

Haystack Channel Improvement Project – Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration & Design Approval

PALM DESERT CITY COUNCIL

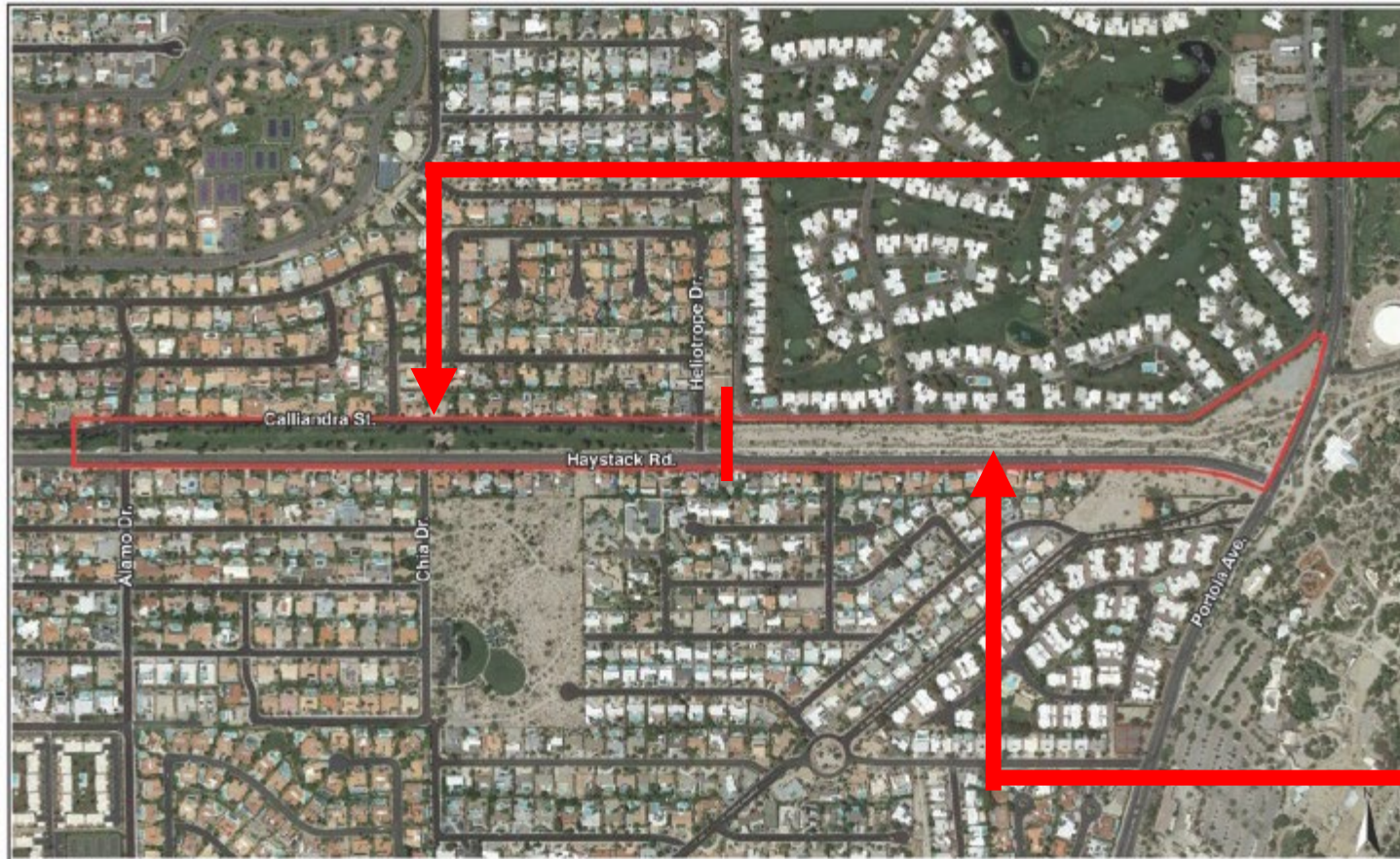
FEBRUARY 13, 2025



Action for Consideration

- Resolution for adoption of a **Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)** and **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP)** for the Haystack Channel Improvement Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Approval of preliminary channel design with consideration for additional landscaping
- Authorization of the Finance Director to reallocate \$275,000 of unexpended funds from Section 29 storm drain improvements for additional project landscaping.
- Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 2864 on 1/7/2025 recommending approval of the MND

Location and Existing Conditions



Source: Google Earth 01.27.23

05.25.23



Haystack Channel Improvement Project Initial Study
Project Site
Palm Desert, California

Exhibit

4



Haystack Channel Improvement Summary

Areas of concern for flooding

- Surrounding homes at risk of damage
- Public safety concerns (pedestrian and roads)
- Compromised utility infrastructure

Highway 74 to Alamo Dr.
(West Reach)
Green Belt
(No Changes)

Alamo Dr. to Heliotrope Drive
(Center Reach)
Green Belt Channel
(Remains Grass)

Heliotrope Dr. to Portola Ave.
(East Reach)
Natural Channel
Stabilize Slopes and reshape channel

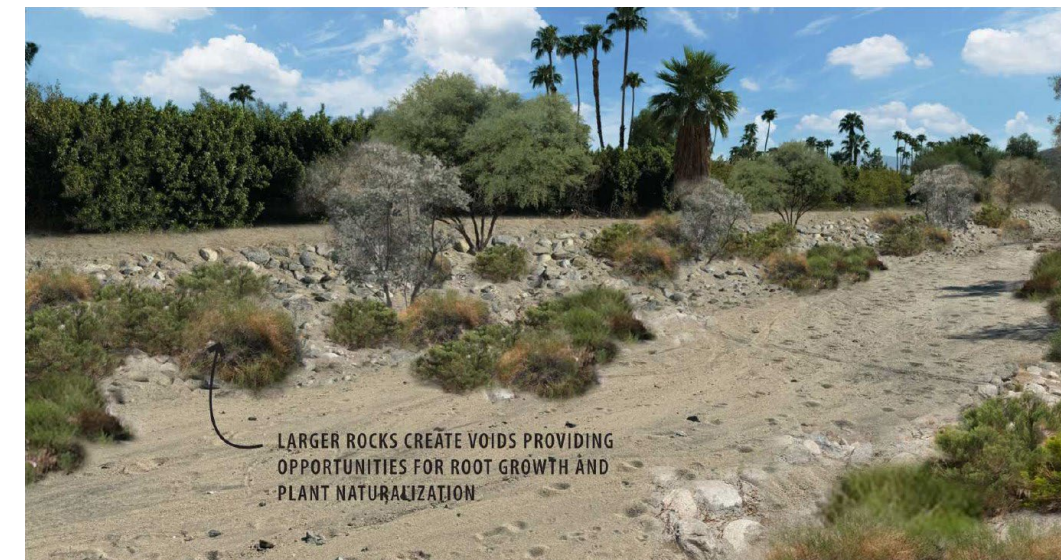
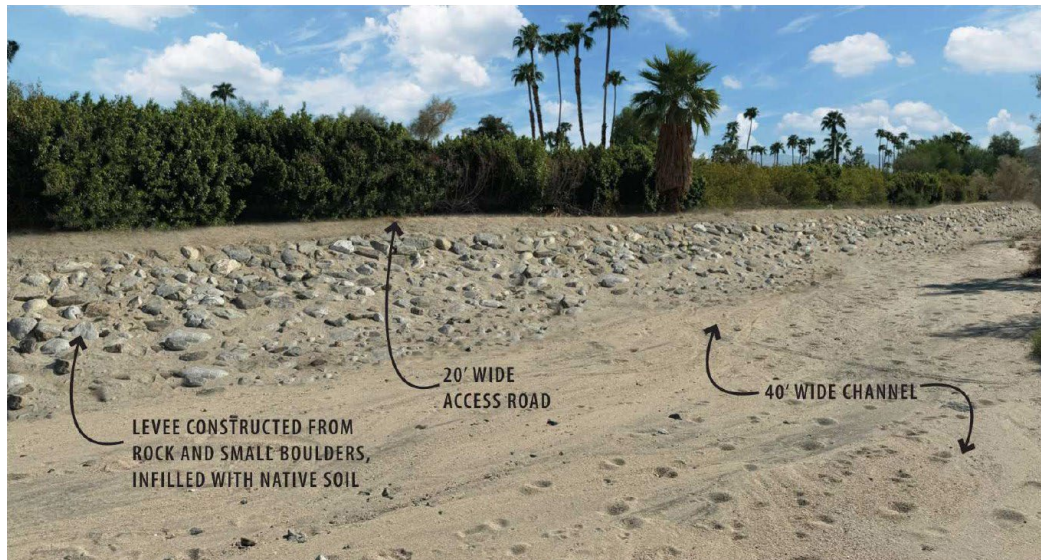
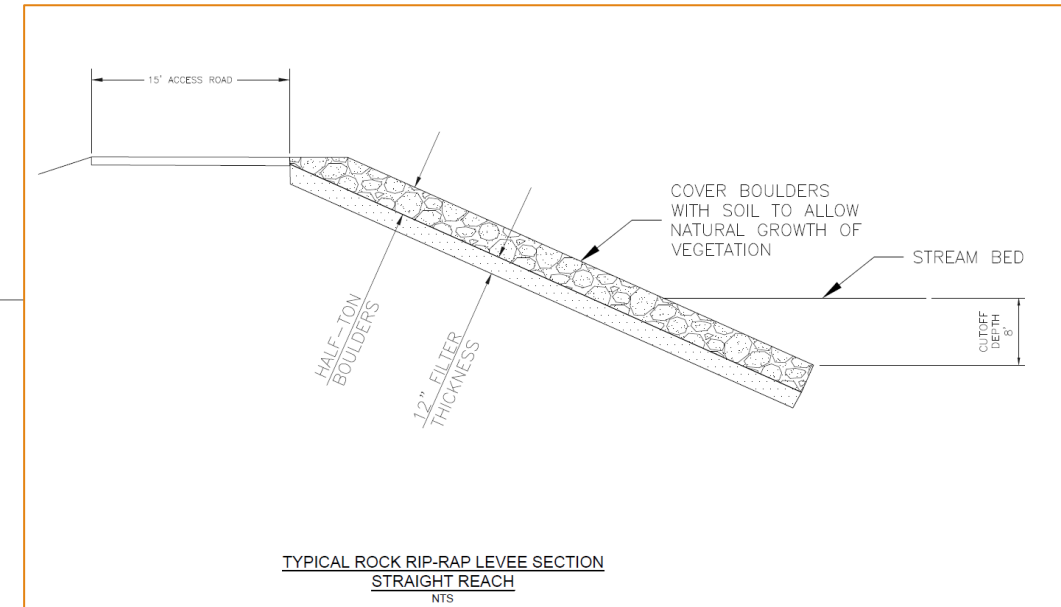


Proposed Underground Infiltration System
to mitigate erosion and standing water
(Re-install grass afterward)

Significant Erosion Throughout

Renderings – East Reach

- Boulder stabilized slopes – sandy stream bed
- 15' wide maintenance access road
- Revegetation of landscaping within the channel
- Preliminary design plans



Additional Landscape

- Additional landscaping planted along top of channel slope and sidewalk along Haystack Road
- Native Plants per MSHCP Approved Plant List – Match Existing



Above: smoke tree (*Psoralea arguta*)
Top Right: burrobush (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)
Bottom Right: brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*)

CEQA

- Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for project.
- Notice of Intent (NOI) circulated for 30-days in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15072 and 15073
 - Three comment letters received from Riverside County Flood Control, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 - Minor revisions made to IS/MND in response to CDFW but did not trigger recirculation per CEQA Guidelines
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for:
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Hydrology and Water Quality Resources
- Project fully complies with CEQA

Public Notice

- Public noticing was conducted for the per the requirements of PDMC Section 25.60.060 and Government Code Sections 65090 to 65094. A public hearing notice was published a minimum of 10 days before the hearing date on Friday, January 31st, 2025, in The Desert Sun newspaper
- Notices mailed to all property owners within 1,000 feet of project
 - Two comment letters submitted
- Community Engagement Meetings on June 26, 2024 and November 7, 2024
- **No comments or modifications to the project triggered requirements for recirculation per CEQA Guidelines**

Recommendation

1. Adopt a Resolution entitled, “A RESOLUTION OF THE PALM DESERT CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING AN INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (SCH NO. 2023090542) AND A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE HAYSTACK CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT”
2. Approve the preliminary design of the Haystack Channel Improvement Project with consideration to include additional landscaping along Haystack Road.
3. Authorize Director of Finance to reallocate \$275,000 from unexpended project funds in Storm Drain Improvement-Section 29 Account No. 2324370-5000455 to Account No. 23243705000454 for the Haystack Channel Improvement Project.