



STAFF REPORT
9/8/2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Cástulo R. Estrada, Utilities Manager

SUBJECT: Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Coachella and the County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health for the Local Agency Management Program

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for the Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) between the City of Coachella (City) and the County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health (County).

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Per Section 13.01.014 (A) of the Municipal Code; The owner of any building occupied by humans situated within the city and abutting on any street or easement in which there is now located or may in the future be located a public sewer of the city which will serve the building is hereby required, at their expense, to connect the building directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, within ninety (90) days after the date of official notice to do so, provided the public sewer is within two hundred (200) feet of the nearest point of the building and that the property's onsite septic system has failed. For purposes of this section, the portion of sewer main installed within the public right of way or public utility easement, including the wye and lateral up to the approved exterior cleanout shall be considered a portion of the public maintained sewer system and the portion of lateral between the cleanout and the structure shall be privately owned and maintained.

When connection to sewer is not an option, a properly functioning Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) is required to protect people and the environment. The County is the local entity providing oversight when an OWTS is required to be installed, repaired or modified within unincorporated areas of Riverside County or its contracted cities.

On November 2017, the County notified the City that due to lack of an agreement for service, it would be ending the approval of OWTSs located within the City boundary. To correct this oversight, the City agrees to enter into the MOU, which allows the County, when sewer availability is not available or currently feasible, to provide environmental planning review,

technical assistance, and plan review for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) in accordance with the Riverside County Local Agency Management Program (LAMP).

The project proponent and/or homeowner shall be responsible for the payment of any applicable fees, as established in County Ordinance 640 and codified in Riverside County Code, Ch. 4.52, to cover the cost of services provided.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.