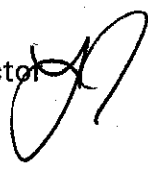




City of La Quinta

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Planning Commission and Architecture & Landscaping Review Committee

FROM: Les Johnson, Planning Director 

DATE: March 10, 2009

RE: Joint Meeting Discussion Topics

The purpose of this item is to provide the Planning Commission and the Architecture & Landscaping Review Committee members with the opportunity to discuss topics that have a bearing on each body's role in the City's development review process. Both the Commission and Committee members were asked to suggest topics and based on the responses received along with consideration of the amount of time allocated for the meeting; the following two topics are presented as the focus topics for this meeting.

- *Water Conservation Policies* – Water conservation is an important topic that impacts not only the City of La Quinta but the region as a whole. Currently, La Quinta's Water Efficiency Ordinance is modeled after the Coachella Valley Water District's standards for water conservation. It is suggested the point of discussion for this topic focus on the City's implementation of its ordinance through the City's development review process. This includes direction given to applicants from staff, the Architecture & Landscaping Review Committee and the Planning Commission regarding how water should be used for landscaping, recreational and decorative purposes as well as any further potential refinements to the City ordinance.
- *Green Building and Sustainability Techniques* – Green building and sustainability goes beyond the single topic of water conservation and includes energy use and conservation based design elements, transportation impacts and healthy living features. A discussion of these issues will, as will the discussion regarding water conservation, benefit a better coordinated development review process and ultimately better designed projects in the City of La Quinta.

Please keep in mind this meeting must adjourn by 6:45pm in order to allow sufficient time for the Planning Commission to commence its meeting scheduled for 6:00pm in the Council Chambers.

Please also note that sandwiches and beverages will be available in the Study Session Room beginning at 5:30pm for meeting participants.