



July 7, 2026

Mayor Naomi Soto and Councilmembers
City of Palm Springs
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Sent via email

Subject: Item 3B. ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PALM TREE TRIMMING
POLICY, AND SUPERSEDING ALL PREVIOUS PALM TREE TRIMMING
PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Dear Madam Mayor and Councilmembers,

On July 9, 2024, we submitted a letter to you on the city's proposed palm tree trimming policy. In that letter, we explained the importance of retaining palm skirts as part of our cultural landscape and part of the unique "look" of the city. We are not aware of any city "community outreach" since then.

We wholeheartedly concur with the many compelling arguments made by the Oswit Land Trust in their July 3, 2026 letter. We likewise support their view that a "balanced, tree-by-tree management plan" be developed and that such a plan recognizes the ecological importance of native California fan palms which need to be managed differently from non-native Mexican fan palms.

During our discussions, PSPF board member Tracy Conrad made an observation which succinctly frames this issue, to wit, "These trees and their natural skirts were safeguarded by our predecessors for posterity only to be potentially squandered due to threats fabricated by lawyers and insurance companies. I dearly hope the council will protect this unique legacy for Palm Springs."

The point of contact for this matter is PSPF board member Barbara Marshall at info@pspreservationfoundation.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Johns". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "G" and a cursive "Johns".

Gary Johns
President

Copy to:
City Manager, Scott Stiles