

**MDIC Support Request**  
**Submitted by Kathleen Franklin, California State Parks - Mojave Desert**  
**On behalf of the Mojave Desert Information Center**  
**September 5, 2002**

**MDIC Support**

This is a request for funding or for ideas about how we can support the Mojave Desert Information Center in Lancaster. State Parks is completely committed to the MDIC's on-going operations, however, it needs assistance.

The following is a summary of the MDIC's development and the reasons for its establishment along with (email) photos. It also includes where we are with funding.

**The Request**

If you – or any of our partners in the DMG - know of any source of funding that is available to the MDIC to support its operations, will you work with me to obtain the funding? The MDIC can use small amounts under \$1,000 or larger amounts. \$25,000 is a good initial goal and more if higher funding possibilities exist.

**Mojave Desert Information Center Update & Funding**

The Mojave Desert Information Center (MDIC) operations costs have been historically funded through the BLM, NPS, DOG, DOI, Edwards AFB. In recent years the funding has been solely by California State Parks.

I've established an MOU with the Poppy Reserve/Mojave Desert Interpretive Association (PRMDIA) - a California State Parks nonprofit 501c3 organization - to permit the sales proceeds from books and maps to run through their accounts. They will retain 5% of the proceeds to cover their administrative overhead, and State Parks will continue to manage the center and sales. The profits will support the MDIC operations and book store.

It is the DMG's and California State Parks' goal to have the center become as self-sustaining as possible. In the mean time, we're still short on operations funds.

**MDIC Background**

One of the goals of the DMG has been to provide superior public service, and comprehensive, coordinated information about desert wide resources and visitor opportunities.

In 1996, the DMG charged a multi-agency public services team to create the Mojave Desert Information Center (MDIC) as a gateway center strategically placed on one of the main entries to the Mojave Desert.

The goals were to promote conservation and understanding of the importance of California's deserts and to provide a seamless point of contact for activities and services that each agency provides.

Through the help of the following, the team developed exhibits that were both specifically for the Lancaster locale and some to be used on a desert-wide basis

- DMG - for staff participation from the various agencies
- DOD and DOI coordinators – for coordination between agencies
- Edwards A.F.B – for legacy funding for exhibits
- BLM – for funding for operations support
- NPS – for staff for exhibit development
- State Parks' s – staff to manage the MDIC
- Additional funding from DOD for the deserts from space exhibit

In order to reach the most people, the first exhibit was a comprehensive web-site for visitors. The web-site is on the world-wide web at ***californiadesert.gov***. When you enter the center today, to your right is an interactive touch-screen exhibit of this web site. It includes much information about what to see and do. The website receives approximately 450,000 hits a month.

The audio-visual room has videotapes of various desert areas of interest.

I've attached a number of photos of the center and the exhibits it contains to this email.