

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2017



The audio file for this committee can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/minutes.htm>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (“CVCC”) was called to order by Chair Michael Wilson at 11:05 a.m. on January 12, 2017.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The following members were present.

Members Present

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez
(arrived after roll call)
Mayor Richard Balocco
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber
Councilmember Richard W. Kite
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Board President Nancy Wright
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries)
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel
(Alternate for Supervisor John Tavaglione)
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate
for Supervisor Chuck Washington)
Mayor Steven Hernandez
(Alternate for Supervisor Marion Ashley)
(arrived after roll call)

Members Absent

Mayor Scott Matas
(Alternate for RivCo 4th District)
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala
Mayor Linda Evans
Councilmember Chris Mills
Board Member Matt Dessert

Others Present

Jim Karpiak

Michael Kemp (teleconference)
Jeness McBride
J'on Dennis

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella

City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of Palm Desert
City of Rancho Mirage
Coachella Valley Water District
Mission Springs Water District
Riverside County – 1st District

Riverside County – 2nd District

Riverside County – 3rd District

Riverside County – 5th District

Riverside County – 4th District

City of Desert Hot Springs
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Springs
Imperial Irrigation District

Coachella Valley Mountains
Conservancy
Imperial Irrigation District
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP

CVAG Staff

Tom Kirk
Gary Leong

Katie Barrows
Kathleen Brundige

Linda Rogers

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Bianco led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chair Wilson recognized the Honorable Supervisor John J. Benoit who was laid to rest on January 10 and expressed this has been a difficult week for those who have served with Supervisor Benoit. Chair Wilson noted that today’s meeting will be adjourned in honor of Supervisor Benoit.

Tom Kirk announced that on Dec. 22 CVAG received a check in the amount of \$6.4 million from Southern California Edison (SCE) as a mitigation fee for transmission lines in connection with the West of Devers project.

Tom Kirk reported that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the La Quinta Bighorn Sheep Barrier Project in La Quinta is now out and will be officially released tomorrow. There is a 45-day review period. A Final EIR with recommended actions will be brought back to the CVCC after the comment period is over.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR HARNIK, SECONDED BY MAYOR HERNANDEZ, TO:

- A. Approve Minutes of the November 10, 2016 Coachella Valley Conservation Commission**
- B. Accept the Local Development Mitigation Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 in fulfillment of the reporting requirements of the Mitigation Fee Act.**
- C. Approve Amendment #1 of the Fencing Installation Contract with Robles Pipeline Laying, Inc. to provide an additional \$30,000 to install additional fencing, gates and boulders on Indian Ave.**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSENT
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE

Board Member Matt Dessert	ABSENT
Board President Nancy Wright	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1 st District)	AYE
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel (Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	ABSTAIN 6A; AYE 6B and 6C
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	AYE
Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	AYE

(11 AYES AND 1 AYE ON 6B AND 6C; 1 ABSTENTION ON 6A; 5 ABSENT)

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Audited Financial Report, Report on Internal Control, and Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 114 Letter for Fiscal Year 2015/16

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KAPLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEBER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/16.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSENT
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Matt Dessert	ABSENT
Board President Nancy Wright	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1 st District)	AYE
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel (Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	AYE
Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	AYE

(12 AYES; 5 ABSENT)

B. Acquisition of one parcel totaling approximately 76.89 acres in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR BALOCCO, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER, TO:

- 1) Approve Resolution 17-001 authorizing acquisition of one parcel totaling approximately 76.89 acres in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area at a cost not to exceed \$1,150,000 plus closing costs not to exceed \$4,500.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary contracts and take such other actions as necessary for the acquisition.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	ABSTAIN
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSENT
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Matt Dessert	ABSENT
Board President Nancy Wright	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1 st District)	AYE
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel (Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	AYE
Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	AYE

(11 AYES; 1 ABSTENTION; 5 ABSENT)

C. Donation of one parcel totaling approximately 216.38 acres in the Coachella Valley Stormwater and Delta Conservation Area from Luning Associates, LP

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR HERNANDEZ, SECONDED BY MAYOR HARNIK, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-002 AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER (APN) 749-090-009 FROM LUNING ASSOCIATES, LP AND PAYMENT OF TRANSACTION COSTS NOT EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$3,500.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	ABSTAIN
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSENT

Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Matt Dessert	ABSENT
Board President Nancy Wright	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
(Alternate for RivCo 1 st District)	
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel	AYE
(Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
(Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	
Mayor Scott Matas	ABSENT
(Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	AYE
(Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	

(11 AYES; 1 ABSTENTION; 5 ABSENT)

D. Acquisition of 10 tax default parcels totaling approximately 36.91 acres from the Riverside County Treasurer-Tax Collector (“July 2016 Tax Default Parcels”)

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEBER, SECONDED BY MAYOR BALOCCO, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-003 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 10 TAX DEFAULT PARCELS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$148,010.65 PLUS ADMINISTRATION COSTS, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF SALE TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTIES.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	ABSTAIN
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSENT
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Matt Dessert	ABSENT
Board President Nancy Wright	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
(Alternate for RivCo 1 st District)	
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel	AYE
(Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
(Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	

Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	ABSENT (not present for vote)

(10 AYES; 1 ABSTENTION; 6 ABSENT)

E. Consider Northern Coachella Valley Trails Development Project and Request for License Agreement with Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEBER, SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER WRIGHT, TO APPROVE:

- 1) The Northern Coachella Valley Trails Development Project as consistent with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan; and
- 2) A License Agreement with Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for Use of CVCC lands for a trailhead for the Proposed Corkill/Kim Nicol Trail.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSENT
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Matt Dessert	ABSENT
Board President Nancy Wright	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1 st District)	AYE
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel (Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	AYE
Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	ABSENT (not present for vote)

(11 AYES; 6 ABSENT)

F. Release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Biological Monitoring Program

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KAPLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEBER, TO AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR THE BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPROVE MINOR CHANGES TO THE RFP WITH REVIEW BY CVCC LEGAL COUNSEL.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSENT
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Matt Dessert	ABSENT
Board President Nancy Wright	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1 st District)	AYE
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel (Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	AYE
Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	ABSENT (not present for vote)

(11 AYES; 6 ABSENT)

G. Statewide efforts on Natural Community Conservation Planning

Katie Barrows presented information on the efforts CVCC staff is involved with as a member of the California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition working alongside other Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) implementing agencies throughout the State to support funding sources for habitat conservation. From time to time the CVCC may be asked for their support for habitat conservation and NCCP funding. Staff will work with the CVCC Chair to prepare letters of support for funding opportunities if a specific needs arise and time is of the essence.

8. INFORMATION

- 1) Report on Contracts under \$25,000 – Cultural Resources contract
- 2) CVCC Attendance Roster

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next scheduled meeting at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Room 119, Palm Desert:

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting in memory of Supervisor John J. Benoit at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers

Linda Rogers
Program Assistant II