

# Street work decision delayed

## Widening plan opposed by some residents

By **Blake Herzog**

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**RANCHO MIRAGE** — The City Council voted Thursday to delay a decision on whether to widen three residential streets until this fall.

Some of the homes on Desert Sun Drive, Kaye Ballard Lane and Kersten Road are still using septic tanks, and Councilman Dana Hobart said sewer hookups should be extended before or at the same time as the streets are widened to up to 36 feet.

"Now would be the time to get them in," he said.

But sewer hookups come at a cost to residents, and the number involved here could be too small to economically form a sewer district, Public Works Director Bruce Harry said.

Residents are divided on



**Desert Sun Drive in Rancho Mirage is one of three residential streets that would be widened under a city plan. But the City Council voted Thursday to delay a decision on whether to widen the streets until this fall.**

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whether the streets should be widened to meet city standards, designed to accommodate emergency vehicles.

Most of the correspondence from residents has opposed the project, but Harry said a majority of the people he's spoke to are for it.

Representatives from eight households signed two letters opposing the project, saying it wasn't necessary and would change the character of a

neighborhood built in the late 1950s.

"We just want the time for the city and neighborhood to resolve some of these issues," Joe Granado said. "We're not opposed to any of the plans, we're just concerned about the width."

Other residents worry about the effect on the yard surrounding one midcentury modern house on the corner of Desert Sun and Kaye Ballard, which is listed by the city as a historic resource.

"I think there's more of an appreciation that there was very specific placing of these residences," said Ron Marshall of the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, which has members throughout the Coachella Valley.

Another resident, Jim Angone, said he supported the widening in a letter read during the meeting: "I invested \$2 million in the house ... I would never have done so if the street would not be improved by widening the street and putting curbs in."

Widening the three streets is expected to cost around \$550,000, Harry said, to be paid out of Measure A sales tax funds.

The council voted 5-0 to revisit the matter at its Oct. 18 meeting, and encouraged individual homeowners to meet with Public Works staff in the meantime in order to talk about how the widening would affect their specific homes.

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