

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 13, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF SIGN-ON LETTER SUPPORTING INCLUSION OF
FY26 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING AND CONGRESSIONALLY
DIRECTED SPENDING PROJECTS IN FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the City's participation in a sign-on letter urging Congressional leadership to include Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending projects in any final federal appropriations agreement.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Townsend Public Affairs (TPA), the City's advocacy firm, requested participation in a regional sign-on letter addressed to Congressional leadership regarding the inclusion of FY26 Community Project Funding (CPF) and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects in any federal government funding deal.

The sign-on letter emphasizes the importance of preserving CPF and CDS allocations that support locally prioritized infrastructure, public safety, housing, and economic development projects. These federal programs represent transparent, community-driven investments that undergo rigorous public disclosure, member certification, and cost-sharing evaluation.

Palm Desert's Community Center Project for Cook Street—submitted as part of the City's FY26 federal funding requests—is among the local projects potentially affected by the current appropriations negotiations. Ensuring CPF/CDS inclusion in any final agreement would allow projects like this to move forward without interruption to planning, contracting, or delivery.

The letter was coordinated by TPA to demonstrate collective support from California jurisdictions and regional partners. The City's signature, on behalf of Mayor Harnik, affirms Palm Desert's support for advancing federal investment in community projects and sustaining local infrastructure momentum despite ongoing fiscal uncertainties.

The City Council Subcommittee on Legislative Affairs, composed of Mayor Harnik and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee, reviewed and approved participation in the sign-on letter in advance of this ratification.

Legal Review:

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

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with the City's participation in the sign-on letter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY26 Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending Sign-On Letter