

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2018



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 Mayor Kite, acting on behalf of the Chair, on November 8, 2018 at 12:03 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

*[\*] Indicates members arrived later to the meeting after roll call.*

**Members Present**

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan  
Mayor Steven Hernandez  
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala  
Councilmember Richard Balocco  
Councilmember Glenn Miller  
Mayor Linda Evans, Vice Chair\*  
Mayor Pro Tem Susan Marie Weber  
Councilmember Lisa Middleton\*  
Mayor Richard W. Kite  
Councilmember Jan Harnik\*  
(Alternate for Supervisor Washington)  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
Board Member Anthony Bianco  
Board Member Randy Duncan\*

**Members Absent**

Alternate (vacant for Supervisor Tavaglione)  
Alternate (vacant for Supervisor Ashley)  
Board Member Juanita Salas

**Others Present**

Jim Karpiak  
  
Emmanuel Martinez  
Deborah McGarrey  
Jeff Lovich  
Kristy Cummings  
Stephanie Buriel  
Tommy Edwards

**CVAG/CVCC Staff**

Tom Kirk  
Katie Barrows  
Jim Sullivan

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

Riverside County - 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Riverside County - 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Imperial Irrigation District

Coachella Valley Mountains  
Conservancy  
Imperial Irrigation District  
SoCalGas  
USGS  
USGS  
SunLine Transit Agency  
SunLine Transit Agency

Kathleen Brundige  
Erica Felci  
Gary Leong

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Kite led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Tom Kirk indicated that Chair Evans is on her way back from the CVEP Forum and will be late. Tom Kirk acknowledged Linda Rogers, CVAG staff, who is retiring after 17 years of service.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER TO:**

- A. Approve minutes of the June 14, 2018 Coachella Valley Conservation Commission**
- B. Report on Compliance with Local Development Mitigation Fee**
- C. Approve acceptance of a Conservation Easement from the City of Palm Springs on a 5.55-acre parcel within the Palm Canyon Wash and authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary contracts and take such other actions as necessary for the conservation easement**
- D. Authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents and take such other actions necessary to accept California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Conservation Easements for Streambed Mitigation for two projects: 1) CV Link, and 2) West Coast Aggregates mining project**
- E. Authorize a contract with San Diego Natural History Museum to monitor Crissal and LeConte's thrashers for not to exceed \$96,000**
- F. Approve Amendment #1 of the Services Contract for Fencing Installation and Maintenance with R. Robles P. L., Inc. to clarify budget allocation of not to exceed \$475,000 for both FY 18/19 and FY 19/20, pending approval of annual CVCC budget**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES; 1 AYE ON 6B-6F BUT ABSTAINING ON 6A; AND 6 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Steven Hernandez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	ABSENT FOR VOTE
Mayor Pro Tem Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	ABSENT FOR VOTE
Mayor Richard W. Kite	AYE

Councilmember Jan Harnik (Alternate for Supervisor Washington, RivCo 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dist.)	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Councilmember Richard Balocco	ABSTAIN ON 6A; AYE ON 6B-6F
Alternate (vacant for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District)	ABSENT
Alternate (vacant for RivCo 3 <sup>rd</sup> District)	ABSENT
Board Member Randy Duncan	ABSENT FOR VOTE
Board Member Juanita Salas	ABSENT

**7. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Acquisition of four parcels totaling approximately 479.23 acres in the Snow creek/Windy Point and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas**

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

- 1) Approve Resolution 18-007 authorizing acquisition of four parcels totaling approximately 479.23 acres in the Snow Creek/Windy Point and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains Conservation Areas at a cost not to exceed \$2,755,000.00 plus closing costs not to exceed \$5,500.00.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to execute all necessary contracts and take such other actions as necessary for the acquisition.

*[Chair Linda Evans and Randy Duncan are now present]*

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Steven Hernandez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	ABSENT FOR VOTE
Mayor Richard W. Kite	AYE
Councilmember Jan Harnik (Alternate for Supervisor Washington, RivCo 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dist.)	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Councilmember Richard Balocco	AYE
Alternate (vacant for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District)	ABSENT
Alternate (vacant for RivCo 3 <sup>rd</sup> District)	ABSENT
Board Member Randy Duncan	AYE
Board Member Juanita Salas	ABSENT

**B. Little Morongo Wash Encampment Clean-up in Desert Hot Springs**

Kathleen Brundige gave a presentation on the September cleanup of a homeless encampment on CVCC property in Little Morongo Wash in the City of Desert Hot Springs. The response was coordinated between CV Housing First/Path of Life Ministries, the City of Desert Hot Springs, Desert Hot Springs Police Department, and CVCC to offer outreach and assistance to people in a housing crisis in the area before the cleanup commenced. 10 households were placed in permanent housing solutions, 57 tons of refuse and 6.5 tons of tires were removed, and 1.5 miles of post and cable fencing were installed.

**C. Extension of CVAG/CVCC Agreement for Administration of the CVMSHCP**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR HERNANDEZ, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MILLER TO APPROVE AN EXTENSION OF THE CVAG/CVCC AGREEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN TO JUNE 30, 2023.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Shelley Kaplan	AYE
Mayor Steven Hernandez	AYE
Councilmember Anayeli Zavala	AYE
Councilmember Glenn Miller	AYE
Mayor Linda Evans	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Susan Marie Weber	AYE
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	ABSENT FOR VOTE
Mayor Richard W. Kite	AYE
Councilmember Jan Harnik (Alternate for Supervisor Washington, RivCo 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dist.)	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Board Member Anthony Bianco	AYE
Councilmember Richard Balocco	AYE
Alternate (vacant for RivCo 2 <sup>nd</sup> District)	ABSENT
Alternate (vacant for RivCo 3 <sup>rd</sup> District)	ABSENT
Board Member Randy Duncan	AYE
Board Member Juanita Salas	ABSENT

**D. Presentation on Tortoise Monitoring and Genetics – Dr. Jeff Lovich, USGS**

Dr. Jeff Lovich, Research Ecologist for the USGS Southwest Biological Science Center provided a presentation covering *Tortoises of the Coachella Valley MSHCP: How are they doing?* Dr. Lovich addressed the recent history of populations in the Desert Tortoise and Linkage area in the east and the Whitewater study site in the west. He discussed some of the potential stressors for population declines including the effects of the recent drought, historic habitat loss, and predation; he also addressed the results of genetic samples taken from tortoises around the CVMSHCP plan area supporting habitat connectivity.

**8. INFORMATION**

- 1) CVCC's Quarterly Unaudited Financial Statements as at September 30, 2018
- 2) CVCC's Investment Report as at September 30, 2018
- 3) CVCC Attendance Roster
- 4) Contracts under \$25,000

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission – Thursday, February 14, 2019,  
at 11:00 a.m.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Brundige  
Management Analyst