

# INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

## July 2, 2025



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**To:** City Council  
**From:** City Manager Department  
**Prepared by:** Angelica Avila, City Clerk  
**Subject:** **Council Discussion of Future Agenda Item Relating to Councilmember Reimbursement Policy**

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **CONSIDER** whether to place a discussion-and-action item on a future agenda regarding the City's councilmember-reimbursement policy; and

**FINDS** the project to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15060.

### DISCUSSION:

In accordance with Section 3.01.030 of the Indian Wells City Council Policy Manual, during councilmember comments, Councilmember Taylor requested that an item be considered on a future agenda to review the city's councilmember-reimbursement policies for efficiency and flexibility within the requirements of state law and the city's charter. The request was submitted at least 14 days before the July 2 regular meeting.

When this item is considered during the Council Reports section of the July 2 agenda, the Council must do one of the following:

1. Direct the matter to come back at a subsequent council meeting;
2. Direct the matter to an existing ad hoc or standing committee;
3. Create a new ad hoc committee to review the matter; or
4. Decline to future consider the matter.

The city's voter-approved charter prohibits the expenditure of city funds on behalf of a councilmember for the member's "personal use or benefit," but it also expressly authorizes "the reimbursement of ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of [the councilmember's] duties" as long as the "expenditures were [1] reasonably incurred and [2] approved in advance by the City Council." (IW Charter, § 101; bracketed numbers added.)

If the council desires to add the item to a future agenda, staff recommend that the council first refer it to the Finance or Governance subcommittee to discuss with staff and the city attorney's office regarding statutory and charter considerations before the subcommittee forms a recommendation to the Council. Alternatively, the Council may decide to place the item on a future agenda without receiving a subcommittee recommendation first.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

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

The action is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly; and that the action is nonetheless exempt from the requirements of CEQA in that the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (14 CCR 15061(b)(3).)