

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 28, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF LETTER SUPPORTING SUNLINE TRANSIT AGENCY'S
GRANT APPLICATION FOR MAINTENANCE FACILITY REPLACEMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the issuance of the letter supporting SunLine Transit Agency's grant application under the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

SunLine Transit Agency has submitted a funding request of \$25,684,211 through the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program. The proposed grant would fund the replacement of SunLine's 39-year-old maintenance facility located in Thousand Palms.

The current maintenance facility, which also serves as the agency's primary fueling and service location, is no longer adequate to support the expansion of SunLine's low- and zero-emission fleet. The site lacks the infrastructure and climate control needed for efficient operations, particularly during extreme summer temperatures.

On July 14, 2025, the City submitted a letter in support of SunLine's grant application. The letter emphasizes the regional importance of SunLine's services and outlines the operational and safety challenges posed by the aging facility. The ad hoc City Council Subcommittee on Legislative Affairs, comprised of Mayor Harnik and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee, reviewed and approved the letter in advance of formal ratification by the City Council.

Legal Review:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with the issuance of this letter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Support