

CVAG Chronicle

May 2009

HOT TOPIC: COACHELLA VALLEY WORKFORCE HOUSING TRUST UPDATE

By Aurora Wilson

Much progress has occurred in the regional Workforce Housing effort since our last Chronicle feature in March 2008. The Coachella Valley Workforce Housing Trust, a 501c3 public-private partnership will be officially launched on September 24th, 2009. This is the date of the third annual Workforce Housing Summit at the Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage.

A temporary Blue Ribbon Committee was formed to create the framework for the CVWHT. This small group consisted of community leaders that had the expertise and leadership needed to lay the groundwork for the CVWHT. The framework included forming the nonprofit corporation; recommending the initial Board of Directors; assisting with the transition as a CVAG subcommittee to an independent nonprofit agency and developing goals for the CVWHT including increasing the development of Workforce Housing; assisting first time home buyers; helping those in danger of foreclosure stay in their homes; advocating or increasing workforce housing opportunities; and, matching unsold/foreclosed inventory with prospective buyers. Dick Oliphant, CEO and President of Oliphant Enterprises was elected by his colleagues as Chair and Valerie Van Winkle, Senior Vice President of Canyon National Bank, elected as Vice Chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee.

The Workforce Housing Steering Committee which began the effort, served as the technical working group for the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Several critical areas have been addressed in developing the framework for the Trust. One was the creation of the Bylaws. The Blue Ribbon Committee spent some time on its design; using the expertise from Best, Best & Krieger as well as CVAG's general counsel.



A second was the selection of the initial Board of Directors. Criteria was developed by the Blue Ribbon Committee which included the following:

11-27 Members of the Board of Directors

- Up to 11 can be Government Appointed Directors - 2 year terms, no limits;
- Up to 14 At-Large Directors: 7 have 1 year term, 7 have 2 year terms; two consecutive terms;
- In order to remain a public-private partnership, no more than 49.9% of Directors can be Government Appointed Directors.



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Coachella Valley
Association of Governments



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**CVAG
Department Heads**

Tom Kirk
Executive Director

Gary Leong, CPA
Administrative
Services

Allyn Waggle
Transportation

Aurora Wilson
Community
Resources

Katie Barrows
Energy
&
Environment

Jim Sullivan
GIS Program
Director

Toni Eggebraaten
General Counsel



Finally, a budget for Year One was developed for the Housing Trust with a cost of approximately \$242,000 including two staff positions and office furnishings. During the first year, the duties of the Trust staff will focus on programs and fundraising.



At their meeting in May the Blue Ribbon Committee developed the initial list for the Board of Directors to present to CVAG's Human and Community Resources and Executive Committees for approval. The Executive Committee will consider the following individuals as the new Board of Directors at its meeting on June 29th:

1. Fred Bell - Building Industry Association, Executive Officer
2. Fred Jandt - California State University San Bernardino Palm Desert, Dean
3. Steven Miller - Brabo, Carlsen, and O'Brien, CPA, Partner
4. Dick Oliphant - Oliphant Enterprises, Inc., President
5. Jerry Patton - College of the Desert, President
6. Michael Shepherd - The Shepherd Group, CEO

7. Carolyn Stark – UCR - Palm Desert Graduate Center, Executive Director
8. Valerie Van Winkle - Canyon National Bank, Senior Vice President
9. Jeff Wattenbarger - Wattenbarger Construction, Owner
10. Reuel Young - Interactive Design, Inc., Principle Architect & President
11. Lupe Ramos Watson, City of Indio, Councilmember
12. Tom Davis – Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Chief Planning and Development Officer
13. Leticia De Lara – County Supervisor Wilson's Office, Chief of Staff
14. Ginny Foat – City of Palm Springs, Councilmember
15. Paul Marchand – City of Cathedral City, Councilmember
16. Yvonne Parks, City of Desert Hot Springs, Mayor

Staff extends a hearty thanks to all of the volunteers on the Workforce Housing Steering and the Blue Ribbon Committees for all of the hours spent on development of the Housing Trust. We also extend our gratitude to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for their foresight and commitment to the Coachella Valley communities in proposing the need for this regional effort and being part of the solution. We look forward to Housing Trust's future as it moves forward to change the face of workforce housing in the Coachella Valley.

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Note: For more information about the upcoming 3rd Annual Summit on the Workforce Housing Trust on Thursday, September 24th, contact Amanda Keil at CVAG at akeil@cvag.org.

- Aurora Wilson

The 2009 CVAG General Assembly will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 29 at Spotlight 29 in Coachella.

Executive Committee Meeting *June 1, 2009*

ACTION TAKEN

- Approved the 2009 Nomination Committee for CVAG Chair and Vice Chair, to be made up of Mayor Eduardo Garcia, Councilmember Ben Godfrey, Mayor Robert Spiegel, and Mayor Gordon Moller.
- Authorized the Chair to enter into an Employment Agreement between Tom Kirk and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.
- Denied the appeal of Animal Samaritans SPCA on the basis the fee was correctly assessed to the proposed facility in accordance with adopted policy.
- Approved the Forbearance Agreement with Donald Weeks, formerly doing business as Rancho California Consultants.
- Approved Amendment Number One to the Construction Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans to complete the Ramon Road-Bob Hope Drive/ Interstate 10 Interchange Project.
- Continued Amendment One for the second year of a three year agreement with CleanStreet for regional PM10 street sweeping services until next month.
- Approved the agreement with Dr. Emily Nelson for professional services for FY 2009/10 and exhaust current agreement balance of approximately \$1,800 from Regional AB2766 funds.
- Endorsed the Schools By Design Concept; an associated MOU between CVAG and the three school districts to guide the implementation of ongoing dialogue needed to assist in the location of new schools and implementation of new Safe Routes to School in the Coachella Valley, will be initially sent to the three school districts for consideration and action; and the signed MOU will then be returned to CVAG Executive Committee for consideration and action.

Joint Executive Committee and Homelessness Committee Meeting *June 1, 2009*

ACTION TAKEN

- Asked that the issue of financing the Desert Resource Center be taken back to the individual City Councils to get solid judgement of financial support and report back to the Executive Committee by June 30, 2009.

UPCOMING CVAG MEETINGS JUNE 2009

Executive Committee

June 29 at 4:00 p.m. (Spotlight 29 Casino)

General Assembly

June 29 at 6:00 p.m. (Spotlight 29 Casino)

Technical Advisory Committee

June 12 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Transportation Committee

June 8 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee

June 26 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

June 11 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission

June 11 at 11:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee

June 18 at 8:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

AB939 Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group

July 13 at 3:00 p.m. (Suite 119)

Public Safety Committee

June 8 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Homelessness Committee

June 17 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Human & Community Resources Committee

June 17 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)



Register today for the 2009 General Assembly!

CVAG's Executive Committee comprises 32 members. Voting members (17) are Riverside County supervisors, mayors and chairs of CVAG cities and tribes or their designés. Nonvoting members (13) are county, city and tribal managers.

Executive Committee Roster

Mayor Eduardo Garcia, City of Coachella

CVAG CHAIR

Mayor Stephen Pougnet, City of Palm Springs

CVAG VICE CHAIR

Vice Mayor Beverly Mays, City of Blythe

Mayor Kathy DeRosa, City of Cathedral City

Mayor Yvonne Parks, City of Desert Hot Springs

Mayor Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ben Godfrey, City of Indio

Mayor Don Adolph, City of La Quinta

Mayor Robert Spiegel, City of Palm Desert

Mayor Gordon Moller, City of Rancho Mirage

Supervisor Marion Ashley, Supervisor Roy Wilson,

Supervisor Bob Buster, Supervisor John Tavaglione,

and Supervisor Jeff Stone, County of Riverside

Tribal Chair Richard Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

2nd Tribal Vice Chair David Roosevelt, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians



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