



**STAFF REPORT**  
**10/23/2024**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Gabriel Perez, Development Services Director  
**SUBJECT:** Appoint a Councilmember to the Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study Advisory Committee

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council appoint a Councilmember as an advisory committee member.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Coachella and RCTC submitted a joint application to Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Regional Early Action Planning 2.0 (REAP 2.0) program for the Rail Station Feasibility Study and Integrated Land Use and Transit Network. The project includes conducting a transit station feasibility study and visioning plan to support the proposed Coachella Valley – San Geronio Pass Rail Corridor Service Tier II environmental work that would be undertaken by RCTC. On June 13, 2023, SCAG awarded the City of Coachella and RCTC \$2,005,000 for the Coachella Rail Station Feasibility Study and Integrated Land Use and Transit Network REAP Application.

Coachella rail station feasibility planning efforts commenced in September of 2024 with RCTC and the consultant team led by HDR and subconsultant partners consisting of Sargent Town planning, Inc., Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc, AMMA Transit Planning, and Michael Baker International. The scope of the study includes site selection for a passenger rail station, land use and transportation planning for the selected site, and an economic analysis.

**Advisory Committee**

In order to plan this effort to help guide planning and community outreach the advisory committee be established to meet quarterly with the following recommended and invited members:

- Councilmember Appointed
- Reyes Lopez, Inland Congregations United for Change
- Luz Gallegos, TODEC
- Silvia Paz, Alianza

- Representative, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Representative, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)
- Walter Watcher, Sunline Transit Agency
- Mark Lancaster, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
- John Powell, Peter Rabbit Farms
- Anthony Bianco, Anthony Vineyards
- Representative, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC)
- Dulce Lucero, Coachella resident member
- Agustin Arreola, Coachella resident member
- 2 residents of Unincorporated Riverside County
- Representative of Loma Linda University or UCR Health
- City staff

Meetings will be held virtually and the first meeting will be held Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 5 p.m. and quarterly until the rail station study efforts conclude in the Fall of 2025.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1) Appoint a Councilmember to serve on the committee.
- 2) Do not appoint a Councilmember to serve on the committee.
- 4) Continue this item and provide staff with direction.

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE(S):**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve Alternative #1.