

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

January 30, 2025



To: City Council
From: Public Works Department
Prepared by: Ken Seumalo, P.E., Public Works Director
Subject: **City Monument at Indian Wells Lane**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** the conceptual design of the permanent City monument located on Indian Wells Lane at Highway 111; and

Council **APPROVES** a preliminary project budget of \$250,000 funded through the Arts in Public Places account; 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 intersection of Indian Wells Lane and Highway 111 is the gateway to the City's resort campus. The monument sign currently located at Indian Wells Lane on the north side of Highway 111 is a temporary fixture that was installed to replace the original monument that was damaged in an automobile accident. This sign provides advertising for the Indian Wells Golf Resort (IWGR) and Kestrel. Staff constructed the temporary monument as a placeholder while an evaluation was conducted to determine how best to replace the sign.

In 2024, the City Council directed staff to seek bids for a newly designed monument sign (Attachments No. 1 & 2). Bids for the project came in more than expected. Bids for the project were over \$100,000. The budget for the project is \$100,000, which includes an insurance settlement of \$90,000.

Indian Wells Fountains

It is also important to note that the Indian Wells Campus fountains along the north side of Highway 111 and Indian Wells Lane are in need of rehabilitation and will be a subject of the City's budget discussions later this year. The fountains are part of a Lighting, Landscape, and Lighting Maintenance District (LLMD) that consists of the City, Grand

Hyatt, and Renaissance Esmerelda. Initial discussions with Renaissance began several months ago on the need to repair or replace the fountains. Costs for the repair or replacement would be funded by the LLMD. However, the LLMD does not currently have the fund balance to fund a significant rehabilitation or capital replacement of the fountains. A separate vote of the LLMD partners would be required to generate the funds needed to complete a rehabilitation or replacement.

As the needs of both projects move forward, Staff is seeking Council input on whether or not it is desired for a new monument sign design to complement the design of the fountains. If Council is interested in discussing a complete redesign of the fountains, staff recommends the Council pause this project, until a discussion is had with the other stakeholders of the LLMD to determine their level of interest of a complete change to the fountains. The temporary sign is structurally sound and can safely stay in place as decisions are made.

If it is decided by the Council to move forward with the monument sign alone, Staff is seeking Council's approval to move forward with the revised design incorporating the public art. (Attachment 3) In an effort to blend with the motif presented by the Tommy Bahama Miramonte, fire was a preferred design aesthetic. Liability concerns prevented relocation of the gas services for a live flame in the City's monument sign. Different ways of portraying fire were reviewed, and the bronze sculpture was chosen for its elegance.

OPTIONS:

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve the revised public art monument presented by staff;
2. Instruct staff to conduct a Request for Proposals to develop alternative sign designs from the art community that complement the existing fountains.
3. Construct a permanent monument sign that replicates the current temporary sign.
4. Pause the project if the Council wishes to have further discussion on the replacement of the existing fountains; or
5. Provide alternative directions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff are requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$250,000 from the Art in Public Places account to fund the design and construction of this monument. The Art in Public Places account has sufficient funds for this request.

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 location of this monument is currently developed and the project, as a re-build, qualifies as being Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15378.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1 Fire Exhibit
2. Attachment 2 Water Exhibit
3. Attachment 3 Bronze Exhibit