

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Desert Recreation District Awarded Transparency Award of Excellence

Indio, CA (November 5, 2014) – The Desert Recreation District (DRD) has been awarded the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of DRD in promoting transparency and good governance.



To ensure DRD's commitment to transparency, the District completed eight governance transparency requirements which included ethics training for all board members, confirmation of properly conducted open and public meetings and timely filing of financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller. An important part of the qualification process included 15 website requirements to confirm that public information such as board agendas and past minutes, the current budget and most recent financial audit were readily available.

An area critical to qualifying for the award included outreach to constituents. "This award is a testament to Desert Recreation District's commitment to open government" said Kevin Kalman, General Manager. "Our entire staff works hard to ensure that information is made readily available to everyone interested in our organization and process" he concluded.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs. Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities.

### The Desert Recreation District

*The Desert Recreation District (DRD) provides quality recreation experiences to residents throughout the Greater Coachella Valley. DRD manages, maintains and assists in maintaining over 30 parks and recreation facilities; creates and delivers quality programs, services and classes; and, facilitates leisure opportunities through partnerships that support and encourage residents to engage in healthy lifestyles and wellness activities. DRD hosts special programs such as Adaptive Sports for those with disabilities, events such as the Senior Games and partners with health care organizations such as Kaiser Permanente who recently provided grant monies to fund scholarships for swim lessons, junior lifeguard classes, and open swim passes. DRD is funded through tax dollars, special assessments, grants and nominal charges assigned to select classes and events. Over the last year, DRD hosted over 2,400 classes and programs and more than 100 special events.*

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