

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: December 11, 2025

PREPARED BY: Ryan Lamb, Senior Project Manager

SUBJECT: GRANT OF EASEMENT TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT FOR HAYSTACK ROAD CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PROJECT NO. CDR00003)

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Grant of Easement to the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) for an existing pipeline.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The Haystack Road Channel Improvements project is a critical initiative aimed at improving flood control and enhancing the environmental integration of the channel.

On April 28, 2022, the City Council approved a contract for professional engineering and design services with Engineering Resources of Southern California (ERSC) to perform environmental studies and design the improvements.

While coordinating with local utility providers to ensure proper re-routing and/or protection of existing utilities passing through the channel, CVWD informed City staff that they had failed to obtain an easement for their existing pipeline adjacent to Portola Avenue.

CVWD offered to cover all costs to draft the documentation required for the easement. The Grant of Easement also stipulates that, should the City of Palm Desert ever decide to widen the Portola Bridge, CVWD will relocate the waterline at its expense.

The City Engineer has approved the Parcel Plat and Legal Description.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The City previously adopted an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Haystack Stormwater Channel Rehabilitation Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2023090542) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed Grant of Easement to the Coachella Valley Water District is a minor administrative action that supports implementation of the approved project.

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, no subsequent or supplemental environmental document is required because: (1) No substantial changes to the approved project are proposed that would require major revisions to the adopted IS/MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; (2) No substantial changes to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken have occurred that would involve new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; and

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Grant CVWD Easement for Haystack Rd Channel Improvements

(3) No new information of substantial importance has become available that would trigger the need for additional environmental review.

The Grant of Easement formalizes CVWD's legal access and rights to operate, maintain and repair an existing underground pipeline within the project area. Therefore, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(b), no additional environmental review is required, and the adopted IS/MND remains the appropriate CEQA document for this action.

**Legal Review:**

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

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Grant of Easement
2. Legal Description
3. Parcel Plat