



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA ☐ HACN

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: July 14, 2026

Title: Authorize or deny the City Manager, or designee, to submit an application for the City of Needles Safe Truck Parking Area Project through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program, and to execute all documents necessary for the application process and, if awarded, the acceptance and administration of grant funds, subject to City Attorney approval as to form

Background: In 2022, following the dissolution of California redevelopment agencies, the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Needles completed the sale of its final remaining property, located east of the Needles Town Center, to EVC Partners LLC

EVC Partners LLC has approached the City regarding a potential partnership to pursue funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program, Track 2 – Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Parking Eligible Projects. Because the INFRA Program requires a public agency applicant, the City of Needles must submit the grant application.

The proposal responds to longstanding concerns regarding illegal commercial truck parking in the Ice Plant Road area. The City has received numerous complaints from residents and businesses regarding trucks parking along public streets, resulting in traffic safety concerns, illegal dumping, litter, and unsanitary conditions. During 2026, the City has issued 204 citations for illegal truck parking violations and continues to devote significant Code Enforcement resources to addressing these ongoing issues.

The proposed project includes the acquisition of the project site, planning and design, and construction of a safe truck parking facility consisting of more than 100 commercial truck parking spaces, restroom facilities, site lighting, trash receptacles, a lighted pedestrian pathway connecting the facility to the Needles Town Center, perimeter fencing, security cameras, and paving of Ice Plant Road to provide access to the project site.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8 has provided a letter of support for the City's INFRA grant application, recognizing the regional shortage of commercial truck parking along the Interstate 40 corridor and the project's potential to improve freight mobility, public safety, and community conditions.

EVC Partners LLC has retained Momentum to prepare and submit the grant application on the City's behalf and has committed to providing the required 20 percent local match if the project is awarded. The required 20 percent local match would be satisfied through donation of the project site to the City at its appraised fair market value. If the appraised value is insufficient to satisfy the required local match, EVC Partners LLC has committed to providing any additional funds necessary. The application deadline is July 15, 2026. The estimated grant award is between \$5 million and \$7 million. Award notice is expected by September 30, 2027.

As a condition of the grant application, EVC Partners LLC has proposed that, should the project be selected for funding, ownership of the property would be transferred to the City of Needles. If the project is awarded and the City accepts ownership of the property, the City would assume responsibility for grant administration, long-term operation and maintenance of the facility, compliance with all applicable U.S. Department of Transportation grant requirements, and maintenance of the project for the duration of the required grant term.

Fiscal Impact: Annual operating costs of the city owning and operating a safe truck parking facility are estimated at \$79,200, which includes monthly utility costs of \$4,600 and \$2,000 janitorial supplies. Due to the size of the project, an additional Public Works Maintenance Worker I, would be needed to provide four to eight hours per day of maintenance at the site at \$96,910 annually. The total estimated annual maintenance and operation cost is \$176,110 including the cost for an additional staff member.

Environmental Impact: The proposed project is expected to reduce illegal truck parking, illegal dumping, litter, and other unsanitary conditions along Ice Plant Road while improving traffic safety and reducing impacts on nearby businesses and neighborhoods.

Recommendation: Authorize or deny the City Manager, or designee, to submit an application for the City of Needles Safe Truck Parking Area Project through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2026 Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program, and to execute all documents necessary for the application process and, if awarded, the acceptance and administration of grant funds, subject to City Attorney approval as to form

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 7/8/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): Mark C. DeMay, CGFM Date: 07/08/26