

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025
To: City Council
From: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager



Agenda Item: Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Whittier and the Alaska Railroad Corporation Regarding Land Purchase/Sale, Exchange, or Combination Thereof at Fair Market Value and Management Within the City of Whittier

BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

The City of Whittier and the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) entered into a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* on December 13, 2024, effective November 20, 2024, to establish a framework for ongoing discussions related to land purchase, sale, exchange, or a combination thereof at fair market value within the City. The MOU formalized the parties' intent to collaborate on strategic land management and development opportunities to support coordinated growth and long-term community planning.

Since execution, both entities have continued negotiations to identify parcels and opportunities consistent with the City's development priorities and ARRC's operational needs. The MOU was originally set to expire twelve months after execution unless extended by mutual written agreement.

The proposed *First Amendment* extends the term of the MOU through **December 31, 2026**, allowing the City and ARRC to continue the cooperative process without interruption. This extension will ensure continued progress on property discussions that directly impact Whittier's future land use planning, infrastructure development, and economic growth.

Staff has reviewed the Amendment and determined that extending the MOU is consistent with the City's strategic objectives, legislative priorities, and land management goals. The action promotes transparency, maintains an established partnership with ARRC, and ensures the City retains a proactive role in shaping development outcomes.

This action is fiscally responsible, as it does not require a financial appropriation. It provides the necessary framework for continued collaboration, which may support future property transactions or economic development opportunities that yield long-term fiscal benefits to the City.

PROVIDED BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

- First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding
- Original Memorandum of Understanding (executed December 13, 2024)
- Supporting correspondence between City Administration and ARRC Real Estate Division

- Map of current AOI/COW parcels under discussion

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of Resolution 2025-042.