

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-002 PC

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COVINA FINDING THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2026-2030 CITY OF COVINA FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IS CONSISTENT WITH THE GOALS AND POLICIES OF THE COVINA GENERAL PLAN AND MAKING A FINDING OF EXEMPTION UNDER CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, the City of Covina Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a five-year program adjusted annually that outlines public improvements and estimated expenditures to construct improvements; and

WHEREAS, the current CIP for Fiscal Years 2026-230 is scheduled to be considered by the City Council on May 6, 2025 as a component of the City of Covina Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, the proposed CIP for Fiscal Years 2026-2030 has been considered by the Covina Planning Commission and is recommended for City Council review and consideration (Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Sections 65103, 65401 and 65402 require that City's Planning Commission to make a determination that the City's annual CIP is in conformance with the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public meeting on April 22, 2025, on the proposed CIP for consistency with the Covina General Plan, at which time all persons interested in the proposed CIP had the opportunity and did address the Planning Commission on this matter.

NOW THEREFORE, THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COVINA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Planning Commission has duly considered the full record before it, including the City staff report, testimony by staff and the public, and other materials and evidence submitted or provided to the Commission. Furthermore, the recitals set forth above are found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. The Community Development Department completed an environmental assessment for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CIP was reviewed for conformance with the CEQA and the California Public Resource Code, Division 13. The Capital Improvement Program and finding of General Plan Conformity is not a “project” as defined by Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines and is therefore exempt from the requirements of CEQA. Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines states that a project does not include the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The Planning Commission’s review and determination that the Capital Improvement Program is consistent with the City of Covina General Plan, does not result in the construction nor cause the construction of any specific CIP project, and will have no effect on the environment, and therefore, no environmental impact assessment is necessary. Moreover, if the Planning Commission’s determination that the CIP is consistent with the General Plan is determined to be a project under CEQA, then it is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines which provides that a project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions, which actions the City has not approved, adopted, or funded, does not require preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration, but does require consideration of environmental factors. In reviewing this CIP and conducting public hearings on it, the Planning Commission has considered relevant environmental factors. The City, as the lead agency for environmental review pursuant CEQA, has reviewed the scope and nature of this CIP and has concluded that the planning and prioritization process comprising this activity is not a project pursuant to CEQA because it does not order or authorize the commencement of any physical or other activity that would directly or indirectly have a significant effect upon the environment. The CIP merely establishes a listing of priority and allocates funds for the City to commence the necessary planning studies, including review pursuant to CEQA, at a future unspecified date. The future planning studies will be conducted at the earliest possible time to ensure thorough review pursuant to CEQA. Recognizing that the protection of the environment is a key factor in the quality of life within the City and to further the City’s strict adherence to both the spirit and letter of the law as regards to CEQA, the Planning Commission has also considered this CIP as if it were a Project pursuant to CEQA. The Planning Commission concludes the Project is exempt from review under CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that this prioritizing and fund allocation program cannot and does not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment. No physical activity will occur until all required CEQA review is conducted at the time the physical improvements prioritized in the CIP are undertaken. Therefore, the Planning Commission recommends that the City Council of the City of Covina determine, based on its own independent judgment, that the proposed amended CIP for Fiscal Year 2026-2030 is exempt from CEQA.

SECTION 3. The Planning Commission finds and determines that the proposed amended CIP is consistent with the following goals and policies of the Covina General Plan pursuant to Government Code Sections 65103, 65401, and 65402:

I. Land Use Element

A. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.2(b)(c)(e)(f)(g). Ensure that major land use change proposals, particularly those regarding vacant schools, utility sites, and other institutional surplus properties, carefully consider many factors, including, but not limited to:

- Street capacity, public facilities, and other infrastructure impacts.
- Effects on the local circulation, public transportation, and regional circulation/transportation networks.
- The provision of services and utilities.
- All relevant environmental and physical constraints and resources.
- Covina's image and character.

B. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.4. Accommodate growth that adequately serves existing and future residents, workers, shoppers, and others while protecting their health, safety, and welfare.

C. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.5. Accommodate growth that is consistent with current general land use patterns, that maintains existing relative land use quantities, and that respects physical and environmental resources and constraints.

D. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.9. Provide for the continuation of existing and development of new or expanded public streets and facilities, storm drains and other infrastructure, parking amenities, and utilities to support the City's land uses and meet all needs.

E. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.15. Monitor land use, traffic, and circulation pressures associated with the Metrolink Commuter Train Station near the downtown and best capitalize on potentially beneficial impacts by adopting strategies such as an "urban village" or livable cities concept, incorporating mixed uses, sufficient businesses, and attractive and functional public and private improvements.

F. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.17. Maintain consistency between the Land Use Element and implementation mechanisms including, but not limited to, the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, the Design Guidelines, and the Capital Improvement Program.

G. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.22. Capture all potential benefits resulting from the Metrolink Commuter Train Station, downtown revitalization, Azusa Avenue beautification, and other major programs/efforts.

H. General Land Use Policy C.1.a.27. Address its park/open space deficiency and attempt to mitigate the problem to the greatest extent possible.

I. General Land Use Policy C.2.a.6. Ensure that the overall amount, locations, and timing of development reflect community desires and needs as well as physical and environmental constraints and will not inhibit the City's ability to meet street capacities and to provide other infrastructure, utilities, and adequate community services.

J. General Land Use Policy C.3.a.9. Encourage that medium to high-density complexes be developed in appropriately designated areas and replace old, deteriorating residential structures.

K. General Land Use Policy C.4.a.3. Consider developing additional parks of all types and sizes at various areas, with an emphasis placed on locating new facilities in the eastern and western portions of the City and in neighborhoods in and around medium-to high-density developments.

L. General Land Use Policy D.1.a.4. Maintain an adequate amount of and distribution of public and quasi-public facilities.

M. General Land Use Policy D.1.a.5(b)(c)(e)(g). Ensure that major land use change proposals, particularly those regarding vacant schools, utility sites, and other institutional surplus properties, carefully consider many factors, including, but not limited to:

- Street capacity, public facilities, and other infrastructure impacts.
- Effects on the local circulation, public transportation, and regional circulation/transportation networks.
- The provision of services and utilities.
- All relevant environmental and physical constraints and resources.
- Covina's image and character.

N. General Land Use Policy D.1.a.7. Provide for the continuation of existing and development of new or expanded public streets and facilities, storm drains and other infrastructure, parking amenities, and utilities to support the City's land uses and meet all needs.

O. General Land Use Policy D.3.a.9. Pay particular attention to the special needs and character of the downtown and continue appropriate economic revitalization and physical enhancement activities.

P. General Land Use Policy E.1.n. Maintain the downtown area's pedestrian friendly atmosphere as a means of enhancing its social and economic vitality.

Q. General Land Use Policy E.1.q. Attempt to maintain the attractiveness and condition of all streets and public landscaping, particularly major ones and those at key City entry points, public improvements, and public facilities, so that Covina evokes a positive perception by residents, workers, shoppers, passer-by, and others.

R. General Land Use Policy E.1.w. Preserve existing parklands and open space resources and consider to develop additional parks of all types and sizes at various areas.

S. General Land Use Policy F.1.i. Ensure that the circulation network and major street widths adequately serve all current and planned residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses – or that all future developments not overburden streets and other infrastructure or local services.

T. General Land Use Policy G.1.c. Achieve an adequately designed and functional street system and other infrastructure, including utility and storm drainage systems plus an adequate distribution of public and quasi-public facilities, in accommodating future growth to best maintain the community's visual, economic, and spiritual vitality.

II. Circulation Element

A. General Circulation Policy C.3. Maintain and, where administratively and financially possible, improve the physical condition, structural integrity, design capacity, utilization, appearance, and/or cleanliness of Covina's public right-of-way and facilities, including, but not limited to, streets, alleys, sidewalks, medians, landscaping, parking areas, and miscellaneous infrastructure.

B. General Circulation Policy C.4. Where necessary and feasible, conduct traffic circulation improvements and congestion mitigation measures, including, but not limited to, traffic signal installation, synchronization, or upgrade, lane restriping or modification, and/or speed limit, stop sign, or street light installation.

C. General Circulation Policy C.6. Handle needed street and related infrastructure and transportation improvements on a realistic, viable, prioritized, systematic, consistent, and cost

effective basis and, if possible, from the standpoint of benefiting the greatest number of Covina residents and businesses.

D. General Circulation Policy C.7. Accommodate, where financially, administratively, and technically feasible, needed street and related infrastructure and transportation improvements, among other reasons, to minimize traffic conflicts and hazards as well as liability, to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, to bolster ongoing code enforcement efforts, and to enhance community appearance, image, and character, social, economic, and recreational vitality, and overall quality of life.

E. General Circulation Policy C.11. Reconcile the need to resolve remaining, major road and infrastructure deficiencies with the need to maintain the maturing community's aging street and circulation networks.

F. General Circulation Policy C.16. Monitor and, where administratively and financially possible, consider expanding the City's bikeways and related facilities in appropriate areas, such as near or linking schools, parks, and major commercial activities and employment centers, for functional as well as recreational uses, in a manner that best meets local conditions and needs.

G. General Circulation Policy C.23. Continue encouraging, where administratively and financially feasible, public transportation-and pedestrian-accommodating enhancements to the infrastructure, including, but not limited to, bus pads and sidewalk and wheelchair ramps.

H. General Circulation Policy D.6. Monitor and attempt to best maintain the functional and design adequacy and parking capacity of the Covina Metrolink Commuter Rail Station and, where desired and feasible, improve and/or expand the Station and/or related parking to meet local and regional needs.

I. General Circulation Policy D.7. Accommodate the linking of the Covina Metrolink Commuter Rail Station and other public transit depots to feeder transportation, to the greatest extent feasible.

J. General Circulation Policy E.1. Maintain and, where necessary and feasible, consider enhancements to downtown traffic, circulation, parking and overall infrastructure, including, but not limited to, better synchronizing traffic signals, constructing more off-street parking in deficient areas, improving parking lot security/lighting, and better, more clearly linking off-street parking to district businesses through sufficient signage and other strategies.

K. General Circulation Policy E.4. Where appropriate, consider infrastructure and related enhancements to facilitate downtown pedestrian circulation, taking into account safety, lighting, pleasantness, adequacy, and accessibility for the disabled.

L. General Circulation Policy F.1. Ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, through direct or liaison efforts, the continued maintenance and adequacy and, where necessary, improvement of Covina's sewers and sewage disposal systems system to prevent contamination of groundwater and receiving water quality and to accommodate long-term growth and revitalization.

M. General Circulation Policy F.3. Ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, through direct or liaison efforts, the continued maintenance and adequacy and, where necessary, improvements of Covina's storm-drains and storm drainage system to prevent or minimize flooding and soil erosion and to accommodate future growth and revitalization.

N. General Circulation Policy F.5. Ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, through direct or liaison efforts, the continued maintenance and adequacy and, where necessary, improvement of Covina's water supply facilities and water distribution system as well as the ability of the water network to meet future growth and revitalization.

O. General Circulation Policy F.6. Ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, through direct or liaison efforts, that all current and future peak period water demands are met and that water pressure and fire flow rates in all areas are adequate.

P. General Circulation Policy G.13. Continue accommodating pedestrian circulation, to the greatest degree possible, in terms of adequately-sized, conveniently located, safe, functional, unobstructed, and disabled-accessible major-and small-street public sidewalks, public crosswalks, private walkways and access routes, private walkways/access route linkages to public sidewalks, and sufficient connections between public sidewalk and crosswalks.

III. Natural Resources and Open Space Element

A. General Natural Resources and Open Space Policy B.2.h. Provide for landscape improvements to the City's sidewalks, streets, civic properties, and related public spaces and facilities, in accordance with all applicable standards and provisions, for aesthetic and ecological reasons, to the greatest extent possible.

B. General Natural Resources and Open Space Policy B.2.i. Provide for needed landscape improvements to the City's parks and recreational facilities, as described in the Covina

Park System Master Plan and other sources, in accordance with all applicable standards and provisions, for aesthetic and ecological reasons, to the greatest extent possible.

C. General Natural Resources and Open Space Policy B.2.j. Encourage the preservation of existing mature street and other public trees in conjunction with all public works projects, except where infeasible and/or unsafe.

D. General Natural Resources and Open Space Policy C.1.i. Whenever possible and feasible, attempt to acquire and improve land for park and recreational uses.

E. General Natural Resources and Open Space Policy C.1.o. Continue to upgrade, enhance, redesign, and/or replace existing parks and recreational areas and appurtenant facilities and amenities to improve overall park use, safety, and/or appearance as well as to maintain community image and vitality, whenever possible.

F. General Natural Resources and Open Space Policy C.5.a. Continue providing for adequate maintenance of the physical condition, operation, cleanliness, and appearance of all parks and recreational facilities and appurtenant amenities, following reasonable, applicable procedures and standards.

IV. Safety Element

A. General Safety Policy B.3.k. Maintain sufficient personnel, equipment, facilities, and resources in the Fire and Police Departments to handle fire incidents.

SECTION 4. Based upon the entire record before the Planning Commission, all written and oral evidence presented to the Planning Commission, and the findings made in this Resolution, the Planning Commission hereby recommends that the City Council adopt the Amended Fiscal Year 2026-2030 City of Covina Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

SECTION 5. The Planning Commission hereby directs the Community Development Director to forward a copy of this Resolution to the City Council for their consideration at the next available regular City Council meeting.

SECTION 6. The Secretary shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by members of the Planning Commission of Covina on this 22nd day of April, 2025.

ROSIE RICHARDSON, CHAIR
COVINA PLANNING COMMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Planning Commission of the City of Covina at a regular meeting thereof held on the 22nd day of April, 2025, by the following vote of the Planning Commission:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

COVINA PLANNING COMMISSION SECRETARY

ATTACHMENT A

City of Covina

Amended FY 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program