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Dedicated to the conservation of the world's wild sheep through research and education

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August 28, 2020

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
CVAG
73710 Fred Waring Dr. #200
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via mail and electronic mail

Honorable Chairperson Evans, Members of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and CVCC staff:

At your last meeting on June 11, 2020 I spoke on behalf of the Bighorn Institute regarding the long awaited La Quinta fence project. My presentation summarized our letter of the same subject and included sheep mortality numbers. You'll recall a question came from the Commission asking for validation of those numbers.

At my request, Bighorn Institute staff then prepared the attached five page report for your consideration. Unfortunately, at the end of June, another ram drowned in Lake Cahuilla adding another urban death. Urban related mortalities from August 2012 to June 2020 total 33 Bighorn Sheep deaths. To be fair for comparison, non-urban deaths in the same timeframe total 11 bighorn sheep.

Urban and non-urban bighorn deaths are listed and detailed on the attached report, supported by maps and just a few photographs. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Institute; as I've stated before we stand ready to assist the Commission and your staff in an effort to move this project to implementation. We all have the sheep's best interest at heart.

Rather than wait to present this information at your next meeting in September, we felt it was important to submit it now as a written report, and summarize it verbally for the record at your next meeting in September.

Thank you for the work you do, especially during these unprecedented pandemic times.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Bynder
Board Member

James R. DeForge
Executive Director
Research Biologist

Encl.

Bighorn Institute Documentation of Urban Related Mortalities in La Quinta

Number	Date	Animal ID	Sex	Location	Age	Cause of Death
1	8-8-12	RamIV	Male	Airport Blvd	8+ years	Oleander Poisoning
2	8-13-12	RamIII	Male	Coachella Canal	5 years	Drowned
3	8-12-13	RamIV	Male	Coachella Canal	8+ years	Drowned
4	8-21-14	RamIII	Male	Coachella Canal	7 years	Drowned
5	6-13-15	RamII	Male	Jefferson Street	3 years	Auto Collision
6	5-8-15	Lamb	Male	SilverRock	3.5 months	Euthanized
7	8-4-15	Lamb	Male	Coachella Canal	6-7 months	Drowned
8	5-6-16	Lamb	Male	PGA West	3.5 months	Disease
9	5-10-16	Lamb	Male	PGA West	3 months	Disease
10	5-15-16	Lamb	Female	SilverRock	3 months	Disease
11	5-18-16	Lamb	Female	SilverRock	4 months	Disease
12	5-19-16	Lamb	Female	SilverRock	2.5 months	Disease
13	6-19-17	Lamb	Female	PGA West	4 months	Disease
14	6-21-17	Lamb	Female	PGA West	5 months	Disease – photo 1
15	6-24-17	Lamb	Male	PGA West	4.5 months	Disease
16	6-28-17	Lamb	Female	PGA West	3.5 months	Disease
17	7-11-17	Lamb	Female	PGA West	5.5 months	Disease
18	7-12-17	Lamb	Male	Shooting Range	6 months	Disease
19	9-2-17	RamIII	Male	Tradition	7 years	Unknown
20	12-23-17	Lamb	Female	PGA West	11 months	Drowned
21	5-4-18	Ewe0.990	Female	Coachella Canal	7 years	Drowned
22	9-26-18	RamIV	Male	Coachella Canal	8+ years	Drowned
23	12-8-18	Ewe	Female	Coachella Canal	2+ years	Drowned
24	7-31-19	RamIII	Male	Lake Cahuilla	6 years	Drowned – photo 2
25	8-5-19	Ewe	Female	PGA West	2 years	Unknown
26	9-8-19	RamII	Male	Lake Cahuilla	3 years	Drowned-rope on leg
27	9-17-19	RamIII	Male	PGA West	7 years	Drowned
28	10-19-19	Lamb	Male	PGA West	5 months	Disease
29	11-4-19	Yrram	Male	Lake Cahuilla	1 year	Drowned
30	5-12-20	Lamb	Male	PGA West	4 months	Disease
31	5-30-20	Lamb	Male	SilverRock	5 months	Drowned
32	6-3-20	Lamb	Male	PGA West	3 months	Disease
33	6-29-20	RamIII	Male	Lake Cahuilla	7 years	Drowned

*Map location numbers correspond to mortality numbers in table

Map of Urban-related bighorn deaths in La Quinta 2012 - 2020





Photo 1 – lamb died from disease at PGA West 6-21-2017



Photo 2 – ram drowned at Lake Cahuilla 7-13-2019

Non-Urban Bighorn Deaths Near La Quinta 2012 – 2020

Number	Date of Death	Animal ID	Location	Cause of Death
1	2-9-13	Ewe 060	Devil Cyn	Unk (poss. mtn. lion)
2	12-6-14	Ewe 0.960	S. of Guadalupe Cyn	Probable Mtn. Lion
3	3-25-15	Ewe 000	N. of Bear Creek	Unknown
4	Jan. 2016	Ewe 960	Martinez Cyn	Probable Mtn. Lion
5	Feb. 2017	Ewe 1.271	Devil Cyn	Probable Mtn. Lion
6	4-25-17	LAMB1	Near Bear Creek	Disease
7	5-13-17	EWE2	S. of Guadalupe Creek	Unknown
8	1-26-18	Ewe 070	Devil Cyn	Unknown
9	9-14-18	Ewe 1.260	Agua Alta	Fall
10	1-10-20	Ewe 0.900	Near Devil Cyn	Mountain Lion
11	2-28-20	Ewe 0.960	Martinez Cyn	Unknown

*Map location numbers correspond to mortality numbers in table

Map of Non-Urban bighorn deaths in La Quinta 2012 - 2020

