

I'm working on a story for KESQ News Channel 3 looking at what's ahead in the new year for cities around the valley. Can you help me again this year? I'm looking for a few things in a paragraph or two (unless you want to provide more detail—always welcome) on what people might expect in your city ahead in 2023. This story is including all valley cities, so just the basics are needed.

Some possible ideas/ updates: CV Link expansion, STVR policy changes, Talus, new growth?

Jeff Stahl

What's ahead in 2023:

- 1. IID:** Developing a long-term strategic plan for continued energy service to La Quinta and other Coachella Valley communities served by IID is the top concern going into 2023.
IID infrastructure in the Coachella Valley needs major upgrade, repair, and expansion to improve safety, reliability, redundancy, and the economic viability of the valley – not just for future growth but to continue serving current ratepayers where we see more demand through working at home and purchase of electric vehicles. Our substations are running above their design capacity where they ran at about 80% capacity a couple of years ago. Some of the factors driving increased are: More full-time residents; more people working from home as a result of the pandemic; and the push by state and federal governments to purchase electric vehicles.
- 2. Talus/SilverRock resort:** Rising construction costs and interest rates led developer Robert Green to have to restructure the financing for the project which has also led to some delay. Mr. Green has closed on the additional financing elements and construction continues moving forward with one hotel expected to open in early 2024 and the second toward the end of 2024. The resort development includes two luxury hotels with spa amenities and meeting space, residential units and new golf clubhouse, plus the already developed 18-hole golf course.
- 3. Undergrounding utilities:** The City will be working with an engineering firm to determine what it will take and how much it would cost to underground utilities in the Village and throughout the City.
- 4. Sphere of Influence:** The City is looking into the economic feasibility of possible future annexations, including the existing southern Sphere of Influence, and other lands east of the existing Sphere. Our Sphere of Influence is the area bounded by Avenue 52 on the north, 62nd Avenue on

the south and Monroe Street on the west. The eastern border is jagged and includes Van Buren Street, **Harrison Street on the east, includes Vista Santa Rosa**

- 5. Affordable Housing:** This continues to be a priority for the City and Housing Authority. We have been actively pursuing strategic properties for restoration of existing housing or development of new affordable housing units and will continue with that in the coming year.

- 6. STVRs** – With the defeat of Measure A, the City will continue to prohibit the issuance of new STVR permits, except for dwellings located in exempted areas which include tourist commercial and Village commercial zones.

The changes the Council made to the program in 2020 and 2021, including stiffer fines and penalties and making permits non-transferable have reduced the number of STVRs and significantly reduced the number of complaints, so we are moving in the right direction.