

**RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2025

PREPARED BY: Amy Lawrence, Deputy Director of Economic Development

SUBJECT: RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file Resource Preservation and Enhancement Committee status report for February 2025.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Below is the status of projects/programs and follow-ups from previous meetings:

1. **Southern California Edison (SCE) Presentation** – Due to staff reassignments at SCE, the presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

2. **Artificial Turf Policy Review Process** – At the October RPEC meeting, a concern was voiced about the process of seeking input on the proposed artificial turf policy. Below is a timeline of when the item came before RPEC for consideration and feedback.
 - a. December 14, 2023 – Staff provided an informational presentation to the City Council during a study session regarding the use of artificial/synthetic turf on City property indicating that research would be conducted and RPEC would be consulted about developing a policy.

 - b. February 26, 2024 – Staff requested RPEC members provide direction on developing a policy on the use of artificial turf on City-owned properties, rights of way, and parks. Following discussion, MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER MASON, SECOND BY VICE CHAIR BLACKBURN, CARRIED 6-0, to direct staff to develop a policy prohibiting the use of artificial turf on City owned properties and to utilize desert landscaping where necessary. *Staff report attached to include 12/14/23 City Council study session presentation.*

 - c. August 26, 2024 – Staff requested RPEC members recommend that City Council adopt a resolution approving the Administrative Policy to prohibit the use of artificial turf/synthetic grass in public rights-of-way. Following discussion, MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER DAHL, SECOND BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GREGORY, CARRIED 7-0, to recommend that City Council adopt a resolution approving the Administrative Policy to prohibit the use of artificial turf/synthetic grass in public rights-of-way.

3. **SB 1053 Plastic Bag Ban** – This legislation is aimed at closing a loophole in California’s ban of single-use plastic bags at grocery store checkouts, which was first passed in 2014 and then approved by the state’s voters in 2016. It allowed stores to provide consumers with thicker plastic bags at checkout. Beginning January 1, 2026, stores will only be allowed to distribute recycled paper bags to customers at the point of sale. Staff is working with our grants consultant to identify available funding to purchase reusable bags for disbursement at City events to educate the public about this upcoming ban.

4. **Environmental Initiative Plan Q4 2024 Report** – The Environmental Initiatives Plan Q4 2024 report is available for public view on the [Engage Palm Desert Environmental Initiatives Plan project page](#) or visit www.engagepalmdesert.com for more information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Artificial Turf Policy Staff Report – 2/26/24