

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
October 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 Vice Chair Linda Wilson at 11:03 am until the arrival of the Chair.

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, Chair\*\*  
Mayor Linda Evans, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber\*  
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite  
Mayor Jan Harnik  
(Alternate for Supervisor Chuck Washington)  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
Board Member Anthony Bianco  
Board Member Nancy Wright

**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 Rancho Mirage  
Riverside County – 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
  
Riverside County – 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Mission Springs Water District

**Members Absent**

Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez  
Councilmember Chris Mills  
Mayor Glenn Miller  
(Alternate for Supervisor Kevin Jeffries)  
Councilmember Geoff Kors  
(Alternate for Supervisor John Tavaglione)  
Mayor Steven Hernandez  
(Alternate for Supervisor Marion Ashley)  
Board Member Erik Ortega

City of Coachella  
City of Palm Springs  
Riverside County, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
  
Riverside County, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
  
Riverside County, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
  
Imperial Irrigation District

**Others Present**

Jim Karpiak  
  
Britt Wilson  
Jeness McBride  
Chris Gregory  
Tammy Martin  
Gordon Fidler

Coachella Valley Mountains  
Conservancy  
City of Rancho Mirage  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Friends of the Desert Mountains  
Friends of the Desert Mountains

[\*Councilmembers Weber and Zavala arrived after roll call. \*\*Mayor Pro Tem Mike Wilson arrived at approximately 10:14 am and was not present for the vote on Item 6.]

**CVAG Staff**

Tom Kirk  
Katie Barrows  
Jim Sullivan  
Gary Leong

Kathleen Brundige  
Erica Felci  
Oscar Vizcarra  
Linda Rogers

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chair led in the pledge of allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Tom Kirk reported that our organization received the American Planning Association of California District Award for *Hard-Won Victories* for the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. A Parks Bond will be on the 2018 ballot in California, based on legislation by Assemblymember Garcia. The Parks Bond includes funding for Natural Community Conservation Plans; if the bond measure is approved by the voters, the CVMSHCP would be eligible for funding. Lastly, AB661, legislation to extend the current 9-months open/3 months closed schedule for the Bump and Grind Trail for 10 years was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor in September 2017.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR HARNIK, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KITE, TO:**

- A. Approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 Coachella Valley Conservation Commission**
- B. Approve Amendment # 7 adding \$1,700.00 to the contract with Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy to provide professional services for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, as described in Exhibit A of the original contract incorporated herein by reference.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES; 1 ABSTENTION ON 6A and AYE ON 6B; and 7 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	ABSTAIN 6A; AYE 6B
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	ABSENT FOR VOTE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE

Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller	ABSENT
(for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor	
Councilmember Geoff Kors	ABSENT
(for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	ABSENT
(for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	

**7. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Consider Contract with Friends of the Desert Mountains for Invasive Species Removal in Canyons of the Santa Rosa Mountains**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KAPLAN, SECONDED BY MAYOR HARNIK, TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH FRIENDS OF THE DESERT MOUNTAINS (FODM) FOR A NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$78,487 TO REMOVE TAMARISK AND FOUNTAIN GRASS FROM WATER SOURCES IN PENINSULAR BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT IN THE SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION AREA.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES and 6 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	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller	ABSENT
(for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor	
Councilmember Geoff Kors	ABSENT
(for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	ABSENT
(for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	

[Vice Chair Evans turned the meeting over to Chair Mike Wilson.]

**B. Consider Contract for Fencing and Maintenance of CVCC Lands in Multiple Conservation Areas**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ, TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH ROBLES PIPELINE LAYING, INC. FOR NOT TO EXCEED \$475,000 TO INSTALL FENCES, GATES, BOULDERS AND SIGNS ON CONSERVATION PROPERTIES AND PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND CLEANUP SERVICES WHEN REQUESTED.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES and 6 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	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller	ABSENT
(for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor	
Councilmember Geoff Kors	ABSENT
(for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	ABSENT
(for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	

**C. Acquisition of two parcels in the Upper Mission Creek Conservation Area totaling approximately 81.80 acres**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KAPLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ZAVALA, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-010 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF TWO PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 81.80 ACRES IN THE UPPER MISSION CREEK CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00 PLUS CLOSING COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$1,100.00.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES and 6 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	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE

Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller (for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT
Councilmember Geoff Kors (for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT

**D. Acquisition of two parcels in the Willow Hole Conservation Area totaling approximately 15.44 acres**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ, SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-011 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF TWO PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 15.44 ACRES IN THE WILLOW HOLE CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$97,500.00 PLUS CLOSING COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$1,100.00.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES and 6 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	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller (for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT
Councilmember Geoff Kors (for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT

**E. Acquisition of three parcels in the Thousand Palms Conservation Area totaling approximately 9.22 acres**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KITE, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-012 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF THREE PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 9.22 ACRES IN THE THOUSAND PALMS CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$172,500.00 PLUS CLOSING COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$1700.00.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES and 6 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
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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	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller	ABSENT
(for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor	
Councilmember Geoff Kors	ABSENT
(for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	ABSENT
(for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	

**F. Acceptance of two parcels in the Upper Mission Creek Conservation Area totaling approximately 7.92 acres to meet mitigation requirements for the Southern California Edison West of Devers-Mirage project**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR BALOCCO, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ZAVALA, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-013 AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF TWO PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 7.92 ACRES IN THE UPPER MISSION CREEK CONSERVATION AREA WITH MITIGATION FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING FUND.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES and 6 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	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller	ABSENT
(for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor	
Councilmember Geoff Kors	ABSENT
(for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	ABSENT
(for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	

**G. Authorize Funds for Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Monitoring**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KAPLAN, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ, TO APPROVE:**

- 1) Expenditure of funds for monitoring Peninsular bighorn sheep in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains for a total not to exceed \$20,854.**
- 2) Amendment No. 1 to the Services Contract with Oregon State University to complete genetic analysis of additional Peninsular bighorn sheep samples.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES and 6 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	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Board Member Nancy Wright	AYE
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller	ABSENT
(for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor	
Councilmember Geoff Kors	ABSENT
(for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	
Mayor Steven Hernandez	ABSENT
(for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	

**H. Acquisition of thirteen parcels totaling approximately 4.12 acres in the Willow Hole Conservation Area**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM KITE, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEBER TO:**

- 1) Approve Resolution 17-014 authorizing acquisition of thirteen parcels totaling approximately 4.12 acres in and adjacent to the Willow Hole Conservation Area at a cost not to exceed \$156,000.00 plus closing costs not to exceed \$3,500.00.**
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary contracts and take such other actions as necessary for the acquisition.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES; 1 NAY; 3 ABSTENTIONS; 6 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	AYE
Mayor Richard Balocco	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Michael Wilson	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	NAY
Councilmember Susan Marie Weber	ABSTAIN
Councilmember Chris Mills	ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite	AYE
Mayor Jan Harnik	AYE
Supervisor V. Manual Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	ABSTAIN
Board Member Nancy Wright	ABSTAIN
Board Member Erik Ortega	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Emmanuel Martinez	ABSENT
Mayor Glenn Miller (for RivCo 1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT
Councilmember Geoff Kors (for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT
Mayor Steven Hernandez (for RivCo 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)	ABSENT

Vice Chair Evans expressed concern about purchasing parcels outside conservation areas. Chair Wilson requested that this matter be revisited in a future agenda.

**I. Update on Trails Coordination with Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau and Friends of the Desert Mountains**

Kathleen Brundige provided an update on trails signage, safety and trails maintenance work throughout the valley. CVCC is working with local project partners to improve the trail experience throughout the Coachella Valley. The Friends of the Desert Mountains has completed significant work on trails, including improving trails and installing signage. A central database of trail routes is also in progress to be distributed through digital channels on the CVB website and on an Easy2Hike trail app.

**8. INFORMATION**

- 1) CVCC's Quarterly Unaudited Financial Statements as at June 30, 2017
- 2) CVCC's Investment Report for June 30, 2017
- 3) CVCC Attendance Roster
- 4) Contracts under \$25,000
- 5) Statewide award recognizing the CVMSHCP Major Amendment
- 6) Bump and Grind Legislation Signed - AB 661

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Thursday, November 9, 2017, 11:00 a.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers  
Program Assistant II