# City of Hesperia STAFF REPORT



**DATE:** January 7, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Nils Bentsen, City Manager

BY: Melinda Sayre, City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Ballot Measure- Land Use

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council provide direction to staff regarding placing a ballot measure on an upcoming election regarding land use requirements in the City including minimum parcel sizes and maximum building densities.

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the November 5, 2019 City Council Meeting, Mayor Bird directed staff to return with a staff report regarding the possibility of adding a measure concerning land use to an upcoming election. The next regularly scheduled election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

#### **ISSUES/ANALYSIS**

A governing body may submit a measure to be placed on the ballot to enact an ordinance directly to the voters by a majority vote of the City Council. If a public agency places a land use focused measure on the ballot it must conduct environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act. The measure may then be voted on at any succeeding regular or special election. The next regularly scheduled election is November 3, 2020. If the required majority of voters approve it at the election, the ordinance becomes effective.

## Placing a Measure on the Ballot

Should the City Council decide to move forward with a ballot measure, the following issues must be considered:

- A CEQA analysis must be conducted;
- Election date (if November 2020, The City Council must vote to place on ballot at future meeting by **August 7, 2020**) and;
- Whether to allow supporting and opposing arguments to be printed in the ballot materials, and method for selection.

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The flow chart below depicts the general process of adding a City sponsored land use measure to the November 3, 2020 ballot. Should direction be given to staff to move forward with placing a land use measure on the November 2020 ballot, the following must occur:

## Placing a Measure on the November 3, 2020 Ballot required when a public agency proposes measure that **Conduct CEQA Analysis** may have a significant impact on the environment Resolutions include calling of election with measure **Adoption of Election Resolutions** language, consolidation with the ROV, direct impartial by Friday, analysis by the City Attorney and outlines for how August 7, 2020 arguments will be prepared • Measure language, impartial analysis and arguments **Prepare Ballot** printed with 10 day viewing period by the public **Election Day** If measure is passed by a majority of voters, measure becomes municipal law Tuesday, November 3, 2020

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of placing a measure on the ballot is undetermined at this time. However, the cost will be significantly less if placed on the ballot on a regularly scheduled election such as November 2020, versus a special election at another time. Should the City Council direct staff to draft a measure to add to the ballot, a formal estimate of associated costs will be requested for the San Bernardino County Registrars Office to prepare.

## **ALTERNATIVE(S)**

Provide alternative direction to staff.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

1. None