



### FAQs: Tahquitz Creek Golf Course Proposal

**Q. Is there a proposal to convert Tahquitz Creek Golf Club to a desert preserve?**

**A.** Yes. The Trust for Public Lands and the Oswit Land Trust are spearheading this proposal, which is in the very early stages. Oswit Land Trust has recently revised its proposal to exclude the Legend Course as part of the proposed desert preserve. You can find more about their proposal here: <https://www.mesquitedesertpreserve.org/>.

**Q. Is this a done deal?**

**A.** No. The Palm Springs City Council HAS NOT approved this idea or even indicated support. The process started with a land appraisal, which will need to be revisited based on the revised proposal and exclusion of the Legend Course.

**Q. Why has Council met in Closed Session on this topic?**

**A.** It is standard practice for City Council to handle all aspects of potential real property negotiations (sale, purchase, lease or other transfer) in Closed Session. Closed sessions are used for real property negotiations because anything said during an open session, if heard by the other party, could have a negative impact on negotiations. This practice can be used during all phases of a potential transaction, including exploratory interest, appraisals or other market evaluations, offers, and counter offers. Closed sessions are often used regardless of whether potential negotiations result in actual sale or purchase.

**Q. Does discussion in Closed Session suggest a sale is likely?**

**A.** No. A closed session could be used even when there is little to no interest in a potential sale. Similarly, a closed session could be used to vet a potential sale that never advances.

**Q. Can City Council complete a sale of a property in Closed Session?**

**A.** Although California law allows real property negotiations to be concluded in closed session, it is the City Council's practice to consider real property sales in duly noticed open sessions. The same would be the case for any potential sale of the Tahquitz Creek Golf Club.

**Q. Why does the June 24, 2021 Closed Session Agenda refer to discussing "terms and price" for the Tahquitz Creek Golf Club?**

**A.** The language is statutorily provided language from the State's open meeting law – the Ralph M. Brown Act. It can apply to any phase of a potential real property transaction. In this case, the Closed Session agenda is intended for staff to present City Council the results of the appraisal-related documents. The appraisal has been referenced publicly prior to the Closed Session with Council.

**Q. Will the trust for Public Lands be in Closed Session to negotiate with the City Council?**

**A.** No. The other parties to potential property negotiations cannot be in Closed Session with City Council.

**Q. Will the City include the residents in the decision-making process?**

**A.** Yes. There will be significant outreach, especially to neighbors living adjacent to the golf course. It will be largely up to the public lands groups to explain what they see as the public value of preserving this space rather than continuing its existing use. The City Council is committed to holding public discussions about the proposal, including discussion of a long-term strategic plan for the Tahquitz Creek Golf Club, which may occur in early 2022.

**Q. How long will this process take before a decision is made?**

**A.** The process could take up to 12 months as the public lands groups attempt to articulate their vision, hear from residents and attempt to respond. In addition, these groups are still working on details about what a transition of the golf course to a desert preserve would look like.

**Q. Doesn't the City's golf course make money?**

**A.** No. The City's General Fund subsidizes the golf course, from approximately \$600,000 to \$1 million annually.