

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

October 24, 2024



To: City Council
From: Public Works Department
Prepared by: Ken Seumalo, P.E., Public Works Director
Subject: **Safer Streets Public Engagement Process to be Facilitated through Planning Commission Special Meetings**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** the City's Public Engagement process for the Safer Streets Project to be facilitated through special meetings of the Planning Commission; and

FINDS the project to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as not a project pursuant to Section 15378.

DISCUSSION:

The Safer Streets Program is identified on the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, seek opportunities to reduce speeding in the community, and address unsafe vehicular activities in the residential areas of Fairway Drive, Eldorado Drive, Rancho Palمراس, and Cook Street. The project is a result of residents expressing concerns about traffic issues in this area of the City. These concerns were reiterated during the community engagement process for the City-Wide Traffic Safety Study.

The first step in the Safer Streets Community Outreach is to share the feedback from residents received at previous community meetings and solicit additional information from residents about any other concerns. Staff will use this information to develop concepts to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle traffic based on the suggestions and concerns received from residents. These concepts will be developed into exhibits for the community to critique and provide feedback on the type of project, if any, that residents would like completed as part of the Safer Streets Program.

The Planning Commission was very successful in facilitating community engagement on the landscape ordinance changes. It is recommended that the Planning Commission be asked to facilitate the public engagement meetings, as authorized under Section 2.12.020 of the City's Municipal Code.

Unlike a formal Planning Commission meeting, these Study Sessions will be focused on facilitating topical discussions. There is no action for the Planning Commission to take during the Special Meetings.

1st meeting: October 29, 2024, at 3:00 PM

2nd meeting: Late November pending outcome of 1st meeting

3rd meeting: Late December pending outcome of 2nd meeting

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Safer Streets project is funded in FY 2024-25 with SB821 Grant and General Capital Fund monies. There is no additional funding required for this phase of the project.

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 Planning Commission facilitating a Public Engagement process for the Safer Streets project qualifies as being Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15378.