

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2024

PREPARED BY: Ryan Lamb, Senior Project Manager

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE DESIGN AND PROGRESS OF THE HAYSTACK ROAD
CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the current design and progress of the Haystack Road Channel Improvements project (CDR00003).

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The Haystack Road Channel Improvements project is a critical initiative aimed at improving flood control and enhancing the environmental integration of the channel. To date, the City has achieved the following key milestones:

Project Contract

- April 28, 2022: The City approved a contract for professional engineering and design services with Engineering Resources of Southern California (ERSC) to initiate the project.

Planning Commission Review

- May 7, 2024: City staff presented the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact (IS/MND) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the Planning Commission.
 - Outcome: The Commission deferred action to a future meeting, requesting that additional City staff and consultants attend to address comments and questions.
- June 6, 2024: City staff re-presented the IS/MND to the Planning Commission.
 - Outcome: The Commission deferred action again, recommending City staff hold a Community Engagement Meeting to gather public input and present multiple design options.

Community Engagement

- June 26, 2024: City staff conducted a Community Engagement Meeting, presenting four (4) design options for the channel improvements and gathering public feedback.
- November 7, 2024: A second Community Engagement Meeting was held, where City staff and consultants presented detailed analysis of the two (2) preferred design options based on feedback from the first meeting.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Haystack Road Channel Improvements – Council Study Session Presentation