

City of Palm Desert Staff Report

Meeting Date: April 23, 2026

Prepared By: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

Department: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Ordinances Amending the Palm Desert Municipal Code to Dissolve the Environmental Resources Committee and Homelessness Task Force, and to Amend the Responsibilities and Meeting Frequency of the Parks and Recreation Committee

Recommendation

1. Introduce an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, REPEALING CHAPTER 2.66 (ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE) AND CHAPTER 2.70 (HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE) OF TITLE 2 OF THE PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL CODE."
2. Introduce an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.58 OF THE PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MEETING FREQUENCY OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE."

Executive Summary

This item returns following the City Council's March 12, 2026 Study Session on proposed Municipal Code amendments affecting the Homelessness Task Force, Environmental Resources Committee, and Parks and Recreation Committee. The attached ordinances would implement that direction by dissolving the Homelessness Task Force and Environmental Resources Committee and updating the Parks and Recreation Committee's duties and meeting schedule.

Background

On March 12, 2026, the City Council held a Study Session to review proposed amendments to the Palm Desert Municipal Code relating to the Homelessness Task Force, Environmental Resources Committee, and Parks and Recreation Committee. Following discussion, the City Council supported moving forward with all proposed amendments. The attached ordinances have been prepared to implement that direction.

Discussion

Homelessness Task Force. The proposed ordinance would repeal the Municipal Code provisions establishing the Task Force. Since its creation, the City has developed a more comprehensive homelessness response model that includes dedicated staff, contracted outreach services, and coordination with regional service providers. Homelessness-related matters are also addressed through regional coordination with

the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG). Based on that evolution, the City Council supported dissolution of the Task Force as a separate standing body.

Environmental Resources Committee. The proposed ordinance would repeal the Municipal Code provisions establishing the Committee. The Study Session discussion noted that Palm Desert’s sustainability and environmental efforts are substantially advanced through staff-led implementation and regional coordination, including participation in the CVAG Energy and Sustainability Committee and related regional initiatives. The Committee has operated on an as-needed basis since February 2025, and no formal referrals have been made to the Committee during that time. The City Council supported dissolution of the Committee and continuation of environmental work through existing operational and regional frameworks.

Parks and Recreation Committee. The proposed ordinance would revise the Committee’s duties and meeting schedule. The amendments would remove the formal requirement that Committee members inspect assigned parks and submit written observations to staff, clarify that the Committee’s role is advisory and focused on parks and recreation policy, long-range planning, and major initiatives, and revise the regular meeting schedule to every other month. These changes are intended to better distinguish policy input from administrative operations and align meetings with the pace of policy-level matters.

Environmental Review

This action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act because it is an administrative, organizational, procedural, fiscal, or informational activity that will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15060(c), 15378(b), 15061(b)(3).)

Legal Review

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

Financial Impact

There is minimal fiscal impact associated with publication of the ordinances. Adjustments to advisory structures may yield modest administrative efficiencies in staff preparation, agenda management, and meeting support.

Attachments

1. Ordinance – Environmental Resources Committee and Homelessness Task Force
2. Ordinance – Parks and Recreation Committee

Conflict of Interest Awareness Checklist

Note: *This checklist is informational only and does not constitute a legal determination. Each Councilmember remains responsible for identifying, disclosing, and evaluating any disqualifying interests under the Political Reform Act and applicable FPPC regulations.*

1. Site-Specific Property Interest

Does this item involve a project site or other identifiable real property?

Yes

No

If yes, identify the project site:

Councilmembers should consider whether they own, lease, or hold interests in real property within 1,000 feet of the project site. (Gov. Code § 87103(b); FPPC Reg. 18702.2).

2. SB 1439 / Gov. Code § 84308 Applicability (Campaign Contributions)

Does this item involve a license, permit, other entitlement for use, or a contract or franchise agreement that is not competitively bid, a labor agreement, or a personal employment contract?

Yes

No

If yes, identify the applicant(s), appellant(s), party, or participant(s):

Councilmembers should review campaign contributions received within the prior 12 months from parties or participants to the proceeding and must not accept contributions over \$500 from those parties for 12 months following the final decision. (Gov. Code § 84308).