

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 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 11:00 am.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present

- Councilmember Shelley Kaplan
- Councilmember Anayeli Zavala
- Mayor Richard Balocco
- Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson
- Mayor Linda Evans
- Councilmember Susan Marie Weber
- Councilmember Chris Mills
- Councilmember Richard W. Kite
- Councilmember Glenn Miller (Alternate for Supervisor Kevin Jeffries)
- Mayor Jan Harnik (Alternate for Supervisor Chuck Washington)
- Mayor Steven Hernandez (Alternate for Supervisor Marion Ashley)
- Board Member Anthony Bianco
- Board Member Randy Duncan

Agency

- City of Cathedral City
- 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
- Riverside County – 1st District
- Riverside County – 3rd District
- Riverside County – 5th District
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Mission Springs Water District

Members Absent

- Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez
- Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel (Alternate for Supervisor John Tavaglione)
- Mayor Scott Matas (Alternate for Riverside County 4th District)
- Board Member Erik Ortega

- City of Coachella
- Riverside County – 2nd District
- Riverside County – 4th District
- Imperial Irrigation District

Others Present

- Roger Overstreet
- Sylvia Granados
- Kevin Clark
- Lori Hargrove
- Doug Evans
- Brien Miller
- Richard Wood

- Southern California Edison
- Southern California Edison
- San Diego Natural History Museum
- San Diego Natural History Museum
- Desert Trails Coalition
- Desert Trails Coalition
- Hiker and trail user

CVAG Staff

Tom Kirk
Gary Leong
Katie Barrows

Jim Sullivan
Kathleen Brundige
Erica Felci

Linda Rogers

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Steve Hernandez led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Doug Evans and Brien Miller from the Desert Trails Coalition asked the CVCC to reconsider their support for AB 661 which extends the opening of the upper portion of the Mirage Trail (aka Bump and Grind) for nine months with a three month closure each year. Mr. Miller requested that this item be brought back to a future agenda for reconsideration. The CVCC discussed the matter and indicated interest in further discussion on a future agenda; allowing the current legislation to move forward was also discussed to ensure that the upper Bump and Grind remains open most of the year. Because the item was not on the agenda for action, Director Kirk suggested that this item be placed on a future agenda which was supported by a consensus of the CVCC.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Kirk introduced Roger Overstreet and Sylvia Granados from Southern California Edison (SCE). Mr. Overstreet stated that SCE has paid a fee of \$6.4 million as a participating special entity in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan as part of the West of Devers project to upgrade transmission lines for renewable energy goals. Mr. Overstreet noted that the participating special entity process was more efficient and less expensive than other options. SCE was happy to provide funds to the commission for this project and thanked Jim Sullivan, Tom Kirk, and Katie Barrows for their help on this project.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2017 Coachella Valley Conservation Commission**
- B. Annual Inflation Adjustment to the Local Development Mitigation Fee – receive as information**
- C. Approve Amendment of Contract with Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy for Land Acquisitions Manager**
- D. Authorize the Chair to sign letters supporting the inclusion of Natural Communities Conservation Plans into proposed statewide parks bonds**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES; 1 AYE 6B-6D; 1 AYE 6A-6B, 6D; 1 ABSTENTION 6A; 1 ABSTENTION 6C; and 4 ABSENT

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSTAIN 6A; AYE 6B-6D
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	AYE 6A-6B, 6D; ABSTAIN 6C
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Kevin Jeffries)	
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Chuck Washington)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Marion Ashley)	
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Randy Duncan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel	ABSENT
(Alternate for Supervisor John Tavaglione)	
Mayor Scott Matas	ABSENT
(Alternate for Riverside County 4th District)	
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Review 2016 Annual Report

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KAPLAN, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN AND PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC INPUT.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	AYE
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	AYE
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Kevin Jeffries)	
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Chuck Washington)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Marion Ashley)	
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Randy Duncan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel	ABSENT

(Alternate for Supervisor John Tavaglione) Mayor Scott Matas	ABSENT
(Alternate for Riverside County 4th District) Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT

B. Update on La Quinta Bighorn Sheep Barrier Project

Katie Barrows provided an informational update on the La Quinta Bighorn Sheep barrier project.

C. Contract with San Diego Natural History Museum for Riparian Bird Nest Monitoring and Cowbird Management

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER, TO:

- 1) Authorize a contract with San Diego Natural History Museum to monitor riparian bird nests, and manage the threat of cowbirds in the Dos Palmas and Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Areas, for not to exceed \$140,000; and
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the contract and take such other actions as are necessary to implement the contract. Authorize the Executive Director and/or legal counsel to make minor changes or revisions to the contract for clarification purposes.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	AYE
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	AYE
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Kevin Jeffries)	
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Chuck Washington)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	AYE
(Alternate for Supervisor Marion Ashley)	
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Randy Duncan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Vice Mayor Karen Spiegel	ABSENT
(Alternate for Supervisor John Tavaglione)	
Mayor Scott Matas	ABSENT
(Alternate for Riverside County 4th District)	
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT

8. **INFORMATION**

- 1) CVCC Attendance Roster

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers

Linda Rogers
Program Assistant II