



STAFF REPORT

September 21, 2026

To:

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM:

Celina Jimenez, Director of Economic Development

PREPARED BY: Rebekah Shepherd, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: City of Coachella Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Study Final Report

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Presentation of the City of Coachella Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Study prepared by Walker Consultants. The study evaluates existing EV charging conditions, future charging demand, community priorities, utility and grid considerations, potential charging locations, planning-level costs, funding opportunities, and implementation considerations for future EV charging infrastructure in Coachella.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file the presentation from Walker Consultants regarding the City of Coachella Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Study and provide comments as appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional fiscal impact associated with receiving this presentation. The EV Charging Infrastructure Study is funded with \$76,350 from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The professional services agreement with Walker Consultants has a not-to-exceed amount of \$76,350.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Coachella retained Walker Consultants to prepare a citywide Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Study using funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The study is intended to provide the City with a data-driven framework for understanding existing EV charging conditions, anticipated future demand, community charging preferences, potential infrastructure locations, utility considerations, costs, funding opportunities, and implementation strategies.

Walker Consultants will present the study findings to the City Council. The presentation is informational and is intended to provide Council with an overview of the study and an opportunity to provide feedback as the study is finalized.

BACKGROUND:

In January of 2025, the City received \$76,350 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program to support the preparation of an EV Charging Infrastructure Study. The EECBG funding source is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In winter 2026, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the preparation of the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Study. The City received five proposals in response to the RFP. Staff reviewed and evaluated each proposal based on the qualifications and approach presented before selecting a consultant to move forward with the project.

Following the evaluation process, on March 15, 2026, the City entered into a professional services agreement with Walker Consultants, Inc. to prepare the study. The agreement includes an evaluation of existing EV charging infrastructure and coverage, community outreach, utility and grid readiness, policy and permitting review, EV adoption and charging-demand forecasting, phased implementation planning, planning-level cost estimates, funding and partnership strategies, equity considerations, and preparation of a final implementation plan. The scope also includes presentation of key findings and recommendations to the City Council and refinement of the plan based on feedback.

As part of the study, Walker Consultants conducted community outreach, including an English- and Spanish-language survey. A total of 183 survey responses were received. The survey identified shopping centers, public parking lots, and parks among the locations respondents most frequently identified as useful for public EV charging.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Walker Consultants has developed a citywide planning framework to help the City anticipate future EV charging needs and identify potential implementation pathways. The study evaluates Coachella's current charging environment and forecasts EV adoption and public charging demand through 2040. It also identifies potential charging locations and phases, considers coordination with Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and evaluates funding and ownership approaches that may support future implementation.

The study identifies potential sites across civic, commercial, residential, workplace, and travel-corridor settings, including both City-owned and privately owned properties. Identification of a privately owned site does not indicate property-owner agreement, participation, or City authority over that property. These locations and associated costs are planning-level recommendations intended to guide future decision-making; they do not constitute approved City projects or commitments to construct or fund charging infrastructure at the identified locations. Actual implementation would depend on future site-specific analysis, utility capacity, property-owner participation, available funding, partnerships, and subsequent City approvals, as applicable.

The presentation also identifies opportunities to pursue state, federal, utility, and other funding sources and to leverage private investment and third-party charging operators where appropriate. Early coordination with IID is identified as an important consideration for evaluating electrical capacity and potential infrastructure needs.

Following the presentation, Walker Consultants will consider City Council feedback as the study is finalized. The completed study will serve as a planning resource that can support future grant applications, coordination with public and private partners, and evaluation of EV charging opportunities as development and transportation needs evolve.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Final Report