



**STAFF REPORT**  
**5/27/2020**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Luis Lopez, Development Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Resolution No. 2020-19 adopting the 2020 Local California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines for the City of Coachella.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution No. 2020-19 adopting local guidelines for implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**BACKGROUND:**

State law requires all cities and counties in California to adopt local guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA Guidelines periodically change when they are amended by the State legislators, and local guidelines need to be updated accordingly. Similarly, the standard forms are updated to reflect the latest procedures and State statute references.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The City Attorney's Office has advised that the latest CEQA Guidelines for the City of Coachella are now up to date and must be adopted by the City Council for use by staff, and local CEQA consultants, on new development projects.

Attached to this staff report is the Resolution No. 2020-19 adopting the City of Coachella's 2020 Local CEQA Guidelines for processing of environmental reviews. City staff keeps these guidelines in digital format and they are available to the public for downloading from the City's website.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The local CEQA Guidelines are used by staff, CEQA consultants, and the development community for preparing environmental review documents for new development projects that involve physical changes to the environment during construction and operation of the new uses. CEQA clearance documents are typically required in order to get State licenses for cannabis-related businesses, and to coordinate reviews with other agencies that may have review authority over projects (i.e., Airport Land Use Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, CA Dept. of Fish and Game). The standard forms and local guidelines help create a streamlined review and approval process, while creating disclosure of environmental impacts to the public. As such, staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution approving the 2020 CEQA Guidelines for the City of Coachella.

Attachments: Resolution No. 2020-19  
2020 Local CEQA Guidelines