy desert environment that nurtures the region's rural character, cultural wealth and economic well-being. All the issues that are affecting climate change are especially compelling here in the Hi Desert. The move away from fossil fuels and the development of local, distributed, and rooftop solar energy have long been key issues for us. Ideally, a charging station would also be supported by solar panels at the Community Center!

Not only would a charging station be emblematic of our communities' commitment to reducing greenhouse gases and therefore mitigating climate change, but it would also send a significant message to the three million visitors to Joshua Tree National Park each year. There are currently only four charging stations in the Morongo Basin, none of them in Joshua Tree. Since Joshua Tree is at the epicenter of our National Park Gateway Communities, it is a perfect site for expanding the electric vehicle option for residents and visitors.

Finally, the unincorporated town of Joshua Tree is a low-income disadvantaged community as reported by the US Census. Thus charging stations at the Joshua Tree Community Center would not only close a gap in a high-traffic area, but would be valuable for local commerce.

Sincerely,
Steve Bardwell, President

Morongo Basin Conservation Association Board of Directors

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