



## SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY 2015-2016 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Jurisdiction: City of Cathedral City  
Program: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)  
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### Summary of Changes:

The City of Cathedral City is proposing a Substantial Amendment to its Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan to reallocate project funds from one public improvement project to funding two projects; the first is for the engineering design for street and sidewalk improvements and the second is for the installation of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant curb/corner ramps. The City has determined that the previously approved project area no longer qualifies for CDBG funding under the new U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) criteria for low and moderate income block groups; and therefore, funding must be reprogrammed to another public improvement project. The changes in scope will not have an environmental or financial impact on the community.

The Substantial Amendment will allow for adjustments to the Annual Action Plan so that these projects are properly accounted for within the fiscal year in which the federal funds were made available and reprogram dollars to new activities that were not previously mentioned in the Action Plan.

The proposed Substantial Amendment will:

- Remove the San Joaquin Drive Street Improvements Project from the FY 2015-16 CDBG Annual Action Plan.
- Reprogram CDBG funds from the San Joaquin Drive Street Improvements Project to an engineering design for the installation of sidewalks on the north side of Ortega Road from Via De Anza to Date Palm Drive.
- Reprogram CDBG funds from the San Joaquin Drive Street Improvements Project to install and/or bring into compliance ADA approved ramps along portions of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, McCallum Way and Vista Chino.

The approval of the proposed Substantial Amendment to the FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan will allow the City to install sidewalks located in income-eligible neighborhoods and installation of ADA ramps within the City.

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## **Proposed Activities:**

### Ortega Road Sidewalk Design

Ortega Road is a residential street located within the Square Mile area in Census Tract 449.15. Ortega Road is situated between Dinah Shore to the north and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the south. The proposed engineering design work will provide the City with plans for constructing street, sidewalk, curb and gutter on the north side of Ortega Road between Via De Anza and Date Palm Drive.

For the FY 2015 – 2016 Annual Action, the City allocated \$264,450 of the CDBG Public Improvement budget to rehabilitate the street and sidewalks on Ortega Road to provide a safe and efficient route on foot or by bike for children walking to and from school. CDBG funding will be used in combination with a *Safe Routes to School* State Grant for the installation of new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, flashing crosswalks and rehabilitation of Ortega Road.

The engineering design for the proposed section of Ortega Road was not part of the Safe Routes to School project due to limited funds. This segment on Ortega Road is unpaved and has no sidewalk, curb or gutter. CDBG funding will be used for the engineering design to install sidewalk that provides the proper elevation and drainage for this segment of Ortega Road. The installation of sidewalk would also provide residents and children with an additional safe path of travel for children walking to and from school and to the new neighborhood park.

### ADA Ramp Improvements

In August 2015, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) contracted the National ADA Accrediting & Consulting, Inc. (ADDAC) to notify all cities and counties to assess the requirements set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 to determine if Cathedral City is in compliance.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requires agencies that provide Federal financial assistance also have section 504 regulations covering entities that receive Federal aid. Requirements common to these regulations include reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities; program accessibility; effective communication with people who have hearing or vision disabilities; and accessible new construction and alterations.

Since Cathedral City applies for and is, on occasion, awarded federal funding administered by Caltrans, the City was required to evaluate their public facilities to determine ADA compliance. This evaluation of public facilities outlined what alterations are needed in order to be in compliance with the aforementioned ADA regulations. For this reason, Cathedral City contracted Disabilities Access Consultants (DAC) to evaluate and assess public facilities throughout the City. As a result, a comprehensive report was prepared by DAC, on behalf of the City, specifying the areas that were evaluated and if these public facilities are in need of alteration for compliance.

Under the CDBG Program, ADA improvements meet the national objective criteria and are classified as an “urgent need” for people with disabilities. The City is proposing to reallocate CDBG funding from the San Joaquin Street Improvements Project to fund the construction of



ADA ramps along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, McCallum Way and Vista Chino. These ADA improvements will install and/or bring into compliance existing ADA ramps on portions of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, McCallum Way and Vista Chino.

**Overall Budget:**

For Fiscal Year 2015-16, the City was awarded \$526,093 from HUD to fund affordable housing and community development needs. Under HUD guidelines, entitlement grantees must allocate no more than fifteen percent (15%) of the entitlement on public service projects and not more than twenty percent (20%) on administration and management of the CDBG Program. The remaining sixty five percent (65%), or \$341,962, was allocated for Public Improvement Projects that have a direct benefit to low- and- moderate clientele in the aforementioned Census Tracks.

The City is reallocating \$117,512 from the approved Public Improvement Projects, previously allocated to the San Joaquin Street Improvements Project, to fund an engineering design that will allow the City to construct street, sidewalk, curb and gutter on the north side of Ortega Road and the installation of ADA compliant ramps along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, McCallum Way and Vista Chino.

The table below outlines prior year funding to be reprogrammed:

Program Year	Project (from)	Project Funding	Project (to)	Project Funding
FY 15/16	San Joaquin Drive Street Improvements	\$117, 512	Ortega Road Sidewalk Design	\$12, 000
FY 15/16	San Joaquin Drive Street Improvements	\$117, 512	ADA Ramp Improvements	\$105, 512
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$117,512</b>

**Prepared by:**

  
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**Approved by:**

  
John A. Corella, P.E., City Engineer