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**THE LIVING DESERT UNVEILS COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE HONORING
THE CITY OF INDIAN WELLS**

The Plaque Commemorates The City's Ongoing Support Of The Zoo

PALM DESERT/INDIAN WELLS, CA – (October 1, 2020) – Today, October 1, 2020, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens unveiled a commemorative plaque in recognition of the City of Indian Wells' continued support of the Zoo's conservation programs, operations, and future developments.

"The City of Indian Wells has been a champion of The Living Desert since our founding in 1970," said Allen Monroe, President/CEO of The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. "We are grateful to the city's leadership over the years, as well as their ongoing generosity and support as we build the next phase of our Crossroads of Conservation expansion bringing endangered African black rhinos to The Living Desert next fall."

The commemorative plaque, located in the Living Legacy Garden, was unveiled during a small, socially-distanced ceremony on Thursday morning. In attendance: Indian Wells Mayor, Ty Peabody; Indian Wells City Councilmembers, Kimberly Muzik, Ted J. Mertens. Also in attendance, Board members of The Living Desert including Bill and Suzan Appel, Larry Spicer, Sam Spinello, and Phil Smith Jr.

The Living Desert's Crossroads of Conservation is a three-phase capital expansion project that includes new animal habitat spaces for black rhinos, a state-of-the-art event center, and most importantly, new ways for guests to observe, interact with and learn about desert species. In August, the Zoo broke ground on the second phase of the project, which will bring new animal habitats featuring African black rhinos.

The Living Desert is uniquely located in both the City of Indian Wells and the City of Palm Desert. Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, The Living Desert features expansive animal habitats and immersive gardens that tell the conservation stories of the world's deserts. New this season, guests can experience the world down under at the immersive Australian Adventures. In this habitat wallabies roam freely, budgies fly above and guests can watch the playful emu, hear kookaburras sing and discover other native Australian species.

The Living Desert is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. With more than 80 acres of outdoor space, numerous precautions, and limited capacity, there is plenty of space to socially distance. Advance ticket reservations and facial coverings are required. For more information visit livingdesert.org.

About the Living Desert:

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit, accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, ensuring the highest standards of all aspects of animal care, education, conservation, public service, and operations. The Zoo is active in conservation research, habitat protection, breeding programs and education initiatives around the world, as well as in its own community. The Zoo has been a top destination in the Palm Springs area for 50 years. The Living Desert is located at 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260. For more information: (760) 346-5694 or visit livingdesert.org.

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