



# City of La Quinta

**CITY / SA / HA / FA MEETING DATE:** February 3, 2015

**ITEM TITLE:** AUTHORIZE OVERNIGHT TRAVEL FOR FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL PLANNING COMMISSIONERS ACADEMY IN NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA – MARCH 4-6, 2015

**AGENDA CATEGORY:**

**BUSINESS SESSION:**

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** 7

**STUDY SESSION:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize overnight travel for four members of the Planning Commission and the Community Development Director to attend the League of California Cities Annual Planning Commissioners Academy held in Newport Beach, California, March 4-6, 2015.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- The League of California Cities facilitates an Annual Planning Commissioners Academy (Academy). The Academy is tailored to assist planning commissioners, planning directors, planning staff, and other interested officials, by offering sessions on major planning and land-use issues facing cities.
- The Academy offers a fundamental/basic track for new commissioners, as well as topics for seasoned professionals and networking opportunities are provided to attendees to share experiences and knowledge.
- Typically, the Academy rotates between northern and southern California cities and will be held in Newport Beach this year, which will reduce the expense to attend this event.
- Commissioners Wright, Blum, Bettencourt and Wilkinson are planning to attend this years Academy.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Estimated expenses are \$4,625, which includes registration, lodging and parking. Funds are available in the Planning Division's Travel, Training and Meetings Account.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The Academy is a three-day event focusing on major planning and land-use issues affecting local governments. Education sessions and forums will include topics such as:

- Essential planning tools
- Best planning practices
- Streamlining government policies and operations
- Basic topics that a planning commissioner needs to know when reviewing planning documents and land use cases
- Making findings to support decisions
- Conditions of approval
- Effective use of design guidelines and design standards
- Panel discussions on marijuana dispensaries, sober living facilities and massage establishments

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

The Council may elect to not authorize this travel and continuing education opportunity. However, as Council has determined that continuing education is important for commission and board members, staff is not recommending an alternative.

Report prepared by: Les Johnson, Community Development Director  
Report approved for submission by: Frank J. Spevacek, City Manager