

## Memorandum

Date: March 21, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the April 16, 2014 Fish and Game Commission (Commission) meeting Re: Mirage Trail Memorandum of Understanding**

Attached for your reference is a copy of the executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) regarding the Mirage Trail on the Department's Magnesia Spring Ecological Reserve in Riverside County. The MOU is effective as of February 20, 2014. As amended by the passage of AB 1097 (Statutes of 2013, Chapter 594), Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 1587 requires the Mirage Trail to be open to recreational hiking for nine months of the year (May through January) and closed for three months of the year (February through April) if the Commission determines that the following requirements are met:

- 1) Local public agencies or other nonstate entities will assume complete financial responsibility for the following as determined to be necessary by the Commission:
  - a. Fencing to dissuade hikers from traversing beyond the trail and into sensitive Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat.
  - b. Signage and educational materials to educate hikers about Peninsular bighorn sheep.
- 2) A single entity has been designated to fulfill the financial arrangements and other terms and conditions determined by the Commission to be necessary pursuant to paragraph 1.
- 3) The entity designated pursuant to paragraph 2 has committed to expend at least \$100,000 by January 1, 2018 to monitor Peninsular bighorn sheep, consistent with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The Department believes the terms and conditions of the MOU will ensure that the requirements specified in FGC Section 1587 will be met; we therefore request that the Commission make a determination to this effect. The existing regulations do not reflect the new dates that the trail will be open, so it will be necessary to amend Section 630 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations, to reflect the new management requirements for the Mirage Trail. However, this proposed regulatory change will need to wait until the current proposed amendments to the lands regulations have been adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law.

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. David Elms, Acting Manager of the Department's Inland Deserts Region, by telephone at (760) 668-5042 or by e-mail at [David.Elms@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:David.Elms@wildlife.ca.gov).

Attachment

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