



HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

**CVAG Conference Room
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104 (formerly 119)
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the Homelessness Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81970169717?pwd=Z1pZaFJRS1ZYS1hURVRrVEc3cUIHQQT09>

Dial In: +1 669 900 9128 US

Webinar ID: 819 7016 9717

Password: 220523

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Homelessness Committee prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Comments intended to be read aloud should be no more than 300 characters.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.**

**UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair John Peña, Councilmember, City of La Quinta

2. **ROLL CALL** –

A. **Member Roster**

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3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Homelessness Committee on agenda items. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

5. **CHAIR / COMMITTEE / CVAG STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the September 18, 2023 Homelessness Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

P5

7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. **CV Housing First: Third Quarter Report for 2023 – Ivan Tenorio**

P10

Recommendation: Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the third quarter of 2023

B. **Annual Review of CVAG's Legislative Platform – Emmanuel Martinez**

P14

Recommendation: Endorse a position that advocates for additional vouchers as part of the adoption of CVAG's 2023-24 Federal and State Legislative Platform

C. **Presentation: Engaging the CV 200 through CVAG's Mobile Access Center – Ivan Tenorio**

P30

Recommendation: Information

8. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

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B. **Updates from Ex Officio Members**

C. **Unaudited Financial Statement for CV Housing First Program through September 30, 2023**

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9. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Homelessness Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this committee. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the first floor conference room of the Jerry Stergios Building at Desert Regional Medical Center, 1140 N. Indian Canyon Drive in Palm Springs.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

ITEM 2A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
Member Roster
2023- 2024**



VOTING MEMBERS	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez
City of Cathedral City	Mayor Pro Tem Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Councilmember Denise Delgado
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Donna Griffith
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon – <u>Vice Chair</u>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña – <u>Chair</u>
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Christy Holstege
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Lynn Mallotto
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Pedro S.G. Rodriguez, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition	
Darla Burkett, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	
Vacant, Executive Director, Home Aid Inland Empire	
Samuel Hollenbeck, Chief Executive Officer, Martha's Village and Kitchen	
Vacant, The Salvation Army	
Angelina Coe, Executive Director, Shelter from the Storm	
Additional Support Staff	
Carrie Harmon, Assistant Director Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions	Dr. Conrado Bãrzaga, CEO, Desert Healthcare District
Tanya Torno, Principal Development Specialist, Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions	Marcus Cannon, Behavioral Health Services Supervisor, Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health

CVAG Staff	
Tom Kirk, Executive Director	
Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer	
Ivan Tenorio, Management Analyst	

ITEM 6A

Homelessness Committee Special Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023



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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The September 18, 2023 special meeting was called to order by Homelessness Committee Chair John Peña, City of La Quinta, at 10:00 a.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in Palm Desert.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Desert Healthcare District
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 – District 4
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Carnevale
Councilmember Denise Delgado (*arrived at item 3*)
Director Carole Rogers, RN
Councilmember Jan Pye (*arrived at item 3*)
Mayor Donna Griffith
Councilmember Waymond Fermon, Vice Chair
Councilmember John Peña, Chair
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla
Councilmember Lynn Mallotto
Deputy Director Greg Rodriguez
Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez (*arrived at item 5*)

Ex Officios Present

Shelter from the Storm

Angelina Coe

Members and Ex-Officios Not Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Blythe
City of Palm Springs
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Martha's Village and Kitchen

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
Councilmember Christy Holstege
Pedro S.G. Rodriguez
Darla Burkett
Samuel Hollenbeck

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Tom Kirk led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, addressed the committee and expressed his opposition to agenda item 7B and the state's Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court program.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Fermon remarked on the unsheltered/unhoused population along the railroad corridors and freeways and requested that programs reach them during outreach efforts.

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci noted agenda item 8E provides further details on the County's Point-in-Time count as promised at the last Homelessness Committee meeting.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

- A. Approve the May 17, 2023 Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes**
- B. Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the second quarter of 2023**

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER RODRIGUEZ	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM CARNEVALE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
MAYOR GRIFFITH	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER HOLSTEGE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation on Riverside County's Homeless Action Plan

Greg Rodriguez, Deputy Director of Housing and Workforce Solutions for Riverside County, presented the staff report.

Member discussion ensued with Deputy Director Rodriguez answering questions regarding items addressed in the action plan and questions about the availability of vouchers.

No action was taken as this was an information item.

B. Rollout of the State's Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court

Deputy Director Rodriguez presented the staff report and detailed how the county has prepared for the roll out of the CARE program to launch on October 2, 2023.

Member discussion ensued with Mr. Rodriguez answering questions regarding ability to monitor success of the program and privacy issues.

No action was taken as this was an information item.

C. Additional funding from the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci presented the staff report.

IT WAS MOVED MAYOR GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON TO APPROVE AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ACCEPT \$34,393.59 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS AND HOUSING (CESH) PROGRAM, INCLUDING AMENDING THE SCOPE OF WORK TO REFLECT SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CV HOUSING PROGRAM

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER RODRIGUEZ	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM CARNEVALE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
MAYOR GRIFFITH	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER HOLSTEGE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

C. Election of the Homelessness Committee Officers

Executive Director Tom Kirk opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

Councilmember Fermon nominated Councilmember Peña for Chair. No other nominations received.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA TO ELECT COUNCILMEMBER PENA AS CHAIR OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER RODRIGUEZ	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM CARNEVALE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
MAYOR GRIFFITH	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER HOLSTEGE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

Chair Peña nominated Councilmember Fermon for Vice Chair. No other nominations received.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAIR PENA AND SECONDED BY TRIBAL VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ TO ELECT COUNCILMEMBER FERMON AS VICE CHAIR OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

THE MOTION TO CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILMEMBER PRECKWINKLE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER RODRIGUEZ	ABSENT
MAYOR PRO TEM CARNEVALE	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER DELGADO	AYE
DIRECTOR ROGERS	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PYE	AYE
MAYOR GRIFFITH	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER FERMON	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER PEÑA	AYE
MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA	AYE
COUNCILMEMBER HOLSTEGE	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO	AYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ	AYE
VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ	AYE

8. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

B. **Updates from Ex Officio Members**

Angelina Coe, Executive Director from Shelter of the Storm, expressed concern about the impact of looming funding cuts. She noted that Shelter from the Storm is the only provider of services for victims of domestic violence and crime.

Ms. Coe also highlighted October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and asks that people wear purple on Thursdays in support.

C. Letter from CVAG Chairman Scott Matas

D. Unaudited Financial Statement for CV Housing First Program through June 30, 2023

E. Annual Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Individuals

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, addressed the committee regarding his concerns about the process of how public comments are received and access to staff reports.

Lamont Jackson, Executive Director with Creative Build, expressed his desire to collaborate with the committee and its members to secure funding for programs and also commended the Homelessness Committee for their great work.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Peña adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ely Regalado
CVAG Management Analyst

ITEM 7A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Homelessness Committee
November 15, 2023**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: CV Housing First: Third Quarter Report for 2023

Contact: Ivan Tenorio, Management Analyst (itenorio@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the third quarter of 2023

Background: CVAG is now in its third year of operating the CV Housing First program with staff. The program is focused on the CV 200, a by-name list of chronically homeless individuals residing in desert cities that have frequent contacts with law enforcement and who are likely to be shelter resistant or who have already fallen out of housing. The list was developed in partnership with CVAG's member jurisdictions and local law enforcement.

CVAG staff has committed to adjusting CV Housing First programming based on the data, and provides quarterly updates to its members about the program. The CV Housing First team uses two primary methods to get clients to housing solutions: rapid resolution and crisis stabilization units, which are residential units, apartments and hotel rooms that CVAG rents to case manage CV Housing First clients. CVAG staff will continue to provide quarterly reports as it provides services in 2023.

These quarterly reports are regularly presented as part of the consent calendar agenda items. However, CVAG staff will be presenting this report to the Homelessness Committee in order to be transparent about some of the challenges that are being faced with finding permanent housing solutions. These can best be summarized as a lack of vouchers and a lack of vacancies. CVAG works with Riverside County's HomeConnect, the county's coordinated response program, to connect voucher-approved clients with housing. In both the third quarter and now in the current, fourth quarter, CVAG staff is seeing CV 200 clients secure vouchers – but to yet-to-open affordable housing projects in the City of Riverside. This leaves them in CVAG's program while the projects are completed, and ultimately is impacting the quarterly successes.

CV Housing First Clients – By the Numbers through September 30, 2023

CV 200 as of 9/30/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Clients housed in Crisis Stabilization Units (CSH)	25	36	21		82
Clients being helped through Rapid Resolution (RR)	0	0	0		0

Clients returned to the street (failures)	7	9	9		25
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Clients moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	18	14	7		39
Clients moved into permanent housing through RR (successes)	0	0	0		0
Clients moved into permanent housing through Outreach (successes)*	6	1	0		7
TOTAL HOUSED FROM LIST OF 200	24	15	7		46

NON-CV 200 as of 9/30/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Households Housed in CSH Units	0	0	1		1
Households being helped through RR	0	0	0		0

Households returned to the street (failures)	0	0	1		1
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Households moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	0	0	0		0
Clients moved into permanent housing through Outreach (successes)*	0	1	0		1
Households moved into permanent housing from RR (successes)	0	0	0		0
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS HOUSED	0	0	0		0
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS HOUSED	0	1	0		1

The data is divided by CV 200 clients – the by-name list of chronically homeless individuals that CVAG maintains in partnership with law enforcement and code enforcement – and non-CV 200 clients. This year, CVAG staff set an internal goal of permanently housing 65 of the CV 200 clients. This would be higher than last year's total of 54 individuals but not quite as high as the 2021 results of housing 75 CV 200 clients. The total number of clients housed or returning to the streets is less than the total helped each quarter, as the grand total includes clients who may remain in their units at the end of the quarter.

CVAG continues to refine its data metrics in order to be transparent about how many and how quickly individuals are housed.

The chart also includes a row to account for CV 200 and non-CV 200 clients who are being permanently housed by the CV Housing First program via outreach efforts, and not case management based in the crisis stabilization units. This group may include CV 200 clients who timed out of a CVAG unit but still were open to outreach services, and were eventually housed by the team. The other group being non-CV 200 clients who engaged with the Housing First outreach team and were provided resources and possibly housed.

CVAG staff also tracks how long individuals are staying in the program before being housed or returning to the street. The goal is to exit clients within 90 days to permanent housing solutions. Over the past two years, it was not uncommon for the length of stay to exceed 100 days. For the third quarter, the CV 200 clients who successfully exited the program into permanent housing stayed in a crisis stabilization unit on average for **90 days**. Those CV 200 clients who exited the program unsuccessfully stayed on average **37 days**.

This quarter's length of stay is a slight increase over the first two quarters; however, the overall trend is that the length of stay is shortening and staying under CVAG's 90-day goal. Part of this decrease can be attributed to the work CV Housing First staff does during outreach as they prepare clients for transitioning to living in one of CVAG's residential units, hotel rooms or apartments. The Housing First outreach team has a focus on addressing the lack of vital documentation for the CV 200 clients prior to entry, including obtaining their birth certificates and identification cards that are needed to secure a housing voucher. A separate staff report in this agenda packet highlights the outreach being coordinated through the mobile access center. The CV Housing First team is also working to serve CV 200 clients by coordinating with other outreach efforts, including the newer City-led efforts in both Palm Springs and Palm Desert.

Of the seven permanent housing resolutions in the third quarter, the breakdown of clients' Exit Destination is as follows:

- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Permanent Supportive Housing) – 1
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Low Income Senior Housing) – 1
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Voucher for Veterans housing) – 1
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Project-Based Vouchers) – 4

Continuation of Voucher Availability for the Coachella Valley

CVAG staff is encountering an ongoing issue with securing vouchers, which is also leading to a recommendation detailed in a separate staff report to amend CVAG's legislative platform. As noted above, HomeConnect has notified CVAG that several of the CV 200 clients were referred to a few different project-based properties, but only in the area around the City of Riverside. These properties are expected to officially open sometime by the end of this year, and a third is opening in early 2024. Should these open, it would create an uptick in the fourth quarter data. If they lag, it would not be reflected until next year. Project delays are not uncommon: Last summer, St. Michael's in the City of Riverside had an original opening around October 2022. Minor setbacks the property pushed back its opening a few times, with five CV 200 clients having to wait until January 2023 for their move into the complex.

CVAG staff continues to track the expansion of more project-based voucher opportunities in the Coachella Valley. They include the Monarch apartments opening in Palm Springs and Hadley Villas in La Quinta, which has started accepting housing vouchers.

Fiscal Analysis: The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and CV 200 program, is incorporated into the CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities and Riverside County grants.

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee November 15, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Annual Review of CVAG's Legislative Platform

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs (emartinez@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Endorse a position that advocates for additional vouchers as part of the adoption of CVAG's 2023-24 Federal and State Legislative Platform

Background: CVAG's Federal and State Legislative Platform is a key document that helps to guide advocacy work in Washington and Sacramento. As part of a legislative strategy, the legislative platform is integral to engaging and advocating on key issues as it provides direction on issue areas of importance to CVAG. Because this document outlines key positions on issue areas both at the state and federal level, staff and advocacy teams are able to monitor and track priority issues for CVAG and expedite engagement. This allows both staff and lobbyists to advance work on issues with adopted positions without having to wait for the next committee meeting to seek approval or guidance.

The legislative platform does not include any major changes from 2023. This is due to the alignment of the platform with the state's legislative cycle. The State is entering its second year of the two-year session and many of the issues in the first year will carry over into the second year.

The legislative platform is divided into various issues areas, including transportation, energy and environment, homeless and affordable housing and public safety. The platform was presented to CVAG's Public Safety and the Energy & Sustainability Committees this month as informational items as no changes were recommended for those sections.

For the Homelessness Committee, staff is seeking feedback pertaining to the homeless and affordable housing safety section. Specifically, CVAG staff is seeking feedback from about whether to strengthen CVAG's position on advocating for additional vouchers for homeless clients. As noted in the quarterly report, the lack of available vouchers combined with the limited affordable housing units is impacting the success of CVAG's CV Housing First program. CVAG works with Riverside County's HomeConnect, the county's coordinated response program, to connect voucher-approved clients with housing. In both the third quarter and now in the current, fourth quarter, CVAG staff is seeing CV 200 clients secure vouchers – but to yet-to-open affordable housing projects in the City of Riverside. This leaves them in CVAG's program while the projects are completed, and ultimately is impacting the quarterly successes.

In reviewing the platform, staff recognized there was no specific reference to vouchers as part of the efforts to address homelessness. Staff is specifically seeking feedback from the Homelessness Committee to amend the platform to support efforts related to securing additional

vouchers for homeless clients – which is consistent with the approach that the County of Riverside takes on the issue.

Ultimately, this process will help ensure the platform is comprehensive and reviewed before it is considered by the Executive Committee for adoption on Dec. 4, 2023. To ensure adequate coverage and informed engagement, CVAG's advocacy strategy will be to continue to coordinate with all of CVAG's member jurisdictions, Riverside County Transportation Commission, Southern California Association of Governments and the County of Riverside.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this presentation. Advocacy efforts are covered under an existing contract with the Politico Group in Sacramento.

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

2023-24 Federal and
State Legislative
Platform



Coachella Valley Association of Governments

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) is a council of governments in the Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County that funds and delivers transportation projects, operates regional programs and coordinates government services in order to improve and address issues of regional significance. CVAG's activities include, but are not limited to, improving the regional transportation system, providing services to the chronically homeless and promoting the use of green energy and sustainability. CVAG's membership includes 10 cities, the County of Riverside and four Indian tribes. As an organization committed to addressing issues of common interest and concern of its member agencies, CVAG strives to implement regional programs and policies that advance a better quality of life and balanced growth for residents, businesses and tourists of Central and Eastern Riverside County.

The legislative platform will guide the tracking and analysis of priority legislative, budget, regulatory, and administrative issues at the federal and state levels. It will assist in providing staff and lobbyists guidance on policy-related matters that may impact the operation and implementation of the various programs and services offered by CVAG. This document will facilitate the development of a federal and state strategy and focused action plan to address the needs and priorities of CVAG and its member jurisdictions.

**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla
Indians**

City of Blythe

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

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

County of Riverside

**Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla
Indians**

**Twenty-Nine Palms Band of
Mission Indians**

CVAG

**73-710 Fred Waring Drive
Suite 200**

Palm Desert, CA 92260

Tel: 760-346-1127

www.cvag.org

Key Categories



TRANSPORTATION

Reliable, sustainable and safe multimodal transportation infrastructure is a top priority for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments as it strives to support the transportation needs of current and future residents and visitors.



ENERGY

Supporting and securing funding for clean energy and energy efficiency initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, improve air quality, and increase climate resiliency for our member agencies and our residents.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Conservation of the Coachella Valley's natural resources and maintaining and growing our rich and abundant wildlife is a focus of CVAG and our members.



BROADBAND

Deployment of middle-mile infrastructure that can facilitate a high-speed last-mile broadband network for beneficial use among CVAG's residents, businesses, and members is key to the success and vitality of CVAG and the communities it serves.



HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Addressing the dual challenges of homelessness and development of affordable housing through regional solutions is critical to ensuring a high quality of life in the Coachella Valley.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Maintaining a safe and secure community, free of crime, while ensuring clean and engaging public spaces, is essential to maintaining vibrant and growing business and residential communities.

FEDERAL

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

- Support regional efforts for the Coachella Valley-San Geronimo Pass Rail Corridor Service (CV Rail), including funding opportunities to advance the preferred alternative, to support alternate transportation modes and better connect desert communities and attractions with Los Angeles, Orange County and the Inland Empire.
- Support actions by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Federal Railroad Administration and the California Department of Transportation that advance CV Rail.
- Support advocacy efforts by the Facilitate Equitable Deals Task Force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Support outside funding for CVAG's priority projects as outlined in the Transportation Project Prioritization Study (TPPS), including interchanges along the Interstate 10 corridor and State Highway Route 86, in order to reduce the burden on regional and local funds.
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts that increase funding for the expansion and improvement of regional arterial projects that improve public safety, encourage economic development, ease traffic congestion, and reduce air quality and environmental impacts.
- Support efforts by Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to reduce congestion and increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.
- Support Congressionally directed spending requests for transportation projects in the Coachella Valley and in eastern Riverside County.
- Support increased funding for Tribal nations in the Coachella Valley for implementation of regional transportation projects.
- Support efforts that expand public transportation opportunities in the City of Blythe, including increased transit.
- Support National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reform to expedite and streamline environmental review and project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support efforts that dedicate funding for goods movements projects, including grade separation projects, in eastern Riverside County.
- Oppose efforts that decrease local control and decision-making regarding local revenue sources, including, but not limited to, Measure A sales tax revenue and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF).
- Oppose efforts that would divert revenue derived from transportation sources to non-transportation related projects or activities.

- Oppose efforts to eliminate or decrease use of state and local transportation funds for capacity enhancement projects and monitor one-size-fits-all approaches regarding their use.
- Monitor implementation of programs in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021 Infrastructure Bill) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA 2022), such as the Bridge Investment Program, and support funding for existing programs such as the Highway Bridge Program and the Transportation Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program.
- Monitor regulatory and legislative changes to the Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program and oppose efforts that impose additional requirements on, or decrease funding for, CVAG or its member agencies.
- Monitor efforts that would make changes to the Clean Air Act and associated transportation programs to meet nonattainment or maintenance requirements.
- Monitor potential replacement mechanisms for the federal gasoline excise tax.

Active Transportation

- Support policies and programs that provide funds for regional projects identified in CVAG's Active Transportation Plan.
- Advocate for increased federal funding to the state's Active Transportation Program, including opportunities to augment the program through the Reconnecting Communities and the Neighborhood Access and Equity grant programs.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory activity related to new mobility devices, such as scooters and automated vehicles, to ensure adequate safety compatibility with active transportation systems.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Identify and pursue funding opportunities that support, expand or leverage intelligent transportation systems, including CVAG's synchronization (CV Sync) traffic signal program.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory changes to funding sources for intelligent transportation systems, including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program, and oppose efforts to decrease funding for non-attainment areas.

Energy and Environment

- Support legislation and programs that invest in projects that achieve environmental benefits, including improved air and water quality, water and energy conservation, and urban greening initiatives in the region.
- Support programs that fund implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and that support habitat restoration in the Coachella Valley.
- Support Salton Sea Authority efforts related to Salton Sea projects and legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support legislation that facilitates environmentally sensitive renewable energy development at the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area, including lithium extraction.
- Support legislation that provides funding for electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives for early adoption of electric vehicles.
- Monitor federal legislative, regulatory, and administrative activities that may impact the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions that may impact Property Assessed Clean Energy programs.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization and green building programs.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities for wildlife crossing structures to increase habitat connectivity and decrease wildlife-vehicle collisions in areas where populations are fragmented by highways and interstates.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

Broadband

- Support and advocate for funding for open access middle-mile infrastructure to facilitate last-mile connections and leverage existing networks and construction projects to build networks, when possible.
- Support efforts and funding that prioritize connectivity to unserved and underserved communities and community anchor institutions.
- Support and identify programs that support middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure and that leverage dig-once opportunities such as CVAG's CV Sync project.
- Monitor actions by the Federal Communications Commission related to broadband and implementation of the broadband investments as authorized in the 2021 infrastructure Bill.

Homeless and Affordable Housing

- Identify and advocate for opportunities for CVAG's member agencies to secure funding that assists in building affordable housing and increasing housing opportunities for low-, moderate-, and workforce housing.
- Monitor and support programs and funding for CVAG's CV Housing First program and regional solutions to addressing homelessness.
- Support and advocate for increase funding for vouchers to increase access to safe and affordable housing in the Coachella Valley and Riverside County, and eliminate barriers to effectively serve the homeless population through CVAG's Housing First program.

Public Safety

- Identify, monitor and support legislation that provides funding for operations, maintenance, and updates to early earthquake warning systems.
- Identify funding opportunities for member jurisdictions to mitigate and reduce the incidents of green waste fires.
- Monitor legislation and administrative actions related to race, diversity and inclusion policies as it pertains to law enforcement.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities that will assist in the reduction of the spread of COVID-19 and other public health and safety concerns, to assist public entities in their response.

STATE

Fighting for Fairness and Funding

- Support legislative efforts that improve funding opportunities for the Coachella Valley in the state's Cap-and-Trade program and oppose policies that disproportionately disadvantage the CVAG region to compete for funding.
- Support policies that allow for a diverse set of social equity metric measuring tools to qualify and compete for Cap-and-Trade funded programs including, but not limited to, household income and the AB 1550 low-income definition and oppose efforts that would limit use to, or increase reliance on, the CalEnviroScreen in grant programs.
- Support legislative and regulatory changes to the Transformative Climate Communities program to allow eligible and qualifying planning grant recipients to also be eligible and qualify to apply for implementation grants.
- Support policy changes to funding programs that use the CalEnviroScreen tool that would broaden eligible competitive areas and that better reflect the diversity in the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose legislative and regulatory actions that utilize CalEnviroScreen and high-housing density criteria, which favor large urban centers, to determine allocation of state grant funds and would decrease funding competitiveness for areas such as the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose program guidelines that use transit oriented development standards, such as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, that disproportionately favor large urban centers and do not reflect the reality of growth and development in the Coachella Valley, therefore decreasing funding opportunities for the CVAG region.
- Advocate for policy changes that allow for regional variances related to transit quality, transit frequency and density related to housing oriented development, to allow the CVAG region better compete for funding in the state's Cap-and-Trade program.

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

- Support regional efforts to increase passenger rail service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley, including funding opportunities and actions by the Facilitate Equitable Deals task force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Support legislation that increases funding opportunities for bridges, interchanges and regional arterials in the Coachella Valley.
- Support efforts by the California Department of Transportation, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to implement congestion projects identified in the Inland Empire

Multimodal Corridor Plan that increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.

- Support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform to expedite and streamline project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support and advocate for actions that increase transportation resources in the City of Blythe and local Tribal Nations, to address historic underinvestment and improve mobility, economic development opportunities and quality of life.
- Monitor the state's road charge pilot program and other potential replacement mechanisms for the state gasoline excise tax.
- Monitor legislative changes to Senate Bill 1 (Statutes 2017); oppose efforts to divert funding to non-transportation related uses, such as housing, or otherwise qualifying eligibility of SB 1 funds on non-transportation related goals and objectives.
- Monitor implementation of the California Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) and opposed policies that decrease funding opportunities for the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose legislative changes that create or strengthen a nexus between the availability of transportation funding and local jurisdictions' ability to meet their requirements under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers.
- Oppose legislative or regulatory policies that decrease local decision-making authority regarding use of local funds for priority transportation projects.
- Monitor legislation that would increase voter approval thresholds for the creation, extension, or increase of local transportation tax measures and support efforts to establish a sub-regional funding mechanisms to advance local priority projects.

Active Transportation

- Support increased funding for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) to address the backlog of applications and increase the program's funding capacity.
- Support increased investment in active transportation infrastructure as a component of other state-funded transportation programs that increase access and opportunities for walking, biking, and complete streets that connect the multimodal transportation system.
- Support policies and programs that promote increased use of active transportation infrastructure and systems.
- Support efforts that streamline project delivery, build local capacity such as additional technical assistance, and provide increased flexibility to innovate and strategically invest funds to meet local needs.

- Oppose legislative, regulatory, and administrative efforts to score ATP applications on non-transportation related criteria, such as housing-related policies, CalEnviroScreen and policies which would hinder low density areas like the Coachella Valley and the City of Blythe.
- Oppose changes to the ATP that would decrease CVAG's competitiveness, such as the elimination of leveraged funding and other categories that are advantageous to CVAG and its members jurisdictions.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Support programs that leverage technology to improve mobility, increase goods movement efficiency, reduce emissions and help to mitigate environmental impacts.
- Identify state programs and funding that supplement CVAG's CV Sync project.
- Monitor legislation that incorporates innovative technologies into the state transportation system, such as zero or near-zero emission vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and small electric mobility devices that improve transportation accessibility, efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.

Energy and Environment

- Support legislative and regulatory efforts to increase the flexibility of funding programs from the California Air Resources Board's Cap-and-Trade Program to ensure the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys get their fair share, including taking into account regional variances related to growth, housing, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies.
- Support increased investments of the state GHG reduction funds toward transportation projects to reduce transportation related GHG emissions.
- Support investments in Cap-and-Trade funded programs, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, Single-Family Energy Efficiency, and Low-income Weatherization programs.
- Advocate for changes in the CalEnviroScreen mapping tool that reflect the socio-economic realities of the diverse communities in the Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valleys, or the use of alternative tools such as household income.
- Support policies that ensure criteria for defining disadvantaged communities and environmental justice areas accurately represent eastern Riverside County, including those that mirror AB 1550 community mapping, in order to ensure the region can compete for funding opportunities.
- Support policies, programs, and funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and increased use of electric vehicles in the region.
- Support efforts that provide necessary resources for implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan as well as resources for desert communities to

prepare and adapt to changing climate and natural disasters, such as the Climate Resiliency programs.

- Support funding for programs that support local planning and response measures to extreme heat events, including nature-based solutions, to protect critical infrastructure, habitat and public health and safety.
- Support legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea to limit regional impacts to air quality, wildlife habitat, and health of communities, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support efforts at the Salton Sea that facilitate economic development, such as lithium extraction.
- Monitor actions related to the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between Imperial Irrigation District and the Coachella Valley Water District and support Coachella Valley Energy Commission efforts to achieve a permanent service option and governance structure between Coachella Valley stakeholders and IID post-2033.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization, and green building programs.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts related to vehicle electrification and building decarbonization that would add new requirements to local governments, including Title 24 building standards.
- Monitor implementation of the state's climate resiliency efforts and efforts related to environmental justice communities and AB 617 (Statutes of 2017) emission reduction funding programs.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

Broadband

- Support funding and implementation of the Coachella Valley's middle-mile broadband project and the programs to assist with last-mile connections that bridge the digital divide in the Coachella Valley.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions related to SB 156 (Statutes of 2021) and related actions by the California Department of Technology and the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy.
- Monitor the California Middle-Mile Advisory Committee and its recommendations regarding implementation of middle-mile infrastructure.

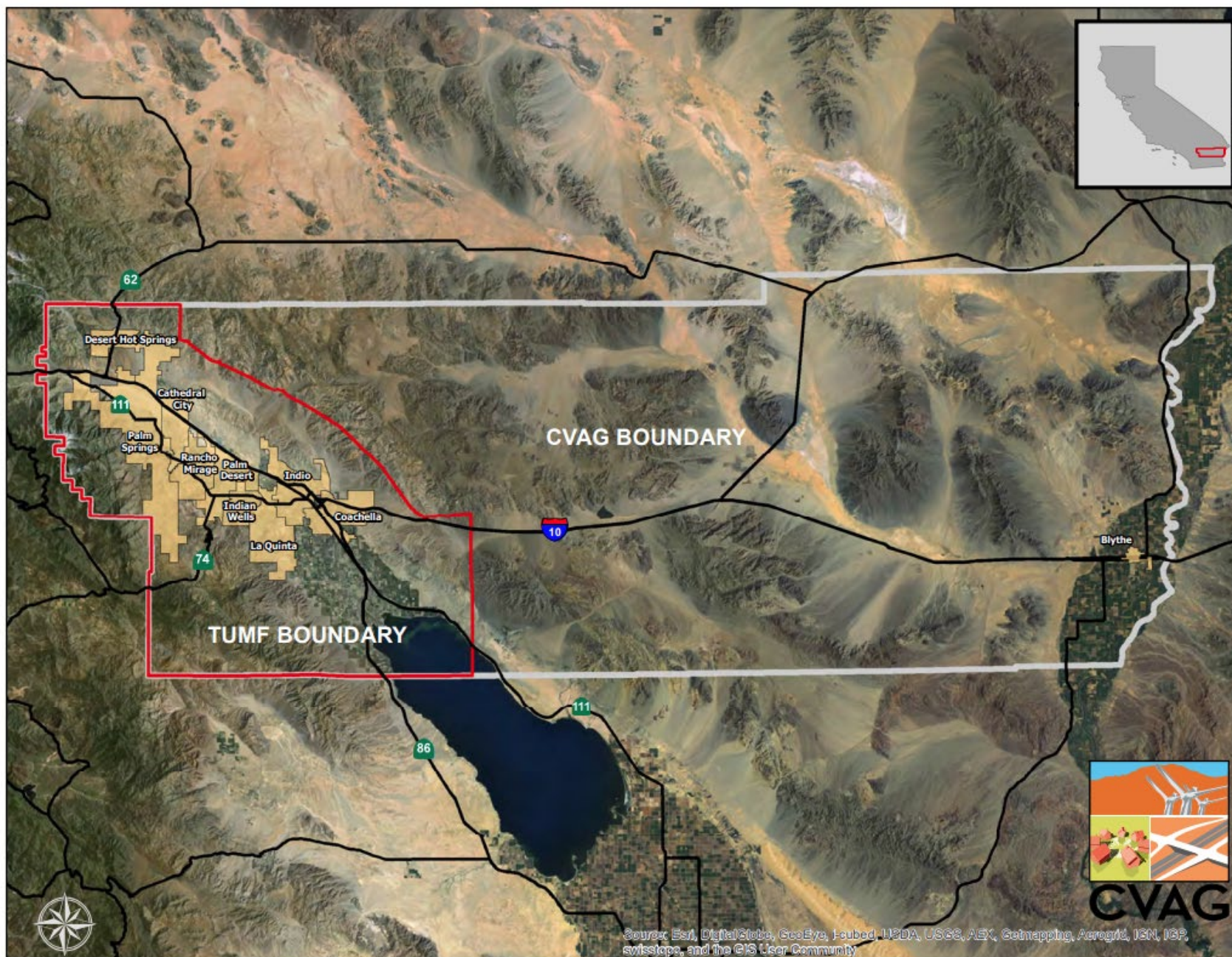
- Monitor the California Public Utilities Commissions proceedings related to broadband infrastructure implementation, such as Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001 and Rulemaking proceeding, R.20-08-021.

Homelessness and Affordable Housing

- Support increased investment in, and creation of, programs that assist local governments, counties and regional collaborations to address the challenges associated with homelessness.
- Support legislative efforts that allow for sustainable financing options, as outlined in CVAG's Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) and member jurisdictions' Local Early Action Plans (LEAP), in order to address housing shortages and provide affordable housing options.
- Support efforts by Lift to Rise to establish the Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund to increase housing production in the Coachella Valley and create homeownership opportunities for low- and very-low income families, permanent supportive housing for the homeless and address unpermitted mobilehome park issues.
- Support CEQA reform to streamline the delivery of housing projects.
- Monitor the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and advocate for increased flexibility and changes that ensure a greater share of funding is available to areas that don't have Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) and thereby more accurately account for unique community characteristics and growth patterns in the Coachella Valley.
- Support the extension of state-funded solutions, including Project RoomKey and Project HomeKey, with an emphasis on ensuring those investments are used in the Coachella Valley.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that require unsheltered individuals to accept housing solutions and treatment solutions.
- Support efforts to establish homeless courts that can help local jurisdictions provide additional solutions and services for homeless individuals.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that increase the available housing units and/or require unsheltered individuals to accept housing solutions and treatment solutions so long as there are adequate housing units available.
- Support and advocate for increase funding for vouchers to increase access to safe and affordable housing in the Coachella Valley and Riverside County, and eliminate barriers to effectively serve the homeless population through CVAG's Housing First program.

Public Safety

- Support programs and policies that provide funding for the CVAG region to obtain, enhance, operate, maintain and update early earthquake warning systems.
- Monitor legislation and executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health and safety emergencies and support programs that provide assistance to negatively impacted communities in the Coachella Valley.
- Monitor legislation impacting race, diversity, and inclusion policies as it pertains to local law enforcement.



ITEM 7C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee November 15, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: **Presentation: Engaging the CV 200 through CVAG's Mobile Access Center**

Contact: Ivan Tenorio, Management Analyst (itenorio@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Over the coming months, CVAG staff will be providing the Homelessness Committee with staff reports and presentations that provide insights on various aspects of CVAG's Housing First operations and the efforts to permanently house the CV 200 clients. With this staff report, CVAG staff is highlighting the mobile access center (or MAC).

CVAG's Executive Committee authorized the mobile access center in 2020 shortly after the decision was made to bring the Housing First program in-house. CVAG sought, and received, \$250,000 in Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) grant funding to launch the program. HHAP is a state-funded, block grant program administered by the Riverside County Continuum of Care to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges throughout California. The Riverside County Continuum of Care in 2020 received an HHAP allocation of \$3.3 million to advance the Continuum of Care's established funding principles. These included investing in programs addressing significant service gaps by targeting high need, or hard-to-serve geographic or special subpopulations; investing in solutions to address the unique needs of homeless individuals living in encampments; and investing in programs emphasizing the expansion of system coordination, outreach, navigation, and supportive services.

The mobile access center brings CVAG's outreach, intake, and referrals services to CV 200 clients on the streets. It is a repurposed vehicle that was originally granted to CVAG by South Coast Air Quality Management District to transport homeless individuals to and from the emergency overnight shelter at Roy's Desert Resource Center using clean air technology. Upon the closure of Roy's, CVAG made the vehicle available for use by Path of Life as part of its agreement with CVAG to operate CV Housing First. In early 2019, Path of Life returned the vehicle to CVAG, where it was sitting in storage.

By bringing the access center into the field, CVAG staff can address CV 200 and other homeless individuals who express interest in services but drop out during the period between outreach and intake into a crisis stabilization center. The mobile access center is also used in partnership with other organizations' outreach services, including Jewish Family Services' outreach efforts in Palm Springs each Friday. CVAG staff routinely notify local law enforcement about the mobile access center's outreach schedule.

Since its launch, CVAG staff have reached more than 900 unduplicated individuals through the mobile access center. Because the CV Housing First program is focused on the chronically homeless and CV 200, staff have used the mobile access center as a way to identify future C

V 200 individuals or clients who should be considered by law enforcement and code enforcement for the list.

CVAG staff will provide an overview of the mobile access center operations at the November meeting, and provide Committee members with tours of the vehicle after the meeting adjourns.

Fiscal Analysis: CVAG's HHAP grant was for \$250,000 for the original retrofit as well as staffing and operational costs. The grant was amended to extend the terms until 2025. About \$32,800 in funding remains.


Additional costs related to operating the mobile access center, including staffing, are included as part of the general CV Housing First budget.



ITEM 8A

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2023-2024

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TENDED	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians			○										0 out of 1	
City of Blythe			○										0 out of 1	
City of Cathedral City			●										1 out of 1	
City of Coachella			●										1 out of 1	
Desert Healthcare District			●										1 out of 1	
City of Desert Hot Springs			●										1 out of 1	
City of Indian Wells			●										1 out of 1	
City of Indio			●										1 out of 1	
City of La Quinta			●										1 out of 1	
City of Palm Desert			●										1 out of 1	
City of Palm Springs			○										0 out of 1	
City of Rancho Mirage			●										1 out of 1	
County of Riverside			●										1 out of 1	
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians			●										1 out of 1	
Total Attendance Per Meeting			11											

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TENDED	
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition			○										0 out of 1	
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission			○										0 out of 1	
HomeAid Inland Empire			○										0 out of 1	
Martha's Village and Kitchen			○										0 out of 1	
The Salvation Army (vacant)			○										0 out of 1	
Shelter From the Storm			●										1 out of 1	
Total Attendance Per Meeting														

No Meeting 
 Vacant *

Present 
 Absent 

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HOMELESS & BUS PASS PROGRAM
UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

REVENUES

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 1,051,674
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>1,051,674</u>

EXPENDITURES

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	209,802
BUILDING LEASE MAINTENANCE/RENT	91,387
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,772
MISC SUNDRIES/HOUSING ESSENTIALS	1,333
RAPID RESOLUTIONS	-
LEGAL SERVICES	760
PROJECT COSTS/OTHER EXPENSES	51,647
ELECTRIC (UTILITIES)	26,504
OFFICE SUPPLIES	724
LOCAL MEETINGS/STAFF MILEAGE	7,896
MOBILE ACCESS CENTER (MAC)	756
ADVERTISING	-

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>394,580</u>
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NET INCOME (DEFICIT)	<u>657,093</u>
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FUND BALANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	<u>2,643,892</u>
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PRELIMINARY FUND BALANCE AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2023	<u>\$ 3,300,985</u>
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