



STAFF REPORT
7/22/2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Kendra Reif, Community Development Director

PREPARED BY: Kendra Reif, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Establishment of an Ad Hoc City Council Committee to Update the Community Health and Wellness Element of the City of Coachella General Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Establish an Ad Hoc City Council Committee to assist with the update of the Community Health and Wellness section of the City of Coachella General Plan.
2. Appoint two (2) City Councilmembers to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.
3. Provide direction regarding additional committee membership, including identifying stakeholder groups and community representatives that should participate in the planning process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Community Health and Wellness section of the City's General Plan provides policy direction intended to promote healthy lifestyles, improve access to parks and recreation, encourage active transportation, support environmental health, and improve overall quality of life for Coachella residents. Since the adoption of this section, the City's demographics, development patterns, public health priorities, and community needs have continued to evolve.

Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee will provide focused policy guidance throughout the update process while ensuring meaningful collaboration with community stakeholders and subject matter experts. The committee would serve in an advisory capacity and provide recommendations to the full City Council as the update progresses.

BACKGROUND:

The General Plan serves as the City's long-range policy document guiding future growth, development, and quality of life. The Community Health and Wellness section establishes goals and policies related to:

- Healthy neighborhoods;
- Access to parks, trails, and recreational opportunities;
- Active transportation and mobility;
- Environmental health;
- Food access and nutrition;
- Community partnerships; and
- Overall public health outcomes.

Since adoption of the current policies, the City has experienced continued residential and commercial growth while also responding to changing public health priorities and increasing interest in healthy community design. Updating this section of the General Plan will allow the City to evaluate existing policies, identify new opportunities, and ensure the document reflects current community needs and best practices.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Staff recommends establishing an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of two members of the City Council to work with staff throughout the General Plan update process. The committee would meet periodically to review draft policies, discuss community input, and provide policy direction prior to bringing recommendations before the full City Council.

In addition to Council representation, staff recommends that the City Council provide direction regarding additional stakeholders who should participate throughout the planning process. A multidisciplinary committee will help ensure the updated policies reflect a broad range of community perspectives.

Potential participants may include:

- One member of the Planning Commission;
- A representative from a local healthcare provider or healthcare organization;
- A representative from the local school district;
- A parks and recreation representative;
- A public health professional;
- A representative from Riverside University Health System – Public Health;
- Representatives from local nonprofit organizations focused on health, youth, seniors, or community services;
- Local business representatives;
- Active transportation or bicycle/pedestrian advocates; and
- Other community members identified by the City Council.

The Ad Hoc Committee would serve solely in an advisory capacity. Any recommendations developed by the committee would be presented to the Planning Commission, as appropriate, and ultimately considered by the City Council during the General Plan amendment process.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Ad Hoc Committee would be expected to:

Review existing Community Health and Wellness goals, policies, and implementation measures.
Evaluate current and emerging community health issues.
Provide policy direction to staff during preparation of draft updates.
Encourage community engagement and stakeholder participation.
Review public outreach results and recommend revisions as appropriate.
Forward recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Staff anticipates conducting a robust public outreach process that may include community workshops, stakeholder meetings, online surveys, and opportunities for public comment. The Ad Hoc Committee would assist in identifying outreach opportunities and encouraging participation from diverse segments of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Formation of the Ad Hoc Committee will have minimal fiscal impact. Staff time associated with committee meetings and preparation of the General Plan update can be accommodated within existing departmental resources unless additional consultant services are authorized by the City Council as part of the overall General Plan update process.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The recommended action to establish an Ad Hoc Committee is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 because it is an organizational and administrative activity that will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Any future amendments to the General Plan will undergo the appropriate environmental review in accordance with CEQA.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVES:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Establish an Ad Hoc City Council Committee to assist with the update of the Community Health and Wellness section of the City of Coachella General Plan.
2. Appoint two (2) City Councilmembers to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

3. Provide direction regarding additional committee membership, including identifying stakeholder groups and community representatives that should participate in the planning process.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff's recommendation;
2. Modify the proposed committee composition or scope;
3. Appoint different or additional stakeholders to participate in the update process; or
4. Provide other direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

No attachments.