

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 26, 2024
PREPARED BY: Randy Chavez, Deputy Public Works Director
SUBJECT: STREET SWEEPING UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file an update on Street Sweeping.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

This staff report provides an overview of the City of Palm Desert's street sweeping services, highlighting two key contracts and recent developments.

CVAG Regional PM 10 Street Sweeping Program

Program Overview: The City of Palm Desert (City) participates in the Regional PM 10 Street Sweeping Program, which is managed by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and supported by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The program aims to mitigate particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM 10), which is generated by wind events, vehicle traffic, and construction.

Funding: Assembly Bill 2766 (AB 2766) is a California law that provides funding from vehicle registration fees to support local efforts aimed at reducing air pollution from mobile sources. Under the City's AB 2766 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), 75% of the City's AB 2766 funds are allocated to CVAG for this initiative. This program is a critical part of the Coachella Valley's State Implementation Plan, which is designed to address elevated levels of particulate matter (PM 10).

- **Annual Funding:** The City receives approximately \$74,000 annually from SCAQMD.
- **Allocation to CVAG:** About \$55,500 (75%) of these funds are allocated to CVAG.

Scope: The program covers major arterials throughout Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley under a regional sweeping agreement managed by CVAG. Streets include:

- **Monterey:** Varner to Country Club (east side)
- **Hwy 74:** Hwy 111 to Cahuilla Way
- **Hwy 111:** Cook Street to Parkview
- **Hovley Lane East:** Cook to Washington
- **Deep Canyon:** Hwy 111 to Fred Waring
- **Country Club:** Washington to Monterey
- **Gerald Ford:** Monterey to Portola
- **Gerald Ford:** Portola to Cook
- **Portola:** Gerald Ford to Country Club
- **Frank Sinatra:** Monterey to El Dorado
- **Dinah Shore:** Miriam Way to Portola Avenue
- **Washington Street:** Fred Waring Drive to Country Club (west side)

- **Eldorado:** Hovley Lane East to Frank Sinatra
- **Cook Street:** Fred Waring to Dinah Shore

Frequency: Sweeping occurs twice a month.

Contractor: CleanStreet is contracted to manage the regional street sweeping program for CVAG, benefiting from economies of scale that reduce per-mile costs.

Performance Assessment: CleanStreet has consistently underperformed in providing services, leading to repeated expressions of dissatisfaction from City staff. Despite frequent communication with CVAG and direct outreach to CleanStreet regarding the inadequate service, there has been little to no improvement. Recently, staff presented several concerns to CVAG's new street sweeping project manager, including:

- Frequent staff turnover and new drivers
- Insufficient supervision and accountability
- Underpowered and inadequate equipment
- Non-compliance with the scheduled sweeping times
- Incomplete sweeping services

Additionally, neighboring agencies within the program have reported similar issues. One agency even invested in its own equipment to improve street cleaning services. On August 27, 2024, CVAG held a roundtable meeting with all participating agencies to discuss these issues and explore potential solutions.

Recent Updates:

- **May 7, 2024:** Amendment 6 to the MOU was extended through June 30, 2026.
- **August 1, 2024:** City staff met with CVAG's new street sweeping project manager to discuss ongoing service inconsistencies.
- **August 27, 2024:** CVAG announced that CleanStreet would be required to install GPS units in vehicles to monitor and ensure adherence to the sweeping schedule.

Annual Citywide Sweeping Services

Contract Award: On April 27, 2023, the City Council awarded a three-year contract to M&M Sweeping for citywide sweeping services.

Cost:

- **Annual Contract:** \$230,917
- **Additional Services:** \$25,000

Scope: This contract covers all residential neighborhoods, the entire business district (including El Paseo), and City-owned parking lots, such as those at the Civic Center campus, parks, and corporation yards. Sweeping services extend across approximately 250 curb miles of streets and nearly 1.9 million square feet of parking lots. Additionally, emergency sweeping services are available for immediate response to high-wind events or storms to maintain safety and cleanliness in critical areas.

Frequency: Sweeping services are performed twice a month.

Performance Assessment: M&M Sweeping has recently faced performance inconsistencies. One major issue contributing to these inconsistencies has been vehicles parked along the street on sweeping days. To address this problem, the City is developing a new app that will allow residents to input their address and check the scheduled sweeping days. Once launched, the app will be promoted through the Public Affairs team to educate residents about the app and the street sweeping schedule.

In response to recent complaints, the City has also taken the following actions:

- Daily check-ins with drivers,
- Weekly meetings with the supervisor, and
- Regular staff inspections

While challenges remain, staff have observed some improvements. Continued oversight will be required to maintain and further enhance service quality.

Recent Updates:

- **June 12, 2024:** Staff met with M&M Sweeping representatives to discuss service inconsistencies. Key issues identified include:
 - Lack of communication,
 - Lack of supervision, and
 - Vehicles parked on streets during sweeping days.
- **August 28, 2024:** Staff initiated weekly meetings to discuss improvements.

Additional Measures

Performance Assessment: Over the past year, staff has addressed excessive sand buildup along curbs, gutters, and turn pockets by renting a street sweeper. This approach has led to significantly improved street cleanliness and safety, resulting in fewer constituent complaints. In-house sweeping efforts have consistently yielded better results compared to contracted services.

Rental of Street Sweeper: To manage problematic areas, especially after rain events, the City has been renting a street sweeper at a cost of approximately \$15,000 per month.

Purchase of New Street Sweeper: A new street sweeper, expected by fall, will help manage problem areas between scheduled sweeps and during adverse weather conditions. The cost is approximately \$500,000. This purchase aims to improve overall service quality.

Cost Estimate for Full Program Management: To further improve the City's sweeping services, staff have prepared the following cost estimates for managing the program in-house with dedicated equipment operators:

- Full-Time Equipment Operators (2): \$315,602
- Fuel (2): \$30,000
- Maintenance (2): \$50,000
- Disposal Fees (2): \$20,000

- Additional Sweeper (One-time Cost): \$550,000
- **Total Estimated First-Year Cost: \$965,602**
- **Total Estimated Following-Year Cost: \$415,602**

Recent Developments: As noted, staff recently met with CVAG and M&M Sweeping to address concerns regarding inadequate sweeping operations. Additionally, staff is coordinating with Code Compliance to manage vehicle parking issues. Note that CleanStreet and M&M Sweeping have historically been the primary companies submitting proposals for street sweeping services.

Recommendation: The City will closely monitor and document the level of service from both contractors over the next six months. This assessment will help determine whether the necessary improvements have been made or if bringing sweeping services in-house should be considered. If the level of service does not improve, staff will evaluate the feasibility of assuming responsibility for street sweeping services as part of next fiscal year's budget planning.

Next Steps:

- **Evaluate Feasibility:** Continue assessing the costs and feasibility of transitioning to an in-house street sweeping program.
- **Explore Additional Services:** Investigate the possibility of securing additional weekly services from contractors to improve overall performance.
- **Service Improvements:** Continue to monitor contractor performance and explore all options to enhance current street sweeping services.

Additional Considerations

To evaluate the feasibility of taking over the entire street sweeping program, the following costs have been estimated:

Additions	Annual Cost	Quantity	Total
Full-Time Equipment Operator	\$157,801	2	\$315,602
Fuel	\$15,000	2	\$30,000
Maintenance	\$25,000	2	\$50,000
Disposal Fees	\$10,000	2	\$20,000
Total Annual Cost	\$207,801	2	\$415,602
Additional Sweeper	One-time Cost	1	\$550,000
1st Year Costs			\$965,602

Annual Cost Comparison

In-House Services	\$415,602
Current Contractual Services	\$255,917
Additional Annual Costs	\$159,685

Cost of Adding Weekly Service: Staff will investigate whether contractors can provide additional weekly sweeping services and the associated costs.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact associated with this update.