

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 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 Vice Chair Weber at 11:02 a.m. on February 9, 2017. Immediately after opening, Chair Wilson arrived and presided over the meeting.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez
Councilmember Yvonne Parks
Mayor Richard Balocco
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson
Mayor Linda Evans
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber
Councilmember Geoff Kors
(arrived after roll call)
Councilmember Richard W. Kite
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel
(Alternate for Supervisor John Tavaglione)
(arrived after Item 6)
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for
Supervisor Chuck Washington)
Mayor Scott Matas
(Alternate for Riverside County 4th District)

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs

City of Rancho Mirage
Coachella Valley Water District
Riverside County – 2nd District

Riverside County – 3rd District

Riverside County – 4th District

Members Absent

Board President Nancy Wright
Board Member Erik Ortega
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries)
Mayor Steven Hernandez
(Alternate for Supervisor Marion Ashley)

Mission Springs Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Riverside County – 1st District

Riverside County – 5th District

Others Present

Michael Kemp, staff member (Teleconference)
Jim Karpiak

Imperial Irrigation District
Coachella Valley Mountains
Conservancy

CVAG Staff

Tom Kirk
Katie Barrows

Jim Sullivan
Erica Felci

Linda Rogers
Kathleen Brundige

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mayor Evans, City of La Quinta, commented on the temporary bighorn sheep fence being installed at city-owned SilverRock golf course. Mayor Evans identified the cost of monitoring during fence installation and referred to her discussion with Mr. Kirk regarding possible CVCC assistance with the monitoring costs. Mayor Evans requested that this item be placed on a future agenda for consideration. Mr. Kirk indicated that CVAG/CVCC staff will work with the city to see if there are effective ways of absorbing or reducing the costs of the temporary fence.

Tom Kirk reported that Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, was working on a parks bond that was almost approved before the session ended last year. Assemblyman Garcia has included proposed funding for the NCCP/MSHCP's statewide in a new parks bond making its way through the legislature. Assemblyman Garcia or a representative from his office may come to the CVCC meeting in the next few months to provide an update on the parks bond.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MARTINEZ, SECONDED BY MAYOR MATAS, TO:

- A. Approve Minutes of the January 12, 2017 Coachella Valley Conservation Commission**
- B. Approve a no-cost time extension to the contract with Terra Nova Planning and Research, Inc. to December 31, 2017 for completion of the environmental analysis for the La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Barrier Project**
- C. Approve a no cost time extension to the contract with ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc., to March 31, 2018 for completion of a Development Plan for the In-Lieu Fee Program**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Yvonne Parks	AYE
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE

Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Geoff Kors	AYE
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board President Nancy Wright	ABSENT
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1st District)	ABSENT
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel (Alternate for RivCo 2 nd District)	ABSENT FOR VOTE
Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for RivCo 3 rd District)	AYE
Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for RivCo 4 th District)	AYE
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	ABSENT

(12 AYES; 5 ABSENT)

[Vice Mayor Spiegel is now in attendance but was not present for the vote under Item 6.]

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Acquisition of one parcel totaling approximately 370.11 acres in the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KAPLAN, SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS,
TO:**

- 1) Approve Resolution 17-004 authorizing acquisition of one parcel totaling approximately 370.11 acres in the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area at a cost not to exceed \$925,000 plus closing costs not to exceed \$1,300.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute all necessary contracts and take such other actions as are necessary for the acquisition.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Yvonne Parks	AYE
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Geoff Kors	AYE
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board President Nancy Wright	ABSENT
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT

Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1st District)	ABSENT
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)	AYE
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	ABSENT

(13 AYES; 4 ABSENT)

B. Letter of Support for Legislation to Extend opening of Upper Bump and Grind Trail

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS, SECONDED BY MAYOR HARNIK, TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO PERMANENTLY EXTEND THE NINE MONTH OPENING OF THE UPPER BUMP AND GRIND TRAIL.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT:

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	AYE
Councilmember Yvonne Parks	AYE
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Geoff Kors	AYE
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board President Nancy Wright	ABSENT
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for RivCo 1st District)	ABSENT
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)	AYE
Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for RivCo 5 th District)	ABSENT

(13 AYES; 4 ABSENT)

C. Summary of Draft Environmental Impact Report for Peninsular Bighorn Sheep La Quinta Barrier Project

Katie Barrows provided a presentation on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the La Quinta Barrier Project. Ms. Barrows discussed the project timeline, biological concerns and discussed the potential alternatives that are being explored. The comment period is currently open until March 3, 2017.

8. INFORMATION

- 1) CVCC's Quarterly Unaudited Financial Statements as at December 31, 2016
- 2) CVCC's Investment Report as at December 31, 2016
- 3) CVCC Attendance Roster

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers

Linda Rogers
Program Assistant II