

MAY 26 2026

City Clerk
4:20PM

CITY OF COACHELLA
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT
TO CITY COUNCIL VACANCY
(Term begins upon appointment and ends November 2026)

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this application and return to the City Clerk's Office, 53990 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236 or via email to cityclerk@coachella.org. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (760) 398-3502. Please TYPE or PRINT clearly in ink. If you wish to submit additional information, please attach to this application. **All information herein (except applicant's telephone number(s) and birthdate) is a public record.**

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY Tuesday, May 26, 2026, AT 5:00 P.M.

FIRST NAME: Eva LAST NAME: Lara

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR BIRTHDATE (MM/DD/YYYY) [REDACTED]
(VOTER REGISTRATION VERIFICATION ONLY)

HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
Street City Zip Code

HOME PHONE: () _____

CELL PHONE [REDACTED]

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

BUSINESS PHONE: () _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

OCCUPATION City Planner

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____
Street City Zip Code

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A RESIDENT OF COACHELLA? Yes

HOW MANY YEARS? 26

WHY DO YOU WISH TO SERVE THE CITY AS A CITY COUNCILMEMBER?

Please see attachment for answered questions

DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND/OR EDUCATION THAT MAKES YOU A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE CITY OF COACHELLA AND WHAT ARE YOUR SUGGETIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES?




WHAT VISION DO YOU HAVE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA?

WHAT POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE YOU MADE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING AS A TEAM MEMBER OR COLLABORATOR?

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS YOU FEEL WOULD ASSIST THE CITY COUNCIL IN CONSIDERING YOUR APPLICATION

LIST THREE (3) COACHELLA REFERENCES WHO SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION

Name: Quik Lopez Phone/Email 
Name: Daleo Mucely Phone/Email 
Name: SUSANA MEUDER Phone/Email 

WHAT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE YOU SERVED ON?

City Council Meetings are typically held in the evening on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, a flexible work schedule is required to attend day or evening meetings (i.e. subcommittee, outside agency, special meetings, study sessions, and public workshops, etc.) and City-sponsored events (i.e. ribbon cutting or ground breaking events, holiday events, etc.)

Will you be able to attend all the types of meetings and/or events as listed above? Yes No

Are you a registered voter (City of Coachella)? Yes No

Are you willing to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700), as required? Yes No

Are you willing to complete the AB 1234 Ethics Training, as required? Yes No

Are you willing to agree to abide by the Provisions of Code of Fair Campaign Practices? Yes No

Are you willing to agree to abide by the City's Code of Conduct? Yes No

If NO, to any of the above, please explain:

Note: All information contained herein is a public record.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: 1) be 18 years of age or older, 2) be a resident of the incorporated area of the City of Coachella, 3) be a registered voter at the applicant's current place of residence in Coachella, and 4) be able to certify that they meet the eligibility requirements and (5) are willing to serve in the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Eva Lara

By signing, I hereby certify that I meet all 5 eligibility requirements above. Dated: 05/26/2026

PRINTED NAME: Eva Lara

Applicants may be required to attend in-person interviews. Applicants will be notified in the future if an interview is requested. Please note that interviews may be televised.

CITY CLERK ONLY
Voter Registration
Verified
Date: 5/27/26 Initials: OZ

Karen



Application: Eva Lara

Why do you wish to serve the city as a city councilmember?

Serving my community has always been deeply important to me, and my desire to serve as a City Councilmember comes from a genuine commitment to helping improve the quality of our community. Through my experience as Chairwoman of the Planning Commission, I have had the opportunity to work closely with community members, staff, applicants, and local leaders to help guide thoughtful decisions that shape the future of our city. That experience has strengthened my understanding of the importance of balanced leadership, transparency, and public service.

In addition to my service as chairwoman on the Planning Commission, my involvement in ministry through my church, Our Lady of Soledad, has further grounded me in the values of compassion, humility, and service to others. Those experiences have taught me the importance of listening to people, understanding diverse perspectives, and being present for the community during both challenges and successes.

I genuinely love participating in community events that bring residents together and celebrate the spirit of Coachella. One event that has been especially meaningful to me is the Christmas Light Festival, where I have had the opportunity to serve as a judge. Being involved in events like these allows me to connect with residents on a more personal level and has strengthened my appreciation for the pride and unity within our community.

I wish to serve as a City Councilmember because I believe I can continue serving the community in a greater capacity by helping foster responsible growth, supporting local families and businesses, and ensuring that residents feel heard and represented. Public service is not simply a position to me; it is a responsibility. I am passionate about being a thoughtful, approachable, and dedicated public servant who works collaboratively to strengthen our community and help create a positive future for all residents.

Describe your experience and/or education that makes you a qualified candidate for the City Council.

My educational background and professional experience have provided me with a strong foundation in public service, local government operations, and community engagement. I graduated from University of California San Diego with a double major in Political Science and Spanish Literature, which strengthened both my understanding of governmental processes and my ability to communicate effectively with our community.

Professionally, I have worked as a City Planner within multiple municipalities, including close to three years with the City of Coachella. Through these experiences, I gained valuable insight into municipal operations, land use planning, public policy, community development, and the importance of responsive local government. Working within public agencies has allowed me to better understand the responsibility that comes with serving residents and balancing the needs of a growing community. It has also provided me with a strong understanding of the processes, procedures, and protocols needed to review and evaluate development proposals. Ensuring

compliance with applicable regulations, supporting transparency, efficiency, and well-informed decision-making that serves the best interests of our community.

In addition, I worked at Feiro Engineering for over 6 years, a private engineering firm that works closely with local governments throughout the Coachella Valley. This experience has allowed me to collaborate on projects involving infrastructure, development, planning, and coordination with public agencies. It has also given me a practical understanding of how cities function operationally and the importance of long-term planning, responsible growth, and collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Additionally, my service as Chairwoman of the Planning Commission has further strengthened my leadership experience and commitment to public service. In this role, I have worked to ensure meetings are conducted professionally, fairly, and transparently while carefully considering projects and policies that impact the community. This position has helped me develop strong decision-making skills, the ability to evaluate complex issues, and a collaborative approach to leadership.

Together, my educational background, community development experience, and public service involvement have prepared me to serve thoughtfully and effectively as a City Councilmember. I will continue to advocate for the best interests of the community through my current official role.

In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing the City of Coachella and what are your suggestion on how to address those issues?

Some of the most important issues facing the City of Coachella are strengthening community trust, improving street infrastructure, and maintaining long-term fiscal responsibility and budget stability.

First, building and maintaining trust between the City and residents is essential. One way to address this is by improving communication and community engagement. City officials should remain accessible, transparent, and open to listening to the concerns, ideas, and priorities of constituents. Increasing outreach efforts, improving access to information through the City's website and public meetings. Creating more opportunities for direct resident engagement can help strengthen public confidence and encourage greater community participation.

Secondly, the improvement and maintenance of city streets should continue to be a major priority. Investing in roadway repairs, traffic safety improvements, sidewalks, lighting, and long-term infrastructure planning can improve quality of life for residents, support economic development, and enhance public safety throughout the city.

Third, maintaining a responsible and sustainable city budget is critical for the future of Coachella. I believe the City should continue focusing on fiscal accountability by carefully prioritizing spending, pursuing grant funding opportunities, and encouraging responsible economic development. Economic development is needed to expand growth revenue sources, while ensuring taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and transparently. Long-term financial planning and

responsible budgeting will help the City continue providing essential services when preparing for future growth and community needs.

What vision do you have for the future of the City of Coachella?

My vision for the future of the City of Coachella is centered on improving community engagement, expanding diverse housing opportunities, and enhancing the beautification of our city.

Primarily, the City should strengthen communication and engagement with residents by creating more direct and accessible ways for the community to stay informed and involved. This includes improving the City's website, increasing accessibility to information and services, and encouraging more direct engagement between residents, staff, commissions, and elected officials. Residents should feel connected to their local government and have clear opportunities to participate in decisions that impact their neighborhoods and quality of life.

Secondly, Coachella should continue expanding housing opportunities beyond traditional single-family homes by encouraging a wider variety of housing options, including townhomes, workforce housing, and other affordable housing opportunities. Providing diverse housing choices can help support young adults, working families, first-time homebuyers, and residents who may be looking for more attainable housing options within the city.

Lastly, I would encourage continued beautification efforts throughout Coachella, especially along the city's main corridors and highly visible areas. Investing in landscaping, streetscape improvements, cleanliness, lighting, and overall appearance can help create a stronger sense of pride in the community and improve quality of life for residents. These improvements make Coachella more welcoming for visitors, businesses, and future investment.

What positive contributions have you made to the local community?

Throughout my professional and public service experience, I have worked to make meaningful contributions that support the long-term well-being of the community while remaining thoughtful, collaborative, and service oriented.

As Chairwoman of the Planning Commission, I supported projects that address important community needs, particularly in housing. One of the projects I was proud to help approve was the city's first senior apartment community, which created much-needed housing support for our senior residents, an important milestone for the community. I supported the approval of 20 affordable housing units within the Mariposa Pointe project to expand housing opportunities for working families and residents. In addition, I supported a housing development located at Calhoun Street and 49th Avenue that included roadway and infrastructure improvements to help accommodate future growth in the area. As part of that project's approval, I advocated for the inclusion of a three-year restriction on short-term rentals in an effort to help preserve long-term housing availability for residents and support neighborhood stability.

During my time working for the City of Coachella, I worked on initiatives aimed at improving both housing accessibility and customer service for residents. I developed the City's Accessory

Dwelling Unit (ADU) program materials, including website content, applications, and project checklists to help make the process more accessible and user-friendly for residents. I also contributed to the ADU design models and served in the public workshops as a presenter, intended to educate and assist residents interested in creating additional housing opportunities for extended family members while helping address the regional housing shortage.

Additionally, I created an internal organizational system to help improve permit processing times and enhance overall customer service efficiency for residents and applicants. Throughout my service, I was complimented by residents for my professionalism, responsiveness, friendliness, and commitment to providing helpful and timely assistance to community members.

Above all, I believe that positive contributions to a community come from listening, working collaboratively, and consistently striving to make local government more effective and accessible for the people.

What is your experience working as a team member or collaborator?

I have extensive experience working collaboratively as part of a team in both public service, professional, and community settings.

As a Planning Commissioner, I have worked closely with fellow commissioners, city staff, and legal counsel, to support thoughtful decision-making and effective governance. In particular in advocating for affordable housing and community engagement.

In my role on the Planning Commission, I have consistently promoted efficiency, accountability, accessibility to residents, and improved overall performance during meetings and public discussions. I have worked to help streamline Planning Commission meetings, improve communication among commissioners, and ensure agenda items are clearly understood so informed decisions can be made effectively and collaboratively. I have also worked alongside legal counsel to help better define commission roles, expectations, standards of conduct, and professionalism to strengthen the effectiveness and integrity of the commission. Additionally, I have focused on improving working relationships between commissioners, stakeholders, staff, and the community to encourage respectful dialogue, collaboration, and consensus-building when addressing important issues facing the city.

In my professional career, I regularly collaborate with residents and various city departments — including Building, Fire, Code Enforcement, and Legal — to help resolve permit and compliance issues. This experience has strengthened my ability to listen carefully, communicate effectively, and bring different departments together to find practical solutions that serve residents while meeting city standards and regulations.

Additionally, I have volunteered in my church ministry in a variety of roles to help services and Mass run smoothly and efficiently. Through these experiences, I have learned the importance of teamwork, organization, reliability, and serving with respect and compassion.

Overall, I believe successful collaboration is built on professionalism, communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to serving the community.

Please provide any additional information or comments you feel would assist the City Council considering your application.

I would like to thank the Honorable City Council Members for their time, consideration, and for maintaining a transparent process that allows community members to serve and contribute to their city. I believe my experience and contributions to the community have prepared me to help guide Coachella's continued growth with residents at the center of every decision. Through my service as a member of the Planning Commission, my professional work as a City Planner, collaborating with residents and multiple departments, and my involvement in church ministry; I have developed a strong foundation in leadership, communication, and collaboration. I have improved efficiency, professionalism, transparency, and consensus-building within the Planning Commission, planning departments, and the local governments I have worked for. I am passionate about supporting responsible growth, expanding diverse and housing opportunities, improving city beautification and road infrastructure, and ensuring effective communication between the City and out residents. I would be honored to continue serving the community with dedication, accountability, and a commitment to Coachella's long-term success.

What community organizations have you served on?

I am currently serving as the Chairwoman of the Planning Commission for the City of Coachella, where I work collaboratively with commissioners, city staff, legal counsel, and community stakeholders to help guide responsible development, community engagement, and planning efforts that benefit residents and the future of the city.

In addition, I serve as a minister at Our Lady of Soledad Church, where I volunteer in various ministry roles to support church services, and parish activities. Through this service, I have had the opportunity to work closely with community members, support local families, and contribute to programs that promote faith, service, and community involvement.

Beyond my formal roles, I enjoy actively participating in community events. Participating in these events has allowed me to connect with residents, celebrate our community's culture and traditions, and further strengthen my commitment to civic engagement and public service.