



## City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability July 2024 Meeting

### **Packet Summary and Table of Contents**

There are a number of items to review for this month's meeting. We are providing this document to orient the Commissioners' focus during their review.

#### 1. Agenda

Please note slight changes to the previously published version. We have included an item for the Commission to review and approve a grant acceptance resolution that's going to the Council. We have also included requests to consider supporting Measure J Community Initiated Projects.

#### 2. Staff Comment

Feel free to read at your leisure! This follows a similar format to those presented in previous months. No action required.

#### 3. Measure J Discussion Summary

We've included the Measure J application and a summary of the meeting discussion here. Depending on your familiarity with the process, you may want to browse the application briefly to get a sense of the project requirements. Action: Commissioners will be asked to decide on what level of support to provide.

#### 4. Tahquitz Creek Measure J Project Proposal

This project proposal is requesting Commission support. Review for questions and alignment with Commission goals. Action: Commissioners will be asked to decide on what level of support to provide.

#### 5. Oswit Land Trust Measure J Project Proposal

This project proposal is requesting Commission support. Review for questions and alignment with Commission goals. Action: Commissioners will be asked to decide on what level of support to provide.

#### 6. Staff Report – Caltrans Grant Acceptance Resolution

Review for a summary of the conditionally awarded Caltrans grant and to understand the request to the Council. Action: Commissioners will be asked to decide whether the Resolution should be advanced to the City Council.

7. Draft Resolution – Caltrans Grant Acceptance Resolution

The Commission will be asked to decide whether to support the Resolution.

8. SSCOWR Meeting Report

Review and share questions with the SSCOWR members. No action required.

9. Minutes draft – May and June 2024 Meetings

Thanks to Ben, you will see minutes for approval more regularly! Please review for correctness. Note that we follow an abbreviated Action Minutes format throughout the City. Videos are available on the City's Youtube channel if you would like to browse full conversations. We can discuss Action Minutes if there are questions or concerns. Action: submit corrections if desired. Commissioners will be asked to approve the minutes.

10. Future Agenda and Requests

No action required.



# SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

[www.palmspringsca.gov/services/sustainability-and-recycling](http://www.palmspringsca.gov/services/sustainability-and-recycling)

<b>July 16, 2024 5:30 PM</b>	<b>MEETING AGENDA</b>	<b>Palm Springs City Hall Large Conference Room</b>
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Ken Alexander	Don Barrett, Vice Chair	Erin Boyd
Roy Clark, Chair	Kathy Cohn	Max Dirdah
Andrew Forster	Michael Frick	Bernard Rottner
Prema Walker		

*City of Palm Springs Vision Statement: Palm Springs aspires to be a unique world-class desert community where residents and visitors enjoy our high quality of life and a relaxing experience. We desire to balance our cultural and historical resources with responsible, sustainable economic growth and enhance our natural desert beauty. We are committed to providing responsive, friendly, and efficient customer service in an environment that fosters unity among all our citizens.*

To view/listen/participate in the meeting live, please contact Benito Villa at [Benito.villa@palmspringsca.gov](mailto:Benito.villa@palmspringsca.gov) or the following telephone number (760-323-8214) to register for the Zoom meeting. There will be an email with Zoom credentials sent after registration is complete to access the meeting and offer public comment.

Any person who wishes to provide public testimony for an item on the agenda is requested to file a speaker card before the Public Testimony portion of the meeting. You may submit your public comment to the Subcommittee electronically. Material may be emailed to [benito.villa@palmspringsca.gov](mailto:benito.villa@palmspringsca.gov). Transmittal prior to the start of the meeting will help ensure that your correspondence is fully considered. Any correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Subcommittee and retained for the official record.

Office of Sustainability staff representatives: Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director; Christian Wheeler, Climate and Sustainability Specialist; Benito Villa, Senior Program Coordinator; Juliet Shane Agtang, CivicSpark Fellow

Please **MUTE OR TURN OFF** all audible electronic devices for the duration of this meeting.

## CALL TO ORDER

## ROLL CALL

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**(5 MINUTES)**

## ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

## PRESENTATION

**(20 MINUTES)**

Discussion About Heat and Shade – Sustainability Specialist Wheeler

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This time is for members of the public to address the Commission on agenda items and items of general interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission values your comments but it cannot take action on items not listed on the posted Agenda. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each speaker.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

**(5 MINUTES)**

Chair Clark

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (10 MINUTES)**

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Vice Chair Barrett
2. Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action – Chair Clark
3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bird Strikes – Commissioner Frick

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT (10 MINUTES)**

Director McCloy

**MEETING MINUTES – May 21 and June 18, 2024, Regular Meetings (10 MINUTES)**

**OLD BUSINESS (20 MINUTES)**

1. Leaf Blower Ban – Chair Clark, Director McCloy

**NEW BUSINESS (20 MINUTES)**

1. Summary of CCEC Conference – Juliet Shane Agtang
2. Measure J Community Projects and Review and Recommendations for Support Letter Requests – Staff and representatives from Tahquitz Creek and Oswit Land Trust projects
3. Recommendation of Resolution to accept Caltrans Heat and Shade grant – Specialist Wheeler

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SEPTEMBER AGENDA ITEMS (10 MINUTES)**

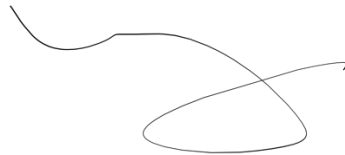
Commissioners have two (2) minutes to provide requests for future agenda items or input on other Commission-related items of interest.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission will adjourn to September 17, 2024, at 5:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (760) 323-8204 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with the meeting is the Office of Sustainability, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Agenda and staff reports are available on the City's website [www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov). If you would like additional information on any item appearing on this agenda, please contact the Office of Sustainability at 760-323-8214.

**AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING:** I, Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability of the City of Palm Springs, California, certify this Agenda was posted at or before 5:30 PM on Thursday, July 11, 2024 as required by established policies and procedures.



Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability



## City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability

**To:** Sustainability Commission

**From:** Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability

**Re:** July Updates to the Sustainability Commission

**Meeting Date:** 16 July 2024

The Office of Sustainability would like to provide this update on activities since the last Commission meeting to help speed discussion at the in-person meeting. The following items can be discussed in more depth at the meeting, if desired by the Commission.

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Next Council meeting topics:
  - July 25: Grant acceptance resolution for Caltrans funding (to be discussed in the meeting)
  - Early fall TBD: expanding foodware ordinance to include styrofoam coolers; update on foodware ordinance compliance
  - TBD: Tree ordinance, buildings reach code, greenhouse gas emissions update
- Next Subcommittee meeting dates:
  - SSCOWR: reconvening in September
  - Climate Action: reconvening in September
- Sustainability Events
  - Next Farmers' Market table: August 10
  - Next shredding and e-waste event: October, date TBA
- Upcoming events
  - Summer Reading events: Bird migration and bird-friendly buildings feat. Commissioner Frick and Prof. Kurt Loescher from COD on July 17; prize event where bikes will be distributed on July 24

### Commission Administrative Matters

- Please welcome Commissioner Erin Boyd!
- We are *no longer permitted* to email personal email addresses for Commission matters. If you are still having trouble with the email address, please email [ithelp@palmspringsca.gov](mailto:ithelp@palmspringsca.gov) and let them know that you are a Sustainability Commission member.

### Updates on Ongoing Work

## **Water**

The State Water Control Board adopted the final Making Conservation a California Way of Life regulations earlier this month. I'm linking an [LA Times summary article here](#). While some changes in the regulation provide relief, the Desert Water Agency still faces some of the largest required reductions in the state. Our team will review the regulations this month and next and begin to work with DWA and City departments to implement the regulations.

## **Turf Conversion**

The City Council recently approved a MOU allowing for funds transfer for current and future turf conversion matching rebate programs. This is a small technical victory!

DWA recently reduced the size of their rebate to \$2 per square foot given the reduced drought conditions. This applies to any projects applying after July 1. The City's match remains at \$1 per square foot.

Planning staff will bring a proposal for converting the grass at City Hall and restoring the historic desert landscape to the City Council for direction in September. We will bring those materials to the Commission when they are available.

## **Waste**

LP and Liz Hernandez (PSDS) completed capacity planning analysis that was submitted to the County for future collation for CalRecycle. This analysis is required at regular intervals to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in our region to process organics and edible food.

Our edible food recovery grant of \$120,000 from CalRecycle was received at the end of June. We will work with FIND Food Bank to pilot an approach to edible food matchmaking for "Tier 2 generators" (large restaurants, hotels, food-serving institutions, etc.) over the next 18 months.

## **Foodware**

LP will be presenting on the foodware ordinance alongside the City of Cupertino and other leading CA cities/counties with foodware ordinances at August's CRRA Symposium in Anaheim, CA.

## **Batteries**

Still waiting on that battery box business license! Such are the vagaries and delights of institutional purchasing.

## **Airport**

We have no updates this month on the Airport's Strategic Planning process. We are working with the Airport team to hire a Climate and Sustainability Specialist focused on sustainability this summer. Finally, Commissioners may be interested to check out this

[staff report](#) from the July 9 Council Meeting indicating that Hertz will be adding EV chargers to their facility to support their EV fleet.

### **EV Charging Stations**

Current status of the stations is as follows:

- Museum Station: 4 of 6 Level 2 (medium speed) chargers functioning, 2 of 4 DCFC fully functioning (new clips!), 1 of 4 DCFC mostly functioning, 1 of 4 DCFC functioning for many vehicles with CCS and all vehicles with NACS
- City Hall Station: Both DCFC fully functioning; both L2 functioning
- Village Green/Belardo stations: both functioning
- Convention Center stations: 2 functioning, 2 not functioning.

We made our change to two DCFC at the Museum but ended up making the slightly less dramatic version of the change (replaced CHADEMO with NACS instead of replacing CCS). So far, no complaints have been received about the change.

### **Transportation**

Christian led work on a grant our office was conditionally awarded this week! We were awarded \$400,000 from Caltrans' Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program to develop a Comprehensive Heat Mitigation and Shade Plan for Multi-Modal Transportation. The Commission will hear more about this during today's meeting and will be presented with a request to support a grant acceptance resolution at the City Council. We look forward to working with the Commission to develop these plans.

### **Urban Environment**

(no change) Outreach continues for the development of the Tree Ordinances and achieving the TreeCity designation. Internal outreach has been very promising and productive. Christian led a study session for the Planning Commission on the ordinance during Earth Week. Commissioner feedback focused on outreach and education and ensuring the City is set up for successful implementation of the ordinance. Another review will be conducted after the final draft from the City's attorneys is received.

Our team has provided guidance to the Public Works proposal for changing maintenance practices for City-owned palm trees. The Council will revisit this item in September.

Christian was interviewed this week by Modern Farmer Magazine on the City's approach to the link between climate and food.

We will host our final Summer Reading event at the Library on Wednesday, July 17, focusing on birds and bird-friendliness. Commissioner Frick will be discussing his journey to make his home more bird-friendly. Join us at the Library at 2pm!

We are exploring ideas for the EPA Community Change Grant.

### **Community Garden**

No significant updates this month.

## **Buildings and Energy Efficiency**

The team and many Commissioners attended the CCEC Forum in late June at Margaritaville. Juliet will share a summary from the conference in today's meeting.

Juliet, Benito, and Christian organized a Summer Reading event at the Library focused on home energy efficiency. David Freedman, Program Manager for DCE and former Sustainability Commissioner, presented recommendations from his work to electrify his mid-century modern home and improve its energy efficiency. Dana MacAllister, Chief Building Official for the City of Palm Springs, presented improvements to the solar and EV permitting processes. Commissioners who are interested in viewing the presentation can see the recording of the livestream on our Instagram: [Palm Springs Office of Sustainability \(@ps.sustainability\) • Instagram photos and videos](#) (LP would also like to include a plug for our team's beautiful graphics work. Check out those heat safety posts!).

Benito and Juliet have led Sustainability's first Resource Fair on July 12. We will feature assistance programs from partner agencies and have an induction cooking demo! The fair will take place on Friday, July 12 from 4-7pm. We will report on the event during Staff Comment in the meeting.

We will be convening internal agencies to review reach codes and policy pathways for residential buildings. We will bring this policy proposal to the Climate Action Subcommittee and the Commission in the fall.

I-REN will host a virtual forum in the fall which will feature a panel discussion on historic buildings and energy efficiency. Our Buildings and Planning staff will represent the City on the panel.

## **Fleet Electrification and City Emissions Reductions**

Public Works and Sustainability will kick off an energy savings study with Engie this month. We will work to identify possible future energy efficiency projects in the City, specifically focusing on buildings connected to the City's cogeneration facility and including identifying opportunities for expanding charging.

We were awarded just over \$70,000 via a Department of Energy formula grant process this year. We plan to use the funding to purchase some off-grid EV chargers for City fleet use.

Juliet is working closely with the I-REN team to provide data from the utilities for our Energy Action Plan focused on City facilities and to complete energy audits for our five fire stations.

Benito completed an extensive training process to become certified as the City's Employee Transportation Coordinator! All large employers in California are required to appoint an ETC to manage programs related to reducing the impact of commuting. Benito is working closely with IEC commuter, an organization serving employers in



Riverside and San Bernardino counties, to promote more low-emissions commute options to our employees and to complete annual reporting on commute impacts.

### **Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Accounting**

CVAG was awarded funding under EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. They are required to generate climate action plans for their member cities as part of the planning effort for the grant. We are participating in this in parallel to our own efforts and are looking forward to the regional analysis and results.

### **Air Quality**

The team and Climate Action Subcommittee brainstormed ideas on how to get the word out to the public on particularly hazardous air days. We encourage our residents to be mindful of the heat and wildfire smoke.

CVAG has increased focus on regional air quality challenges and is working closely with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). As of last month, the AQMD announced plans to install additional monitors in the Valley to generate additional data.

### **Team Updates**

We are focusing on hiring for at least one specialist this month.

Juliet will "complete" her first fellowship year in August and will then commence her second term.

### **Key Goals for Next Month**

We are ramping up this fiscal year by focusing on the following:

- Finalizing Caltrans grant conditions for grant acceptance
- Planning edible food recovery grant program
- Completing CalRecycle Electronic Annual Report
- Launching post-foodware ordinance study
- Identifying bike rack procurement options to expand racks and tire pumps
- Supporting Measure J project applications as applicable
- Reviewing final water regulations
- Hiring 2 specialists
- Launching City energy study and completing Energy Action Plan
- Beginning outreach cycle for building retrofit reach code
- Engaging landscapers on tree ordinance and leaf blowers
- Supporting Public Works on palm tree maintenance plan



## City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission

July 2024

### **Summary – Measure J Facilitated Discussion**

Commissioners will be asked to think about Measure J projects in 2 ways today. We encourage you to review the Measure J Application for Community Initiated Projects to prepare for the discussion: [Community Initiated Project Application | City of Palm Springs \(palmspringsca.gov\)](https://palmspringsca.gov/community-initiated-project-application)

Two groups will present project proposals and request Commission feedback and possible support:

- Tahquitz Creek neighborhoods and supportive organizations
- Oswit Land Trust

Their proposals are included after this page in the packet for your review.

Staff will then lead the Commission through a short brainstorm process based on past proposals from Commissioners to identify any possible projects the Commission might want to propose to Measure J either through this year's Community Initiated process or in the future. Those options are more informal and will be presented in the meeting for preliminary prioritization.

# Demonstration Project

Tahquitz Creek Master Plan Implementation



# Study Zones\_initial focus areas & demonstration project



....to provide a rich and varied recreational experience for residents and visitors of Palm Springs, while enhancing the beauty and function of the Creek. The design shall respect the area's unique regional context including: history, culture and the natural environment.

In their own words, community members envision the Creek as: **“A place that would be the nexus of a community pathway system connecting people to downtown and other parts of the City, mountain trail heads, Tahquitz Canyon, and perhaps one day all the way to the Salton Sea.”** The Creek is a likely nexus as it is a confluence or place of convergence between the mountains and the desert, the natural and the built environments, and the area's rich history and desires for its future.

# Goals & Objectives

Tahquitz Creek Master Plan

## 1. Create a scenic and enjoyable desert greenway along the Tahquitz Creek.

- Enhance the natural qualities of the creek system.
- Provide a forum for community interaction and trail stewardship.
- Secure formal adoption of the trail as a City parkway.

## 2. Create visual access to the creek trail as well as connections to the larger trail system and area destinations.

- Augment opportunities to visibly showcase the unique creek environment.
- Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections to: City-loop Trail System and Coachella Valley Trail System, mountain trails, downtown, commercial centers, neighborhoods, education and cultural centers including the Tahquitz Canyon Visitors Center.
- Consider opportunities to connect the north and south sides of the Creek.

## 3. Provide a safe, comfortable and engaging experience for a variety of trail users.

- Build a trail or trail system that will accommodate a diversity of users: pedestrians, bicyclists, dog walkers, families, and equestrians, while respecting ADA guidelines.
- Include amenities that will ensure a comfortable and engaging experience: shade, small gathering nodes, interpretive elements, public art, gateways, way-finding information, trail rules and regulations and trash receptacles.
- Minimize safety hazards for all user groups.

## 4. Highlight the local context: history, culture and natural environment.

- Enhance and interpret local history and culture: Agua Caliente, western settlement, mid-century recreation capital.
- Seek educational opportunities through student engagement and stewardship.
- Enhance and interpret the natural environment: local watershed, desert, mountains, native flora and fauna.
- Landscape with low water-use, desert adapted, wildlife friendly, native or near native plant materials.

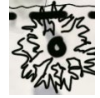
## 5. Respect the functional role of the Tahquitz Creek.

- Coordinate with Riverside County Flood Control on operating requirements.
- Do not negatively impact the capacity of the Creek's floodway.
- Recognize the shared goal of improving water quality and seek means to achieve this.



# Illustrative Plan

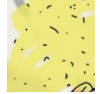
## Legend



Existing Trees (b&w)



New Mesquite Trees (Green)



New Gravel (yellow)



New specimen planting (orange)



Re-built levee edge (b&w)



Interpretive Sign (red)



# General Design Approach



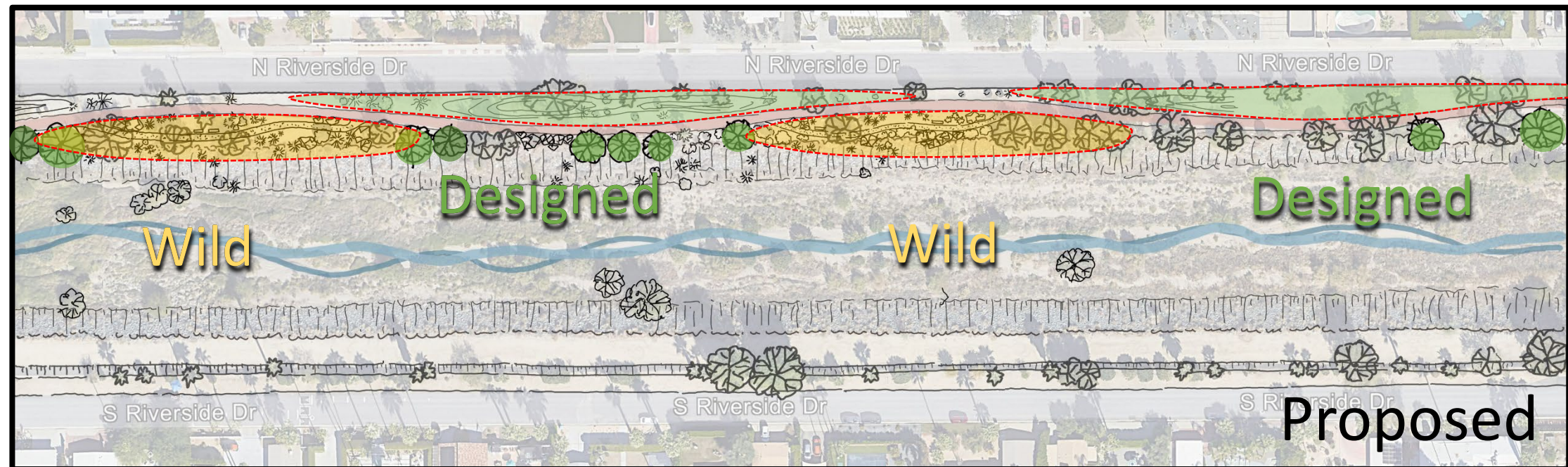
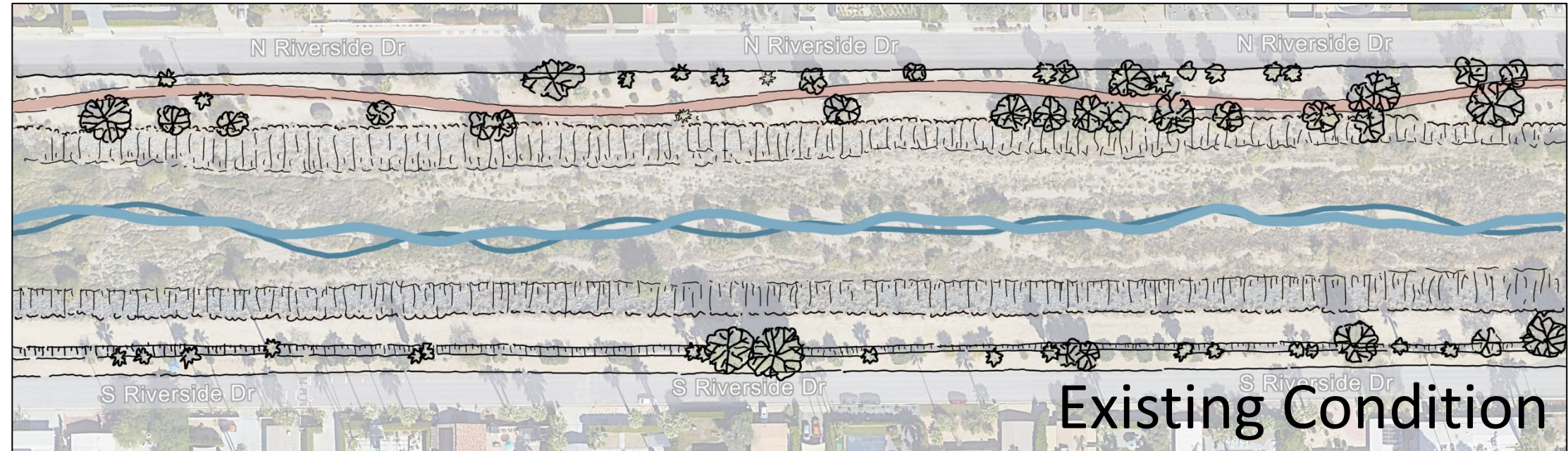
Wild

Designed



# General Approach/Partial Plan\_landscaped edges

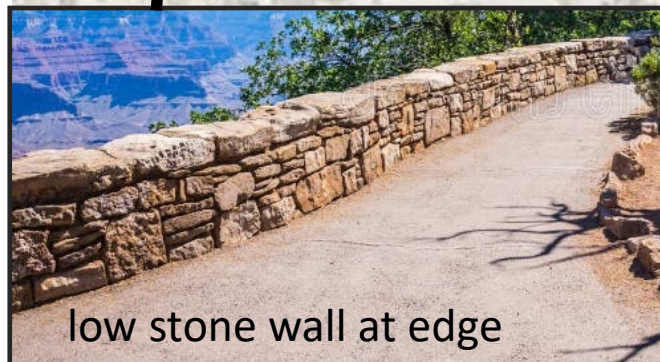
- Demarcate “wild” and “designed” areas
  - Designed = closer to the curb, low, more specimen plantings
  - Wild = contiguous with the levee/creek, more native, woler maintenance, etc.
- In-fill with shade trees
- Remove invasive plants, handrails, etc.
- Add seating areas
- Restore Levee rip-rap edge as needed



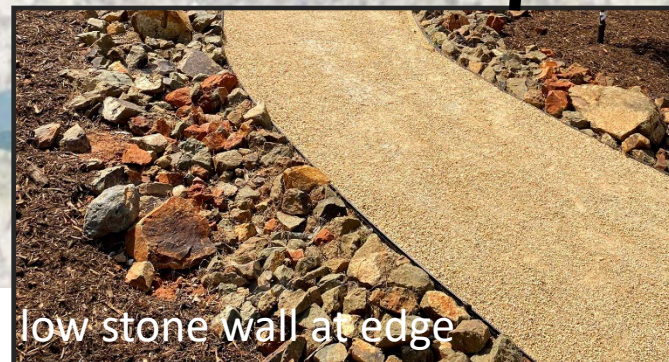
# North side detail elements



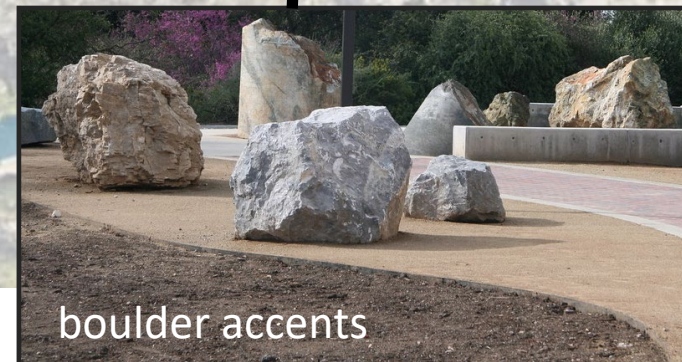
boulder seating



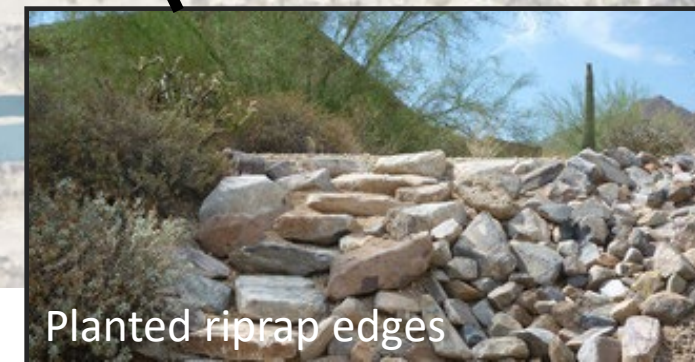
low stone wall at edge



low stone wall at edge



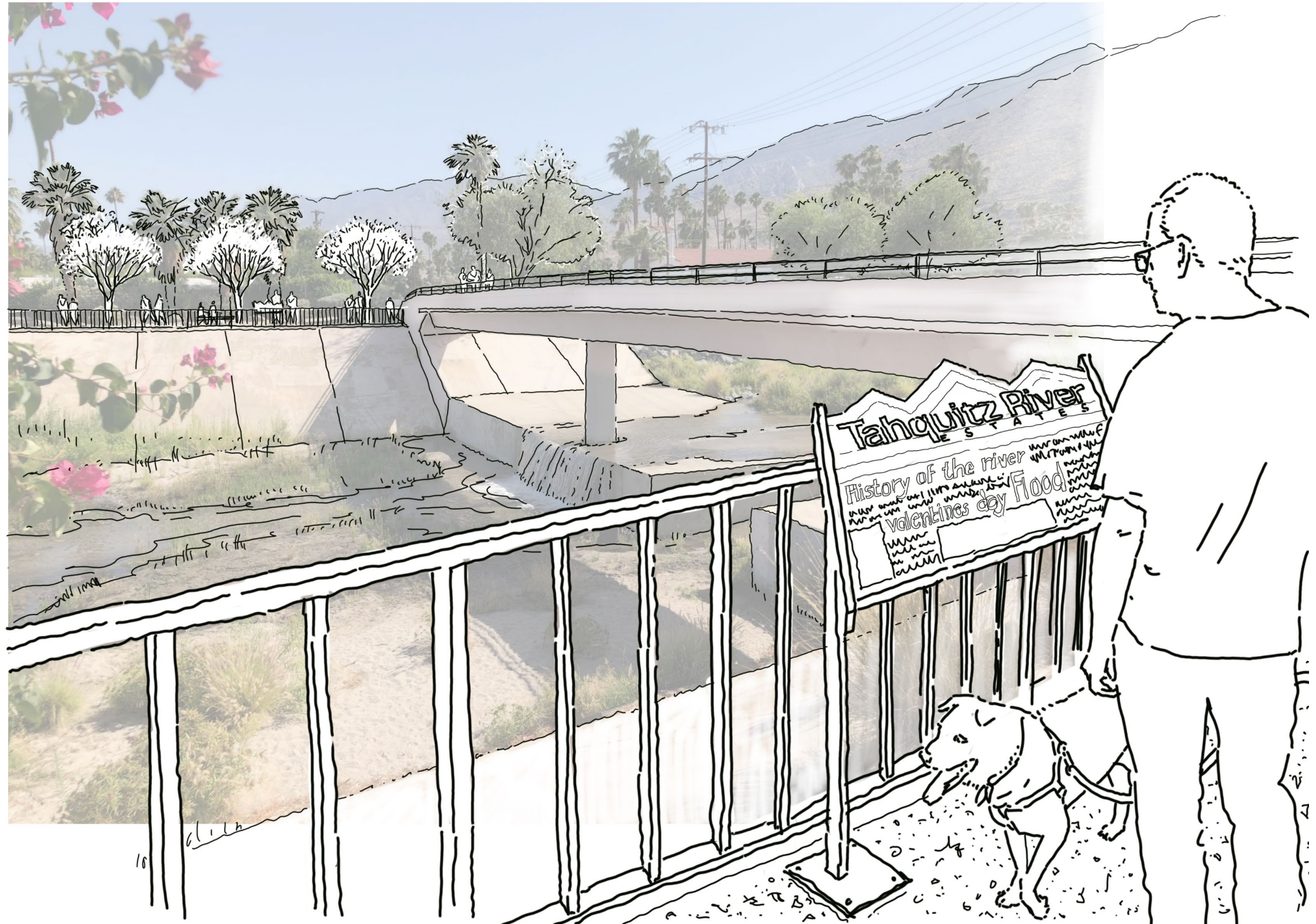
boulder accents



Planted riprap edges

# Interpretive Signage

- Develop an interpretive Signage program to tell the history of the river.



# Illustrative Plan

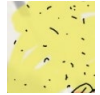
## Legend



Existing Trees (b&w)



New Mesquite Trees (Green)



New Gravel (yellow)



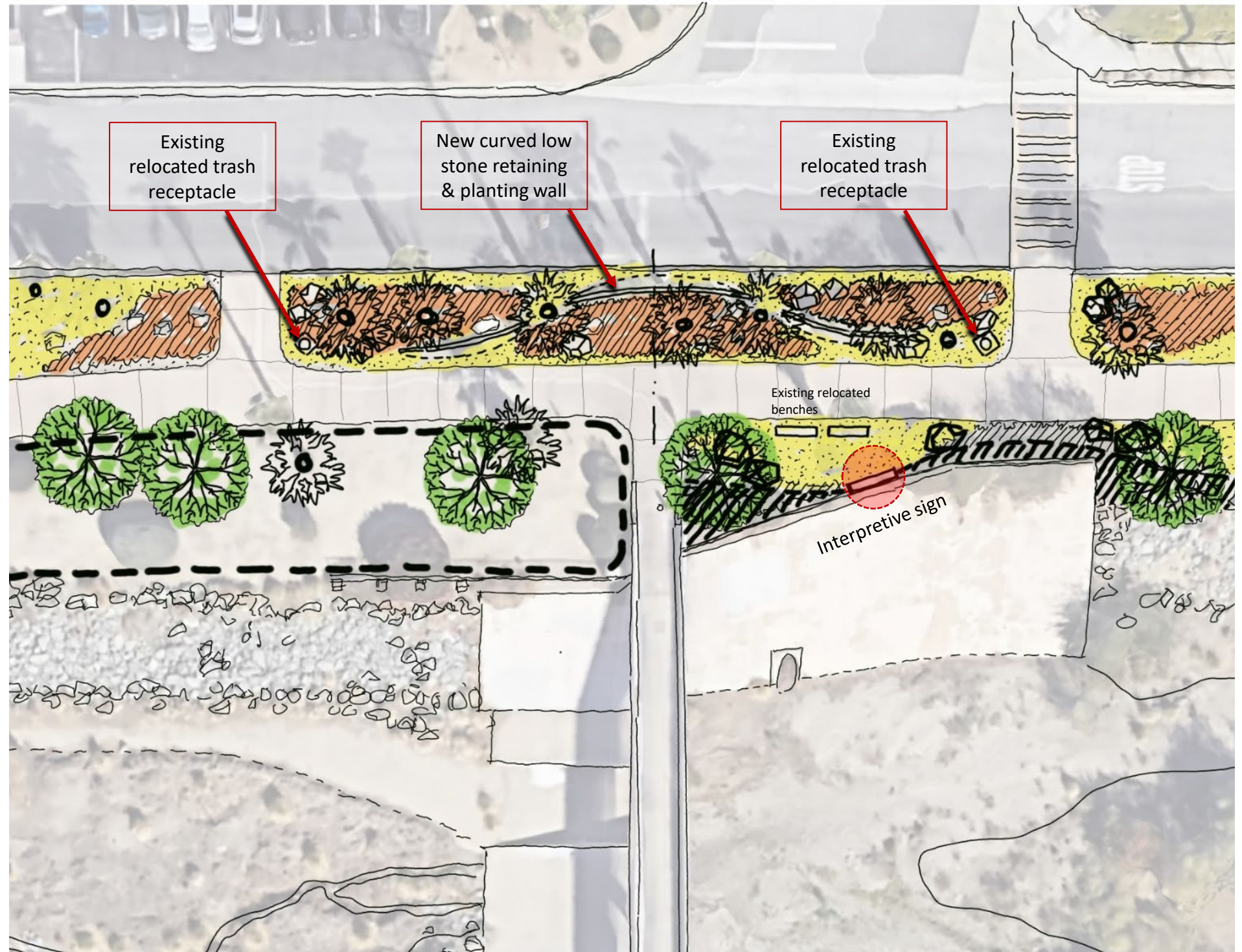
New specimen planting (orange)



Re-built levee edge (b&w)



Interpretive Sign (red)



# Planting palette



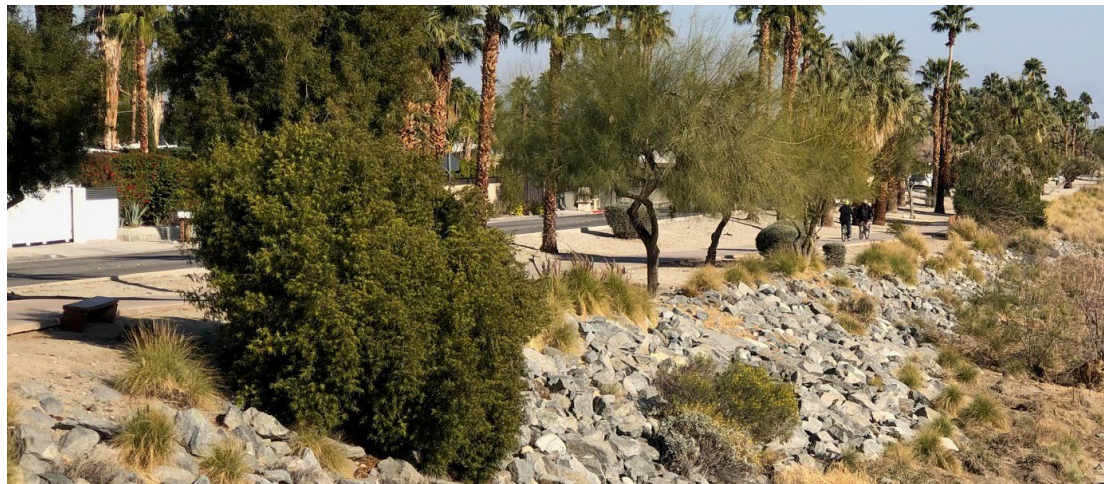
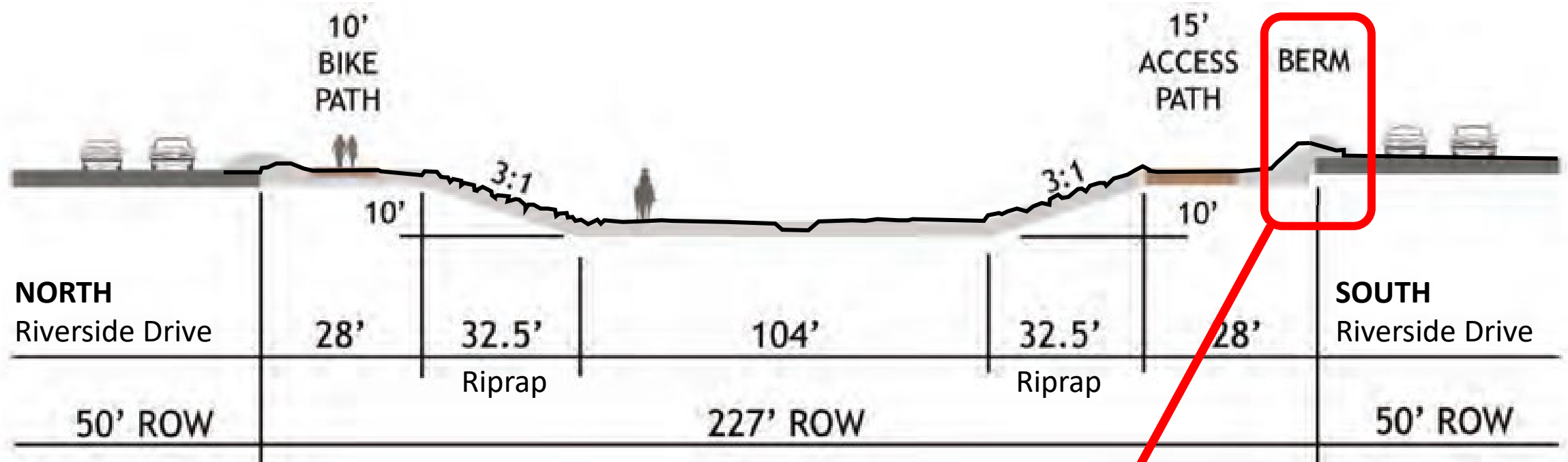
A gradient showcasing the different ecological habitats of the area should extend from the western portion of the trail to the east. The western zone should consist of canyon species. Plants indigenous to the local desert canyons are accustomed to having a reliable water source and thus would require a regular watering program. The second zone should be composed of plants naturally found in close proximity to xeri-riparian or local desert streams. Species in this zone would include deciduous trees that provide shade during the summer months, while allowing the sun to penetrate throughout the

## Tahquitz Creek Trail - Suggested Plant Palette

Common Name	Scientific Name	Water	Notes
<b>CANYON</b>			
Trees			
1. California sycamore	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	moderate	Important wildlife plant
2. California fan palm	<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	2x/mo.	naturally occurs in clusters at oases
3. Fremont cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii</i>	constant	Not an arid plant, requires irrigation
Shrubs			
4. Parry's beargrass	<i>Nolina parryi</i>	1-2x/mo.	stabilizes slopes
5. Deer grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	1x/mo.	used to make baskets
6. Indigo	<i>Psoralea schottii</i>	1x/mo.	blue blossoms
<b>DESERT RIPARIAN</b>			
Trees			
7. Desert willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	drought tolerant	long-lasting bloom time
8. Narrow-leaved willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>	drought resistant	winter deciduous
Shrubs			
9. Arrowweed	<i>Pluchea sericea</i>	natural rainfall	traditional medicinal
10. Jojoba	<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i>	natural rainfall	provides good visual screen
11. White sage	<i>Salvia apiana</i>	natural rainfall	white blossoms
<b>DESERT</b>			
Trees			
12. Mesquite	<i>Prosopis spp.</i>	drought tolerant	provides filtered shade
13. Cat claw acacia	<i>Acacia greggii</i>	natural rainfall	small tree, multi-stemmed
14. Palo verde	<i>Cercidium floridum</i>	drought tolerant	provides filtered shade
Shrubs			
15. California barrel	<i>Ferocactus cylindraceus</i>	drought tolerant	accent plant
16. Brittlebush	<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	drought resistant	rapid growth, yellow flower
17. Creosote	<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	natural rainfall	minimal maintenance
<b>WASH</b>			
Shrubs			
18. Chuparosa	<i>Justicia californica</i>	drought tolerant	found naturally in sandy washes
19. Smoke bush	<i>Psoralea spinosus</i>	drought resistant	naturally occurring in desert washes

Note: Although a plant may be listed as drought tolerant or resistant, all plant materials require water during establishment (typically the first two years) as well as during periods of prolonged drought in order to maintain good health and visual appearance.

# Typ. Section *Pedestrian Bridge at Camino Real to Drop Structure at Hermosa*



# Summary of planning Committee Meeting\_Conclusions/Next Steps

## 1. Improve on-going maintenance (city)

- Work with the city to improve the level of effort (quality) in maintaining the existing landscape, irrigation, tree trimming etc.
- Encourage the City to find an alternative company with expertise in native vegetation
- Continue to audit the current maintenance efforts

## 2. County Flood Clearance (FEMA)

- City and County to confirm responsibilities
- Update the current FEMA mapping guidelines (City to take the lead)

## 3. Implement landscape enhancements/master plan (Measure J funding)

- Revise and re-submit the application with broader support from the community and associated neighborhood groups
- Establish planning & design committee
- Fundraise and identify sponsors to donate landscape and plant materials, art, interpretative signage, etc.

## 4. Governance – City Park

- Endorse the establishment of a City Park designation for the corridor

## 5. Security, graffiti & un-housed persons

- Continued auditing and reporting to the city

## 6. Traffic calming (“safe route to school initiative”)

- Request a traffic calming study and/or mitigation (traffic circle/speed bumps/bulbouts at intersections)
- Re-stripe the roadway for bicycle lanes and EV’s

### Attendees:

#### Tahquitz Creek Yacht Club (TCYC)

- Vaughan Davies
- Joan Martin
- Bill Post
- Daniel Penpraze
- Roland Gib Stewart

#### Oswit Land Trust

- Scott Collins
- David Paisley

#### TRENO Board Members

- Dana Dukelow
- Catherine Salazaar
- David Murphy
- Eric Borsum

#### TRENO Residents

- Michael Payne
- Hadi Yashruti
- Jeffery Fischer
- James Van Beek

#### Cody Place Board Members

- Ron Pagano
- John Houston

January 2024





To: Members of the Palm Springs Sustainability Commission  
From: Katie Barrows, Oswit Land Trust Board Member  
Date: July 11, 2024  
Re: Request for Support for Measure J Community Initiative Project

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Thank you for the opportunity for the Sustainability Commission to review a proposed Measure J Community Initiative Project. As you may be aware, the Measure J guidelines encourage applicants to seek input from City commissions, departments, or staff prior to making a submission. The following is a summary of a project that Oswit Land Trust would like to submit for funding under the Community Initiative Project program. We are still fleshing out the specifics of the proposal and would very much appreciate input and support from the Sustainability Commission for this project.

Oswit Land Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2020 after the success of the Save Oswit Canyon campaign to purchase and save 114 acres of pristine wildlife habitat in Palm Springs from development. In August 2022, Oswit Land Trust (OLT) acquired the 120 acre Prescott Preserve and is working to restore this former golf course to a self-sustaining ecosystem representing the native landscapes of the Coachella Valley. The preserve is already serving as a resource to the community, with nature trails, walking paths, and opportunities to observe local wildlife. Restoration plans include enhancing this open space to serve as an educational and recreational hub for residents and visitors alike. We see Prescott Preserve as providing opportunities to learn about ecology and ecosystem services throughout the Coachella Valley, a place for collaborative educational and community efforts between OLT, the City of Palm Springs, and the community at large.

The Oswit Land Trust proposal for a Measure J project is to enhance the existing Prescott Preserve as a community resource with three primary elements:

1. Plant hundreds of native trees to enhance the habitat for wildlife and humans on the Prescott Preserve.
2. Create a butterfly/pollinator garden that will provide an important resource for native wildlife, and an enjoyable opportunity for the community to learn about the importance of native pollinators (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds).
3. Create a birdwatching/observation pavilion, restoring an existing facility, for visitors to sit and enjoy the many bird species and wildlife that make Prescott Preserve their home.

This project will enhance this beautiful open space and create a community resource for residents and visitors to enjoy and learn about our native species. Planting native trees will provide important benefits in terms of climate resilience. The pollinator garden will introduce visitors to plants they can use in their own landscape to attract pollinators. The birdwatching pavilion will provide a place to enjoy and learn about our native bird species. The importance of trees as a solution to help combat climate change cannot be overstated-for the sake of the birds and for many other forms of wildlife as well as for humans. Input and suggestions from the Commission regarding this project are welcome and appreciated.





Memo to the Sustainability Commission  
Supporting a Resolution to the City Council to accept funding from Caltrans for Heat and Shade Planning

SUMMARY

Approval of this item will authorize the City to accept a conditional grant award from the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Sustainable Transportation Grant Program to develop a "Comprehensive Shade and Heat Mitigation Plan for Multi-Modal Transportation."

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Recommend to the City Council that they adopt a Resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SHADE AND HEAT MITIGATION PLAN FOR MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION."

BACKGROUND

In January 2024, the Office of Sustainability applied for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program with a proposal under the \$31.8 million allocated for Climate Adaptation Planning Grants.

In July 2024, Caltrans announced the Sustainable Transportation Grant Preliminary Awards for the Fiscal Year 2024-25. The City of Palm Springs was one of 89 awarded applicants for this grant program. Using the awarded \$400,000 of funding, the Office of Sustainability will develop a "*Palm Springs Comprehensive Shade and Heat Mitigation Plan for Multi-modal Transportation*" between the award date and the grant expiry date of June 2027.

This plan will focus on sustainable and resilient transportation planning to mitigate and adapt to the City's extreme and unique climate. Working with members of the Palm Springs community and generating new, specific analyses, the Office and the City will generate a plan that identifies strategies to enhance adaptive multi-modal infrastructure, build resilient communities in an equitable manner, and reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. This project includes a variety of studies and plans, including:

- Urban Heat Study

- Heat and Shade Equity Study
- Heat Impact Assessment
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Design Recommendations for Shade, Sustainable and Functional Landscaping, and other urban design interventions
- Strategies and pathways to safe, comfortable and efficient transportation around the city that also reduce GHG emissions and pollution.
- Strategies that align with Local, Regional, and State goals to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change.

#### STAFF ANALYSIS:

Caltrans requires a number of conditions be met before the grant can be fully awarded. The General Conditions require the passage of a Board Resolution for this grant, signed by the governing board, that includes the grant project title and job title of the person authorized to enter into a contract with Caltrans. This adopted resolution is to be submitted to Caltrans by September 13, 2024.

The resolution is under review by the City Attorney's team. Its language is subject to change after legal review, though the intent will not change. This follows a standard process for the City.

#### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING:

The Comprehensive Shade and Heat Mitigation Plan aligns with the City Council's Sustainability priority.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

The City of Palm Springs has been conditionally awarded grant funding in the amount of \$400,000. The 12% local match will be met via the allocation of staff time to the project.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE  
ACCEPTANCE OF A SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A  
COMPREHENSIVE SHADE AND HEAT MITIGATION PLAN  
FOR MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (“Caltrans”) makes available funding for cities and regions to pursue transportation planning initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions via the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program allocated \$31.8 million toward Climate Adaptation Planning Grants, inviting planning projects that support local and regional identification of transportation-related climate vulnerabilities through the development of climate adaptation plans, as well as project-level adaptation planning to identify adaptation projects and strategies for transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Springs has committed to a just and equitable transition to carbon neutrality in its 2021 Climate Action Roadmap, 2016 Sustainability Plan, and previous plans; and

WHEREAS, transportation emissions represent the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the city of Palm Springs; and

WHEREAS, reducing the use of fossil-fuel passenger vehicles is critical to meeting the City’s emissions targets; and

WHEREAS, demographic and environmental conditions in Palm Springs can make active and multimodal transportation difficult, especially during the hot summer months, necessitating thoughtful, creative approaches to managing extreme heat via shade and other mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, the City was provisionally awarded funding under the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning - Climate Adaptation Planning Grant program in the amount of \$400,000 to generate a Comprehensive Shade and Heat Mitigation Plan for Multi-Modal Transportation; and

WHEREAS, a Restricted Grant Agreement is needed to be executed with Caltrans before such funds can be allocated through the Sustainable Transportation Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Springs wishes to delegate authorization to execute

these agreements and any amendments thereto.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS DOES HEREBY  
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated  
herein by this reference.

SECTION 2: The City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and  
empowered to execute in the name of the City of Palm Springs all grant documents,  
including but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments and requests for  
payment, necessary to secure grant funds and implement the approved grant project.

ADOPTED THIS 25TH DAY OF JULY, 2024.

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SCOTT C. STILES  
CITY MANAGER

ATTEST:

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BRENDA PREE  
CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE )     ss.  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS )

I, BRENDA PREE, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, hereby certify that Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ is a full, true and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Springs on July 25, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Springs, California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2024.

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Brenda Pree, City Clerk  
City of Palm Springs, California



# Waste-Reduction Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 07-16-2024

SUBMITTED BY: Don Barrett

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Waste-Reduction

SUBMITTED DATE: 07-06-2024

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 06-27-2024

NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 09-05-2024

## Subcommittee Meeting Goal:

Facilitating resident participation in waste-reduction

## Summary:

- 1) **Green business:** In the May SSCoWR meeting Ned Barker (chair of Baristo Neighborhood Organization), citing his experience working with restaurant industry on waste reduction, suggested creating a program where restaurants would have a certification for their elimination of single-use plastic, for their composting practices, and for their donation of leftover food. Such certification would be publicly posted similar to the restaurant "A" grade that is posted by Riverside County Health.

In their assessment at the June SSCoWR meeting, members of the subcommittee felt that such a program could increase normative standards for commercial and organizational food-service and, additionally, could be part of promoting a culture of waste reduction throughout the city. Subcommittee members were concerned, however, about: a) the feasibility of creating such a program due to time and staff demands for development, implementation, promotion, and maintenance of such given program, and 2) likely acceptance of such a program by restaurants.

- 2) **1383 update:** PSDS reported high compliance with compostable separation by SFR (single-family residences) but continued compliance problems at multi-unit housing complexes. To encourage public acceptance, PSDS agreed to work with the department on creating appropriate social media statements about compliance.
- 3) **Shredding event location:** To reduce the conflict with airport traffic when shredding events are held at City Hall, subcommittee members suggested exploring the placing of the shredding portion of the event on Alejo in front of the Fire Training, or the entire event in the parking lot of the Convention Center. The department stated they would look into those possibilities for the October event.
- 4) **Future agenda:** It was proposed that we return to an earlier focus on recycling in the parks and at public events, adding in compostable separation. It was agreed to place this on future agenda, along with known concerns about identifying and labeling containers.

## Recommendation/Request

None at this time

<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b>	<b>None at this time</b>
<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	1) social media on composting compliance with PSDS, 2) investigation of alternative shredding locations
<b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:</b>	<b>None at this time</b>

**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**May 21, 2024**

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**

**3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California**

**Large Conference Room**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Clark, Vice Chair Barrett, Commissioners Alexander, Cohn, Dirdah, Frick, Graham, Walker.

Not present: Commissioners Forster, Rottner

Staff Present: Sustainability Director McCloy, Sustainability Specialist Wheeler, Senior Sustainability Program Coordinator Villa

**PRESENTATION:**

Guest Presentation - Jacob Alvarez and David Freedman, Inland Regional Energy Network

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

Chair Clark asked if there were comments on or changes to the agenda.

Hearing none, the agenda was accepted by consensus.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Submitted in Person or Online: None.

**CHAIR'S COMMENT:**

- Julie Warren transmitted a report on the Palm Springs Library Request for funding to purchase prizes for summer reading. Items: bicycles, helmets and locks. Purchase made. Budget: \$1,500.00. Spent: \$1,435.00.
- Mayor Bernstein and Councilmember Holstege formed a parks and recreation task force, to address safety, access, technology, functionality, and sustainability. Chair Clark and Director McCloy are members.
- June 17, 2024 Commissioner and Council dinner being held at Convention Center

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:**

- Waste Reduction Meeting for June 6, 2024—RESCHEDULED May 30, 2024
- Ned Barker presentation-food waste and food-ware programs
- Shredding and e-waste event- successful with some traffic issues.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Director McCloy provided updates on:



- Commissioner Dinner—June 17
- Upcoming Hiring—Waste Specialist
- Planning for City Buildings
- Delinquent waste bills

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Social Media Updates and Demonstration from Coordinator Villa
  - **Then:** 20 accounts reached **Now: 141**
  - Social media has more than doubled, reaching more people.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Earth Day/Month
  - Shredding event, Ask an Arborist at Farmer's Market, Stroll Spin and Win
- Earth Day and Arbor Day Proclamations
- Partner Activation
  - Commissioner Rottner/Oswit Trust hosted Dark Sky Event
- Parks and Recreation hosted planting event for community garden
- Policy preparation: Planning Commission for tree Ordinance
- Future Earth Day/Month Planning: Commissioners asked to consider one big event or several smaller events in the future
- Gas Leaf Blower Ban: Receiving reports of gas leaf blowers still in use, this year property owners are receiving warnings and citations. Rebates are still available. Chair Clark suggested that an ad hoc subcommittee be formed to discuss outreach messages and education efforts.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

- Presentation by Tom Dolle about sustainability in City parks at June 18 meeting
- Bird Strike discussion with Commissioner Frick at June 18 meeting
- General discussion regarding shade, trees and structures, at July 16 meeting with Specialist Wheeler.
- Comment from Commissioner Walker: USPS truck fleet with no AC is not suitable for weather.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Sustainability Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 5:30 pm, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California, Large Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey-Paige McCloy  
Director of Sustainability

**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**June 18, 2024**

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**

**3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California**

**Large Conference Room**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Clark, Vice Chair Barrett, Commissioners Alexander, Cohn, Dirdah, Frick, Graham, Rottner and Walker

Not Present: Commissioner Forster

Staff Present: Sustainability Director McCloy, Sustainability Specialist Wheeler, Senior Sustainability Program Coordinator Villa

**PRESENTATION:**

Guest Presentation – Tom Dolle -- Sustainability in Palm Springs Parks

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

Chair Clark asked if there were comments on or changes to the agenda.

Hearing none, the agenda was accepted by consensus.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Submitted in Person or Online: None.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:**

- Report of Airport Master Plan Open House.
- Commissioner Don Barrett reappointed to a second term. New Commissioner Erin Boyd-First Meeting July

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Waste Reduction Meeting for June 6, 2024—RESCHEDULED June 27, 2024
- Climate Action Subcommittee- Presentation from IREN Fellow Juliet Agtang
  - Air quality information on social media and Engage Palm Springs
  - EPA Community Change Grant- Presentation from Sustainability Specialist Wheeler
- Bird Strikes Subcommittee

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Events and Happenings: June 27<sup>th</sup> SSCOWR Meeting
- Farmers Market indoors for the summer
- Shredding event coming soon in October
- Induction/Resource Fair
- Summer Readings at the Palm Spring Public Library: July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and July 17<sup>th</sup>

- 2 EV chargers to be updated downtown to include NACS (North American Charger Standard)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Feedback regarding June 17<sup>th</sup> commissioner dinner

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Gas Leaf Blower Ban Enforcement
  - Ad hoc subcommittee formed with Chair Clark and Commissioners Cohn and Frick

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

- Comment from Commissioner Walker: Looking into what fellowships are available. Meeting with tribal commission/committee to discuss ordinances.
- Commissioner Graham announced his resignation.
- Comment from Chair Clark: Discussion to potentially reduce the number of commissioners from 11 to 9 or 7; would happen by attrition as terms end.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Sustainability Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 5:30 pm, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California, Large Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey-Paige McCloy  
Director of Sustainability



## City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission

July 2024

### **Upcoming Agenda Items and Guest Presentations - Scheduled**

#### Commission

September

- EPA Community Change Grants
- Subcommittee membership
- Social media – Air Quality Monitoring
- Turf conversion statistics (from DWA)

#### SSCOWR

September

- Review of reuse projects and policies across CA/region

TBD

- Clarification about composting pails (Commissioner Alexander's suggestion)
- Recycling progress in Parks and Downtown
- Publicizing successes

#### Climate Action

July

- No meeting
- Next meeting September 11

September

- Regional connectivity to PSP

### **Upcoming Agenda Items and Guest Presentations - Unscheduled**

#### Commission

- Pool heaters

- Scholarships provided by the City (e.g., leaf blowers)
- Solar on/in City buildings; Director McCloy's report
- Shade structures and trees; collaboration with Parks and Recreation Office/Commission
- Cannabis/large building ordinance update (staff request)
- Air quality
- Digital media/education
- Dark Sky ordinance
- Smoking ordinance
- Ban on use of glue traps and rodenticides—Prescott Reserve request
- Dog/waste pickup stations

### SSCOWR

- Waste enforcement

### Climate Action

- Air quality
- Airport expansion
- Parks Master Plan
- Sustainable transportation planning and EV charging (Sustainability Specialist Wheeler)

### Additional suggested agenda items from Feb 20 Commission meeting

- Collaboration with other cities on sustainability; form committee (Commissioner Walker)
- Increased effort with respect to community gardens (Vice Chair Barrett)
- Trash container labeling (Commissioner Cohn)
- Shade structures and trees; work with Parks and Recreation Office/Commission (Commissioner Dirdah)
- Getting away from natural gas; education of companies doing work (+ CivicSpark Fellow Agtang's work) (Commissioner Rottner) → Climate action subcommittee