

# INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

## September 5, 2024



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**To:** City Council  
**From:** Public Works Department  
**Prepared by:** Dina Purvis, Assistant Public Works Director  
**Subject:** **Grant of Utility Easement to Southern California Edison**

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** grant of easement to Southern California Edison ("SCE") for SCE to construct, maintain, operate, and repair any SCE-installed infrastructure located on the Indian Wells Civic Center Campus.

**FINDS** the project to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3).

### BACKGROUND:

In March 2023, the City entered into an agreement with SCE under their Charge Ready program, to have SCE install Electric Vehicle ("EV") charging infrastructure in the City Hall parking lot.

The Charge Ready program provides free infrastructure installation to qualified applicants. The benefits received include underground conduit installation, meter upgrade and transformer upgrade.

The Charge Ready Program includes the installation of underground infrastructure for ten dual and five single Level 2 EV charging stations for a total of 26 spaces. This free underground infrastructure will partially serve to charge the City's future fleet vehicles, which are required by the state to be electrified after 2027. The others will serve to charge resident/visitor/guest/employee vehicles as available. These spaces will be subject to a fee to charge per previous City Council direction.

As part of participation in the Charge Ready program and noted in the agreement, the City is required to grant easement to SCE to construct, maintain, operate, and repair any SCE-installed infrastructure. SCE has submitted the Grant of Easement, legal description and a plat map identifying the easement location for plan check. City staff has completed review of these documents and finds them in compliance with City regulation.

## **OPTIONS:**

1. Staff recommends City Council approve the grant of easement to SCE so the City's Charge Ready project can move forward.
2. City Council can deny the grant of easement and the Charge Ready project will not move forward.
3. City Council can provide alternative direction.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The City issued a no-fee permit to SCE as part of the approved Capital Improvement Program. Fees will be charged as appropriate to recoup the City's cost for electricity and other related expenses.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

"This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State and local CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The City acting as Lead Agency, has determined the Grant of Easement qualifies as being Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3)."

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Legal Description and Plat Map