The background image shows an outdoor dining area with several tables and chairs. The tables are rectangular and light-colored, and the chairs are brown wicker. The area is covered by a large, light-colored canopy. In the background, there are large glass windows and doors, and some greenery is visible on the right side.

# Palm Desert Temporary Outdoor Dining Deck Guidelines Update

8/28/2025

## Timeline Overview

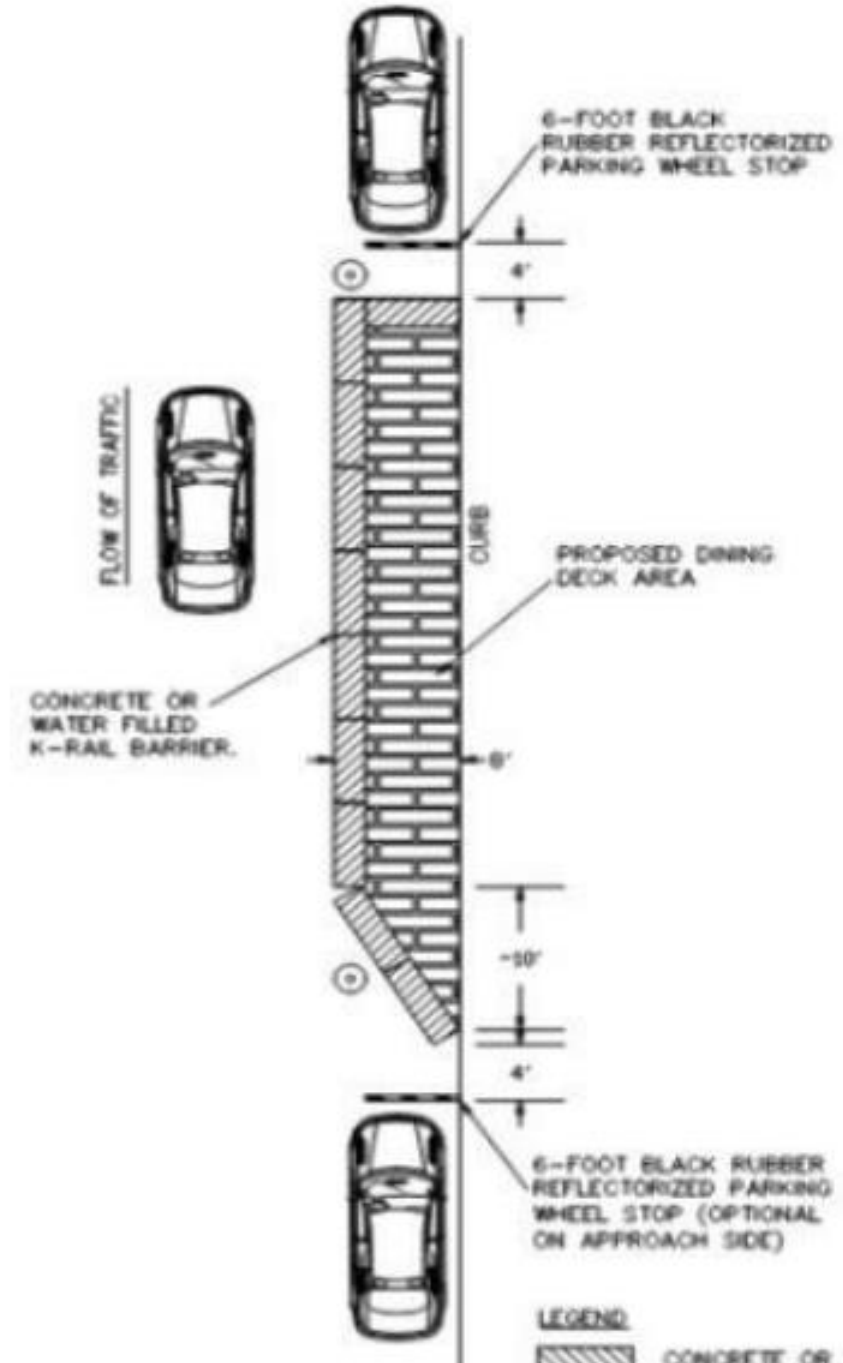
| Date                   | Topic/Action  |
|------------------------|---|
| June 24, 2021          | Extended Program through June 30, 2022, and provide direction to establish ARC approved dining deck guidelines                              |
| June 9, 2022           | Extended Program through June 30, 2024  |
| November 16, 2023      | Extended Program through June 30, 2026, and adopted updated dining deck guidelines  |
| April 11, 2024         | Study session to discuss annual fee   |
| May 23, 2024           | Study session to receive direction on El Paseo Street Rehabilitation project going into Summer 2025 and move forward with annual lease rate |
| October 24, 2024       | Establish an annual lease rate for dining decks   |
| May 22, 2025           | Award contract for El Paseo Street rehab project for Summer 2025  |
| <b>June 12, 2025</b>   | <b>Study session to discuss outdoor dining deck program update. Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee is created</b>   |
| <b>July 1, 2025</b>    | <b>Sub-Committee meeting held with direction to update guidelines to prohibit on streets like El Paseo</b>                                  |
| <b>August 19, 2025</b> | <b>Updated guidelines presented to Sub-Committee</b>  |

# Project Description

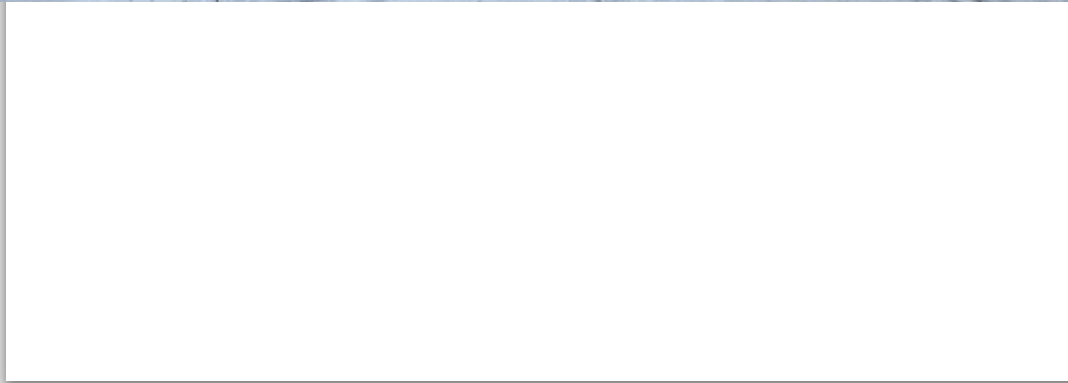
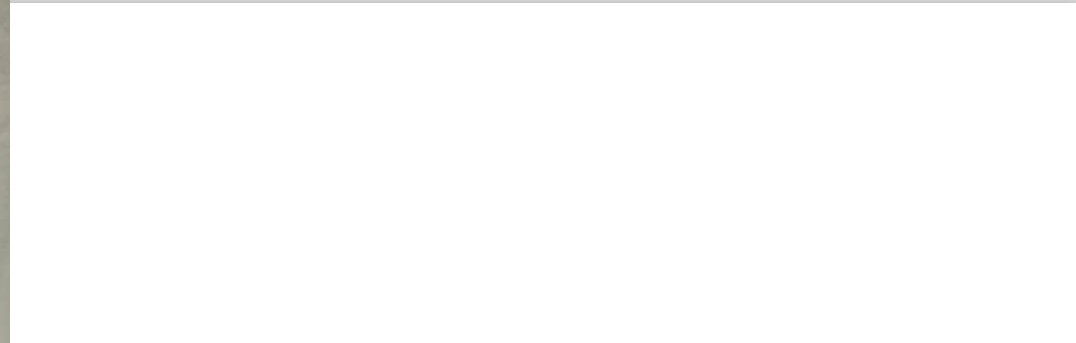
Existing guidelines already allowed restaurants to build decks that re-routed pedestrians around outdoor dining deck areas. Temporary sidewalks and sidewalk expansions must follow the same rules as dining decks, including permits, insurance, fees, license agreements, safety and accessibility standards, inspections, and maintenance. .

Staff updated the guidelines as follows:

- Adding: “Restaurants are not allowed to build dining decks on streets with speed limits over 15 mph. On these streets, restaurants may build a temporary sidewalk instead, which must follow the same rules and standards as dining decks.”
- Updating the selection criteria to ban dining decks on 25 mph streets but allow sidewalk expansions if a temporary sidewalk is built and all requirements are met.







# Public Outreach

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- In May and June 2025, City staff spoke with several restaurant owners interested in applying for a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) to install a dining deck in October 2025.
  - In August, staff notified these owners about the proposed changes.
  - Three (3) restaurants have submitted public comments opposing the changes. City staff had multiple meetings with these three (3) restaurants over the last two (2) years which included them making revisions to their dining decks to meet the 2023 updated Guidelines

# Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) Guidelines

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Assembly Bill (AB) 592 currently under consideration which would extend the COVID-19 Temporary Catering Authorization until January 1, 2029 (currently July 1, 2026).

SB 969 (effective January 1, 2025) allows City to designate an “entertainment zone” to allow individual restaurants consumption on public sidewalks or rights-of-way within specified areas.

# Recommendation & Next Steps

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Recommendation:

**Staff recommends approving the updated Outdoor Dining Deck Design Guidelines.**

Approval would follow with:

1. Updating the City website
2. Informing interested restaurants in updates
3. Work with interested parties in TUP process

Future steps:

Staff will monitor TUP applications and have a future update on Dining Deck program before 2026 expiration