

**CITY OF TEMECULA  
AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** City Manager/City Council

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

**DATE:** January 9, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Approve Plans and Specifications and Authorize Solicitation of Construction Bids for the I-15/SR-79S Interchange Enhanced Landscaping Project, PW17-19

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council approve the plans and specifications and authorize the Department of Public Works to solicit construction bids for the I-15/SR-79S Interchange Enhanced Landscaping Project, PW17-19.

**BACKGROUND:** Construction of the Interstate 15/State Route 79 South Ultimate Interchange project included reconfiguring the southbound ramps on the west side of the interchange. During construction, the City in conjunction with the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians and Visit Temecula Valley developed an alternative landscaping concept to enhance and beautify the areas between the new ramps, I-15, and Temecula Parkway. With Caltrans approval, the City pursued design and development of the enhanced landscaping in lieu of the originally planned replacement planting.

The I-15/State Route 79 South Interchange Enhanced Landscaping project includes planting, irrigation, and hardscape elements using species, colors, and patterns that embrace our regional history, foster connections to the land, and embody the culture of native inhabitants. The design is based on the I-15 Branding & Visioning Plan to beautify the I-15 corridor and Temecula interchanges with themes and monumentation consistent our community's identity.

The plans and specifications are complete. The contract documents are available for review in the Director of Public Works' office. Final approvals are expected soon from Caltrans, under the Streamlined Oversight Project (SOP) process. Upon receipt, the Project will be advertised for construction bids.

The Engineer's estimate of construction cost is \$1,928,000 and estimate of construction duration is 100 working days (approximately 5 months).

This project has an Initial Study (Negative Declaration) and Categorical Exclusion (23 USC 326) approved June 2009, Revalidated May 2015, approved by the State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) October 2020 and June 2023.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The I-15/State Route 79 South Interchange Enhanced Landscaping Project is identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2028, and is funded with an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with The Pechanga Tribe and Measure S funds. Adequate funds are available in the project accounts.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Project Description
2. Enhanced Landscaping Exhibit