



# City of La Quinta

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Susan Maysels, City Clerk

DATE: February 3, 2015

SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL CODE REVIEW PROJECT – OUTLINE AND UPDATE

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The Municipal Code review project has been underway for many months. A comprehensive review of the entire code entails examining each chapter for accuracy, relevance, streamlining, straight-forward language, and compliance with State law.

State law is cited throughout the Code so every citing is checked to ensure accuracy. In addition, the subject matter of every chapter is run through the State Code search engine to determine if new State law has been enacted since the chapter was adopted.

The chapter is usually sent to multiple reviewers for input. For example, the chapter regarding skateboards, bicycles and roller skates goes to the Community Services Director, the Public Works Director, and the Assistant Police Chief to review and offer suggestions. In many cases, the codes of other cities are examined so that good ideas enacted by others can be considered.

Ease of use for all users is part of the review of every chapter. The result can be translating legalese to plain language, deleting all or most of a chapter and addressing the matter by resolution, or condensing material. The entire Code is searched to determine if the chapter under review relates to other sections, so that (a) no unintended consequences result from changes, and (b) similar sections can be consolidated.

As each Title, which contains four to twenty-five chapters, is completed, recommended changes go to the City Attorney for review and input, and finally the City Manager before being brought before Council for consideration.

The goal is to submit entire Titles to the Council rather than bringing single chapters as each are completed. In this way, the Council considers all chapters of REVENUE AND FINANCE, for example, at one meeting, which provides greater insight to the purpose, breadth and interrelationship of the chapters. Accomplishing this goal means holding many completed chapters back until the more difficult and complex chapters in the same Title are thoroughly examined, reviewed and edited.

At this time, the majority of Titles 1, 2, and 3 are complete and will be brought before Council this fiscal year. Staff expects to complete the entire project within eighteen months.