

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING UPDATED TRANSPORTATION STUDY GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE, FOR LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF PALM DESERT AND FINDING THE PROJECT NOT SUBJECT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CASE NOS. GPA25-0002

WHEREAS, the City Council of Palm Desert on July 11, 2024, initiated a contract to prepare a comprehensive amendment to Chapter 4 – Mobility (Circulation) Element of the Palm Desert General Plan and updated Transportation Study Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA) encourages public agencies to develop and publish generally applicable “thresholds of significance” to be used in determining the significance of a project’s environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(a) defines a threshold of significance as an “identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant”; and

WHEREAS, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(b) requires that thresholds of significance must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulations, developed through a public review process, and be supported by substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 743 requires changes to the State CEQA Guidelines regarding the criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Palm Desert adopted the County of Riverside Transportation Study Guidelines for measuring transportation projects under CEQA on August 25, 2022 via CC Resolution 2022-74; and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared Transportation Study Guidelines that provide specifications related to methodologies, tools, and other key assumptions that should be considered for both Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) assessment and Level of Service (LOS) assessment for purposes of evaluating projects in the City of Palm Desert. The Transportation Study Guidelines establishes thresholds of significance supported by substantial evidence to determine CEQA transportation impacts and non-CEQA LOS deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Transportation Study Guidelines are internally consistent with the General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Transportation Study Guidelines are supported by substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Transportation Study Guidelines are consistent with the prepared Mobility Element update and Addendum to the General Plan EIRs; and

WHEREAS, approval of the proposed Transportation Study Guidelines would establish City of Palm Desert thresholds of significance and supersede and replace use of the County of Riverside Transportation Study Guidelines and thresholds of significance; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Palm Desert, California, did on the 18th day of November 2025, hold a duly noticed public hearing for approval of the above-noted Project request and adopted Planning Commission Resolution 2908 recommending the City Council approve of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, did on the 11th day of December 2025, hold a duly noticed public hearing for approval of the above-noted Project request; and

WHEREAS, at the said public hearing, upon hearing and considering all testimony and arguments, if any, of all interested persons desiring to be heard, the City Council did find the following facts and reasons, which are outlined in the staff report, exist to justify approval of said request:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, as follows:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The City Council hereby finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. CEQA Determination. The City Council finds that adoption of the Transportation Study Guidelines is not a project as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. Adoption of the Transportation Study Guidelines is an administrative activity to provide guidance for development to determine the significance of transportation impacts of projects under CEQA. The Project does not approve any specific development or lead to any particular physical change to the guidelines.

SECTION 3. Project Recommendations. The City Council hereby approves the Transportation Study Guidelines, as presented in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, which shall supersede and replace any existing transportation thresholds and use of the County of Riverside Guidelines; and

ADOPTED ON _____.

JAN HARNIK

MAYOR

ATTEST:

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, hereby certify that Resolution No. 2025-__ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Desert on _____, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:
RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on _____, 2025.

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK