

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Patrick Thomas, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

DATE: February 13, 2024

SUBJECT: Approve Landscape Maintenance Agreement with State of California Department of Transportation for Maintenance of the I-15/SR-79 South Interchange Enhanced Landscaping, PW17-19

PREPARED BY: Avlin R. Odviar, Principal Civil Engineer
Shawna Bennetts, Associate Civil Engineer

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council adopt a resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TEMECULA APPROVING A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF
TEMECULA FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE I-15/SR-79
SOUTH INTERCHANGE ENHANCED LANDSCAPING

BACKGROUND: During construction of the Interstate 15/State Route 79 South Ultimate Interchange project, the City proposed to forego installation of planned landscaping and irrigation within the interchange areas west of Interstate 15. We proposed beautifying this key gateway into the City by designing and installing enhanced landscaping and hardscape elements. The I-15/SR 79 South Interchange Enhanced Landscaping project will provide these elements. The project generally consists of planting, irrigation, and hardscape in patterns which evoke regional symbols, such as native basketry and/or pottery.

The design uses species, colors, and patterns that embrace our regional history, foster connections to the land, and embody the culture of native inhabitants. It is based on the I-15 Branding & Visioning Plan to beautify the I-15 corridor and Temecula interchanges with themes and monumentation consistent with our community's identity. The design represents a collaboration among stakeholders including the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, Caltrans, and the City.

Caltrans has agreed that the City can proceed with the Enhanced Landscaping project, subject to the terms of the Landscape Maintenance Agreement. Caltrans requires that the City enter into the

Agreement to set forth the City's obligations with respect to the Enhanced Landscaping project. Pursuant to the Agreement, the City shall be responsible for maintaining the enhanced landscaping in the subject areas in perpetuity. The terms of the Agreement are in accordance with Caltrans policies on freeway landscaping and have been reviewed by City staff and the City Attorney's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT: The I-15/SR 79 South Interchange Enhanced Landscaping project is included in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget for Fiscal Years 2024-28. There is no cost associated with signing the agreement. The cost of maintaining the enhanced landscaping, irrigation, and hardscaped will be programmed into future year Public Works Maintenance budgets.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Resolution
 2. Agreement
 3. Project Description
 4. Project Location Map