



STAFF REPORT
4/22/2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Andrew Simmons, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer

SUBJECT: Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the City of Coachella and Imperial Irrigation District (IID) for the Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts Program

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Coachella and the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) for participation in the Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts Program

BACKGROUND:

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID), in partnership with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and funded through the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program under the Inflation Reduction Act, has developed the Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts Program.

This program will fund the purchase, delivery, and installation of 15-gallon shade trees throughout participating cities within Imperial and Riverside Counties. The program aims to increase urban canopy, reduce urban heat island effects, and improve environmental conditions in disadvantaged communities.

The City of Coachella has been selected to participate and is requesting a total of 64 trees to be planted at designated locations, including Bagdouma Park and an additional planting site.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Through this Memorandum of Understanding, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) will be responsible for the procurement, delivery, and installation of all trees, including staking and initial setup, as well as overall program administration and coordination. The City of Coachella will work collaboratively with IID to identify appropriate planting locations and select suitable tree species based on site conditions and program guidelines.

Upon installation, the City will assume responsibility for the ongoing care, irrigation, and

maintenance of all trees, ensuring their health and survival for a minimum period of three (3) years. The proposed tree distribution includes 64 trees consisting of Tipuana tipu, Blue jacaranda, Lysiloma watsonii, Shoestring acacia, and Indian rosewood, which have been selected for their suitability to the local climate and environmental conditions.

Tree planting activities will occur April 24th as part of the City's Arbor Day event. This program represents an important opportunity for the City to expand its urban canopy, reduce heat impacts, and enhance environmental quality, particularly within disadvantaged areas. The effort also complements the City's ongoing sustainability initiatives and climate resilience goals under the Coachella Prospera framework.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the MOU between the City of Coachella and IID.
2. Do not approve the MOU and forgo participation in the Shade Trees Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct cost to the City's General Fund associated with this MOU. All tree purchase, delivery, and installation costs are fully funded through IID and federal grant sources. Ongoing maintenance and irrigation will be incorporated into the City's existing landscape maintenance agreement, resulting in no additional fiscal burden.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Coachella and Imperial Irrigation District (IID)