

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

April 3, 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 **SELECTS** an option for the replacement of City monument sign located on Indian Wells Lane at Highway 111; and

Council **APPROVES** a preliminary budget to fund the project, commensurate with the option selected, if appropriate; 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). Bids for the project came in more than expected. Bids for the project were close to \$200,000. 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, 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 rehabilitation or replacement.

At the January 30, 2025, City Council Meeting, Council instructed staff to meet with both Hyatt and Renaissance to ascertain their interest in a complete redesign of the fountains at the entrance to the Indian Wells Campus, prior to making any decision on moving forward with the replacement of the monument sign.

Staff recently met with the General Managers of both properties, who are very happy with the current fountains. They did express a willingness to investigate the redesigning of the fountains, if the City wishes to do so. They first want to understand the cost to rehabilitate the current fountains and consult their ownership to see if they wish to rehabilitate or investigate a redesign of the fountains. Staff is developing estimated costs for the fountain rehabilitation. The process of developing the estimated costs and to seek ownership input is likely to take several months to complete.

Mayor Whitman asked that a discussion on replacing the monument sign be re-agendized for discussion, rather than awaiting the outcome of the ownership meetings. This will allow the IWGR to better promote the campus, especially Kestrel, sooner than later.

Staff are seeking Council direction as to move forward with a replacement of the monument sign at this time or to await replacement until the fountain redesign matter has been addressed. Staff recommend the Council select from one of the options provided below.

OPTIONS:

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve the public art monument presented by staff (Attachment No. 2) and appropriate a preliminary budget of \$250,000 in Public Art Funds.
2. Approve the redesigned monument (Attachment No. 1) and appropriate \$200,000 in General Funds for the project.
3. Instruct staff to conduct a Request for Proposals to develop alternative sign designs from the art community that complement the existing fountains.
4. Construct a permanent monument sign that replicates the current temporary sign and appropriate \$100,000 in General Funds for the project.
5. Await replacement until the fountain redesign matter has been addressed; or
6. Provide alternative directions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact is dependent on the direction of the City Council. There is sufficient funding in the General Fund and Art in Public Places Fund to cover these 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 location of this monument is currently developed and the project, as a re-build, qualifies as being Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15378.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1 Fountain Design
2. Attachment 2 Bronze Public Art Design