

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

---

MEETING DATE: September 11, 2025

PREPARED BY: Brad Chuck, Public Works Superintendent  
Shawn Muir, Community Services Manager

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PLANTER BOXES FOR CATALINA  
COMMUNITY GARDEN (PROJECT NO. CLS00002)

---

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Authorize the purchase of 50 concrete planter boxes from Seawright Custom Precast, Inc., in the amount of \$241,533.75, plus a contingency of \$24,000 for unforeseen circumstances.
2. Authorize the City Attorney to make necessary non-monetary changes to the agreement.
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and any written requests for change orders up to the contingency amount, amendments, and any other documents necessary to effectuate this action, in accordance with Palm Desert Municipal Code Section 3.30.170(B).

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The Catalina Community Garden, located along the west side of San Pablo Avenue between Royal Palm Drive and Santa Rosa Way, was originally constructed in the late 1990s. The site currently includes 50 raised planter boxes, each measuring 4 feet by 10 feet. These boxes were last replaced in 2017 using recycled composite materials.

Over time, the planter boxes have deteriorated significantly due to prolonged exposure to the elements and continued use. Many of the existing boxes show signs of structural failure, including crumbling and material separation, which present safety concerns and limit the usability of the garden space.

### **Proposed Improvements:**

To address these issues, staff recommends replacing the existing boxes with new precast concrete planter boxes provided by Seawright Custom Precast, Inc., the vendor previously used for similar work at the Guadalupe Community Garden (FY 2023-24) and the San Nicholas Community Garden (FY 2024-25).

Concrete planter boxes have demonstrated superior durability and are better suited for high-traffic community gardens within the City's climate. To maintain material consistency and aesthetic uniformity across all City-managed gardens, staff did not solicit additional quotes, in accordance with Municipal Code Section 3.30.160 (I) which permits procurement in the Best Interest of the City without competitive bidding in order to ensure compatibility or consistency of a product with other city products and equipment to minimize future maintenance costs.

Delivery of the new planter boxes is expected by May 1, 2026, and the scope of work will be limited to the Catalina Community Garden to avoid disruption of other facilities.

City of Palm Desert  
 Authorize the Purchase of Planter Boxes Catalina Community Garden

---

The following table provides a summary of prior years' costs alongside the proposed cost for (Fiscal Year 2025/26):

<b>Historical Cost Comparison – Concrete Planter Box Purchases</b>							
<i>All planter purchases were made from the same vendor: Seawright Custom Precast, Inc.</i>							
<u>Community Garden</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Planter Dimensions</u>	<u>Quantity Purchased</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>	<u>Freight Cost</u>	<u>City Tax Rate</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Guadalupe	FY 2023/24	48"W x 30"H x 120"L	27 Boxes	\$3,857.00	\$1,800.00	7.75%	\$114,149.27
San Nicholas	FY 2024/25	48"W x 30"H x 120"L	42 Boxes	\$3,898.72	\$3,395.00	7.75%	\$180,094.69
Catalina (Proposed)	FY 2025/26	48"W x 30"H x 120"L	50 Boxes	\$4,352.00	\$4,500.00	8.75%	\$241,533.75

The proposed unit cost of \$4,352 for FY 2025-26 reflects an 11.63% (\$495) increase over the previous year. This increase is based on updated pricing from the vendor due to current market conditions and rising material costs.

**Legal Review:**

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

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Funding for the purchase of the garden boxes was included in the approved FY 2025-26 Financial Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) List as a carryover; therefore, there is no additional financial impact to the General Fund as a result of this action.

The following table reflects the project related budget and expenses:

<i>Account No.</i>	<i>Budget w/ Carryover</i>	<i>Projected Expense</i>	<i>Balance</i>
4004618-4400100	\$300,000		
*Concrete Boxes - Seawright		\$241,533.75	
*Contingency		\$24,000.00	
Crane - Installation		\$12,500.00	
Box Irrigation / Materials		\$21,500.00	
Totals	\$300,000	\$299,533.75	\$466.25

\*Current request

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. City Goods and Equipment Purchase Agreement