

**HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE  
PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.**



*Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 and the findings made by CVAG, this meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.*

## **HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89379660415?pwd=b0kzbisxTmJoaS92ZHV3VlY1RU5CUT09>

Password: 855800

**One Tap Mobile:** +16699009128,,89379660415#

**Dial In:** +1 669 900 9128

**Webinar ID:** 893 7966 0415

**Password:** 855800

***This will provide listening access and ability to address the  
Homelessness Committee when called upon.***

**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](mailto: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**

**P4**

3. **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.

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

A. **Grand Opening of Veterans Village in Cathedral City**

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the September 21, 2022 Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes**

**P5**

B. **Receive and file the quarterly report for the CV Housing First program, representing clients served in the third quarter of 2022**

**P9**

6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. **REAP 2.0 Housing Infill Project Scoping – Peter Satin**

**P12**

**Recommendation:** Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to apply for the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 program for a project that assess public right of way availability for affordable housing and a micro-housing pilot project

B. **Federal and State Legislative Advocacy for 2023 – Emmanuel Martinez**

**P14**

**Recommendation:** Review the homeless and affordable housing section of the draft 2023 Federal and State Legislative Platform and provide feedback regarding priorities and positions outlined in the document

C. **Statewide Pause on Funding for Homelessness Services – Erica Felci**

**P29**

**Recommendation:** Information

7. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

**P32**

- B. Ex Officio Updates
- C. Unaudited Financial Statement for CV Housing First Program through September 2022 [P33](#)
- D. SB 535 and California Climate Investments - Tribal Designation [P34](#)
- E. Launch of Countywide “Faces of Fentanyl” Campaign [P37](#)

8. **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

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

**ITEM 2A**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Homelessness Committee  
Member Roster  
2022- 2023**



<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez
Desert Healthcare District	Director Carole Rogers, RN
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Jan Pye
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Rob Bernheimer
City of Indio	Mayor Waymond Fermon – <b><u>Vice Chair</u></b>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña – <b><u>Chair</u></b>
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Sabby Jonathan
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Christy Holstege
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Charles Townsend
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
<b>Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members</b>	
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	
<b>Additional Support Staff</b>	
Carrie Harmon, Assistant Director Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions	Dr. Conrado Bàrzaga, 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

<b>CVAG Staff</b>
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director
Ivan Tenorio, Management Analyst

Updated: 9/21/2022

## ITEM 5A

### Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes September 21, 2022



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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The September 21, 2022 meeting was called to order by Homelessness Committee Vice Chair John Peña, City of La Quinta, at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom videoconference, pursuant to AB 361 and the guidelines for virtual public meetings.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

#### **Members Present**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

City of Cathedral City

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 Palm Springs

City of Rancho Mirage

Riverside County – District 4

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III (*arrived during Item 4*)

Councilmember Mark Carnevale

Director Carole Rogers, RN (*arrived during Item 4*)

Councilmember Jan Pye

Councilmember Rob Bernheimer

Councilmember Elaine Holmes

Councilmember John Peña, Vice Chair

Mayor Pro Tem Sabby Jonathan

Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner

Mayor Charles Townsend

Greg Rodriguez, Housing & Workforce Solutions

#### **Ex-Officio Members Present**

Shelter from the Storm

Martha's Village and Kitchen

Angelina Coe

Linda Barrack

#### **Members and Ex-Officios Not Present**

City of Blythe

City of Coachella

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez

Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez

Pedro S.G. Rodriguez

Darla Burkett

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

### 4. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci highlighted the recent grant announcement for the Palm Springs Navigation Center, which was detailed as an informational agenda item.

Councilmember Mark Carnevale thanked Greg Rodriguez, Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions, for working with Cathedral City police to house a homeless individual in Veterans Village.

Mayor Pro Tem Sabby Jonathan announced recent actions by the Continuum of Care's Board of Governance. Mr. Rodriguez noted the Board's recent election resulted in additional Coachella Valley representation.

Councilmember Carnevale also noted he may have to leave early.

## **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PYE TO:**

- A. Approve the June 15, 2022 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 2022**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 9 AYES, 2 ABSTENTIONS AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember John Preckwinkle III</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Mark Carnevale</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Director Carole Rogers</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Jan Pye</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Rob Bernheimer</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
<b>Councilmember John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Sabby Jonathan</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
<b>Mayor Charles Townsend</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>County staff Greg Rodriguez</b>	<b>AYE</b>

## **6. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- A. Update on the Revenue Stream Feasibility Study for Affordable Housing and Associated Transportation Needs – Peter Satin**

Regional Planner Peter Satin provided the staff report and introduced Joe Dieguez of Kosmont Co. and Stevie Espinoza of Arellano Associates, who provided an update on the ongoing REAP study. Brief member discussion ensued.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

**B. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Program Overview and Next Steps – Peter Satin**

Mr. Satin previewed the second round of REAP funding and upcoming steps for CVAG's consideration. Member discussion ensued, with members expressing frustration on additional planning funding instead of funding that could be used to build or purchase additional housing units.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

**C. Update on the State's Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court – Greg Rodriguez, Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions**

Mr. Rodriguez provided the staff report and next steps to implement the CARE Court in Riverside County. Member discussion ensued.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

**D. Election of Homelessness Committee Officers – Tom Kirk**

Assistant Executive Director Erica Felci provided a brief staff report and opened the floor for nominations. Mayor Pro Tem Jonathan, seconded by Councilmember Rob Bernheimer, motioned to elect Vice Chair Peña for Chair. Councilmember Elaine Holmes, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, nominated Indio Mayor Waymond Fermon as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made, and the original motion amended to reflect both offices.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BERNHEIMER TO ELECT VICE CHAIR JOHN PEÑA AS HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE CHAIR AND INDIO MAYOR WAYMOND FERMON AS HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/23**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Councilmember John Preckwinkle III	AYE
Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez	ABSENT
Director Carole Rogers	AYE
Councilmember Jan Pye	AYE
Councilmember Rob Bernheimer	AYE
Councilmember Elaine Holmes	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Sabby Jonathan	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Grace Garner	AYE
Mayor Charles Townsend	AYE
County staff Greg Rodriguez	AYE

**7. INFORMATION – The following items were provided for the Committee's information.**

**A. Attendance Record**

*Homelessness Committee  
Minutes – September 21, 2022*

**B. Ex-Officio Update**

**C. Unaudited Financial Statement for CV Housing First Program through June 2022**

**D. Feedback from Members on the Continued Use of Virtual Meetings**

**E. Member jurisdictions' contributions to CV Housing First**

**F. Update on the Navigation Center in the City of Palm Springs**

There were no ex-officio updates.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Homelessness Committee** will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chair Peña adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erica Felcí*

CVAG Assistant Executive Director



**ITEM 5B**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Homelessness Committee  
November 16, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** CV Housing First: Third Quarter Report for 2022

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director ([efelci@cvaq.org](mailto:efelci@cvaq.org)) and Ivan Tenorio, Management Analyst ([itenorio@cvaq.org](mailto:itenorio@cvaq.org))

**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** CVAG is now in its second year of operating the CV Housing First program with staff. The program is focused on the CV200, 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. CVAG staff will continue to provide quarterly reports as it provides services in 2022.

**CV Housing First Clients – By the Numbers through September 30, 2022**

<b>CV200 as of 7/1/2022</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Clients housed in Crisis Stabilization Units (CSH)	33	26	30		89
Clients being helped through Rapid Resolution (RR)	0	1	1		2

Clients returned to the street (failures)	5	13	7		25
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Clients moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	15	12	10		37
Clients moved into permanent housing through RR (successes)	0	1	1		2
<b>TOTAL HOUSED FROM LIST OF 200</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>39</b>

<b>NON CV200 as of 7/1/2022</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Households Housed in CSH Units	1	4	1		6
Households being helped through RR	6	5	3		14

Households returned to the street (failures)	0	3	1		4
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Households moved into permanent housing from CSH (successes)	1	1	0		2
Households moved into permanent housing from RR (successes)	6	5	3		14
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS HOUSED</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS HOUSED</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>16</b>

CVAG staff continues to track program metrics, such as the length of stay in the units. For the third quarter, the CV200 clients who successfully exited the program into permanent housing stayed in a crisis stabilization unit for **102 days**. Those CV200 clients who exited the program unsuccessfully stayed **96 days**.

As noted in previous reports, CVAG staff also incorporated additional program metrics to track permanent housing resolutions. Knowing the type of housing where clients resolve will help with identifying future opportunities and options for housing, while also highlighting where we face challenges in finding placement for clients. Of the 11 permanent housing resolutions in the third quarter, the breakdown of clients' Exit Destination is as follows:

- Family/Friends – 5
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) – 3
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Low Income Senior Housing) – 0
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (VASH Voucher) – 0
- Rental With Ongoing Subsidy (Housing Choice Voucher) – 1
- Rental with No Ongoing Subsidy - 0
- Rapid Rehousing - 0
- Shared Housing – 1
- Long-term care facility or nursing home – 1

CVAG staff would note that a number of factors have impacted the program in recent months, including the availability of vouchers and soaring rent costs that exceed voucher limits. But the biggest hurdle remains the availability of affordable housing units and permanent housing solutions. CVAG staff is assessing how to best address these as it refines the program for 2023.

One area where the program has benefitted is with partnerships, such as the collaboration with Inland County Legal Services (ICLS) to provide services to reduce homelessness and assist CV200 clients with vital documents that aid in obtaining permanent housing. Since launching this partnership earlier this year, ICLS has provided the following services to CVAG clients:

- I.D. Vouchers – 10
- Birth Certificates – 36
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) claims – 4
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claims – 5
- General Relief assistance – 4
- Calfresh/EBT – 3
- Veteran Services - 1

These numbers are tracked from through outreach events and legal clinics that are co-hosted by CVAG.

**Fiscal Analysis:** The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and CV200 program, is incorporated into the CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities, Riverside County, the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation, and grants.

## **ITEM 6A**

# **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee November 16, 2022**



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** REAP 2.0 Housing Infill Project Scoping

**Contact:** Peter Satin, Regional Planner ([psatin@cvag.org](mailto:psatin@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation:** Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to apply for the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 program for a project that assess public right of way availability for affordable housing and a micro-housing pilot project

**Background:** In September 2022, CVAG staff presented to the Homelessness Committee the Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0), a State of California-funded program to accelerate meeting the State's housing and climate goals. REAP 2.0 is being administered regionally by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), which has set aside up to \$541,975 for use by CVAG under its Subregional Partnership 2.0 (SRP 2.0) program. The SRP 2.0 program was designed primarily to expediate implementation of local housing elements, but also included the opportunity to fund projects that would qualify under SCAG's Programs to Accelerate Transformational Housing (PATH) guidelines, which at the time were still under development. During discussion of the item, members of the Homelessness Committee expressed their frustration that none of the REAP funds could be used to actually build housing.

Since then, SCAG has released guidelines for the PATH program, which has a strong focus on project implementation over planning. One of the allocations within the PATH framework is the Housing Infill on Public and Private Lands (HIPP) pilot program, which seeks to scale up development of surplus and excess publicly owned land on specific sites already serviced by existing utilities and transit. Funding can be applied to various stages of pre-development, including, but not limited to, site feasibility, environmental review, and engineering. Priority will be given to projects where the applicant can demonstrate that construction will begin within five years of award.

Through its buildout of CV Link, a multimodal pathway spanning the Coachella Valley, and other projects across the Coachella Valley, CVAG has come to own or otherwise have real property interest in scattered, small parcels along the pathway's alignment. CVAG's member jurisdictions also own right of way. Keeping in mind REAP 2.0's focus on accelerating infill development, affirmatively furthering fair housing, and reducing vehicle miles traveled, and with any eye toward supporting CVAG's CV Housing First program to house some of the Coachella Valley's most at-risk homeless, CVAG staff is proposing to utilize the REAP 2.0 funds to explore using these properties to provide either crisis stabilization units or permanent supportive housing under SCAG's HIPP program. These sites' location and orientation make development difficult in instances where parking would be required, but their proximity to alternative transportation make them ideal locations for an at-risk population that is unlikely to own a car. As a part of the REAP 2.0 project, CVAG would conduct a survey of surplus right of way, particularly land along the CV

Link pathway that is owned either by CVAG directly or a member jurisdiction, to assess its suitability for permanent supportive housing or similar development, including consideration of nearby resources like food and other retail, as well as transit access. The end goal would be the identification of a pilot project for buildout. By investing in a study geared towards identifying an implementable pilot project, CVAG will be able to actually build units – a key priority expressed by members of the Homelessness Committee – as well as assess the idea's feasibility and determine whether this concept may be part of the long-term solution for increasing affordable housing units and/ or addressing homelessness in the Coachella Valley.

CVAG staff is currently coordinating with SCAG to determine whether this project would constitute an eligible activity under the SRP 2.0 program or whether CVAG would apply through one of the separate, competitive pots of funding. Applications for funding under the SRP 2.0 program will be due on February 10, 2023, and require the approval of CVAG's Executive Committee prior to submission. However, CVAG committee meetings, including the Homelessness Committee and Executive Committee meetings, are often cancelled for the month of January. CVAG staff is therefore seeking approval for the project at a conceptual level so that, should the project be deemed eligible under the SRP 2.0 program or another aspect of REAP, CVAG staff will be able to move forward with the application. Staff will provide an informational update on the project's status at a future meeting.

**Fiscal Analysis:** Under the SRP 2.0 program, CVAG has been allocated up to \$541,975 for use on project implementation, project management, and grant administration.

Should the project not qualify for SRP 2.0, CVAG staff would notify SCAG they are turning down the allocation. Any unused SRP 2.0 funds will be shifted to REAP's PATH program and will be earmarked for use within the region for which they were originally intended. This means that, should CVAG pass on any portion of the \$541,975, those funds would then be made competitively available under PATH and prioritized for projects within the CVAG boundary.

## **ITEM 6B**

# **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee November 16, 2022**



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Federal and State Legislative Advocacy for 2023

**Contact:** Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager ([emartinez@cvag.org](mailto:emartinez@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation:** Review the homeless and affordable housing section of the draft 2023 Federal and State Legislative Platform and provide feedback regarding priorities and positions outlined in the document

**Background:** In February 2022, CVAG's Executive Committee adopted its first Federal and State Legislative Platform to help guide CVAG's legislative 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. As such, this allows staff and lobbyist to advance work on issues with adopted positions without having to wait for the next committee meeting to seek approval or guidance. This is an important benefit of adopting a legislative platform, as it allows CVAG to efficiently and effectively engage even when priority issues move rapidly through the legislative process.

The legislative platform is divided into various issues areas, including transportation, energy and environment, homeless and affordable housing and public safety. For the Homelessness Committee, staff is seeking comments and feedback pertaining to the homeless and affordable housing safety section. The platform will be presented to all of CVAG's committees so that each may provide input on the section pertinent to their jurisdiction. Ultimately, this process will help ensure the platform is comprehensive and well vetted before it is considered by the Executive Committee for adoption.

Although changes were made to the various sections of the platform, there were no substantive or technical changes made to the homeless and affordable section of the platform since the 2022 version was adopted. However, staff did include updates transportation section related to advocacy in support of providing public agencies the flexibility to continue to hold public meetings electronically via Zoom teleconferencing, which impacts the Homelessness Committee. As a regional agency that requires participation from various local jurisdictions and the county, public meetings held electronically help to increase access and participation by its members while making it convenient for the public and reducing vehicle miles travelled.

CVAG staff and lobbyists have vetted the draft platform and anticipate the majority of issues in 2022 to carryover to 2023, especially during a biennial state legislative session. 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. To

ensure the platform reflects priorities of the committee, staff seeks comments and feedback regarding the section that outlines positions on homelessness and affordable housing. After review by all committees, staff will present the platform to the Executive Committee for final consideration for adoption, likely at the December 5 meeting.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There are no additional costs to CVAG for updating the 2023 Federal and State Legislative Platform. Advocacy efforts are covered under existing contracts with the Ferguson Group in Washington and the Politico Group in Sacramento, California.

**Attachment:** Draft 2023 Federal and State Legislative Platform



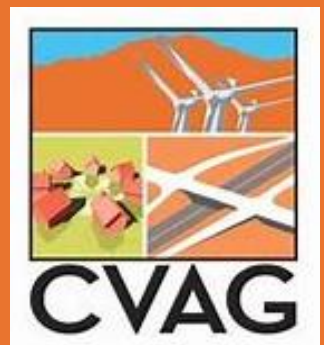
# COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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## 2023 Federal and State Legislative Platform

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Adopted:





# 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](http://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 Geronio 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 and heat mitigation 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.

### **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 efforts, regulation and guidance that allows for virtual public meetings to continue for regional agencies, such as AB 361, to facilitate access to meetings and allow for increased efficiencies and effectiveness in conducting public meetings while also reducing vehicle miles traveled.
- 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 regional efforts by RCTC to clarify their authorities and establish diversified and flexible funding sources such as those created in other counties via AB 1413 that allow 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 per the AB 1550 designation.
- 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**

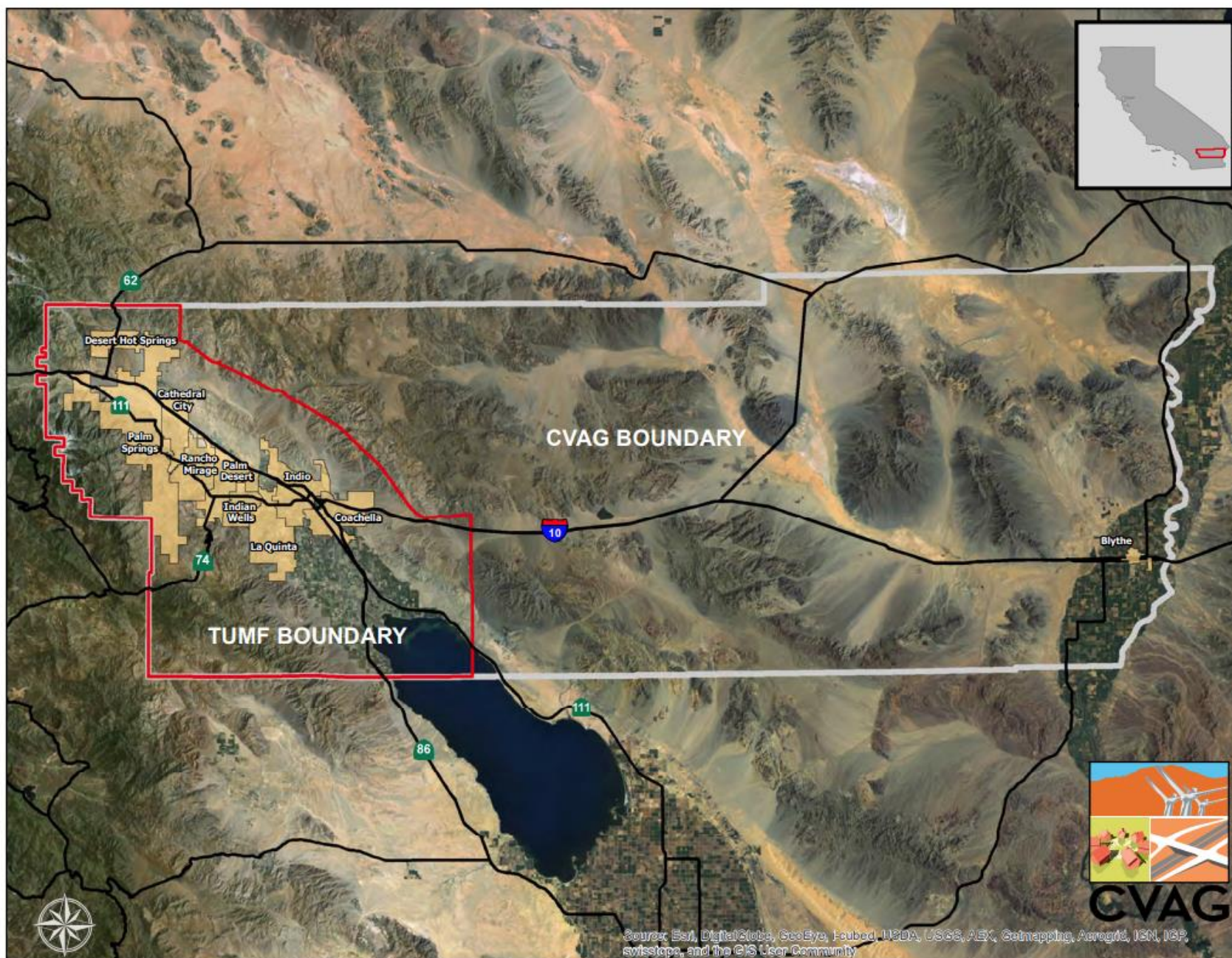
- Support increased investment in, and creation of, programs that assist local governments, counties and regional collaborations to address the challenges associated with homelessness.
- Support legislative efforts that allow for sustainable financing options, as outlined in CVAG's Regional Early Action 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.

### **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 6C**

# **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee November 16, 2022**



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:**       **Statewide Pause on Funding for Homelessness Services**

**Contact:**       Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Homelessness programs throughout Riverside County, including CVAG's CV Housing First program, receive funding through various sources that are allocated by Riverside County and the Continuum of Care. One of those programs is the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP), which is designed to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges throughout California. In Riverside County, HHAP funds have been invested 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. CVAG has previously received \$250,000 in HHAP funding for the launch and operations of the CV Housing First's Mobile Access Center.

On November 3, 2022 California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that he was putting a pause on the next round of HHAP funding until local and regional leaders could meet to "review the state's collective approach to homelessness and identify new strategies to better address the growing homelessness crisis." This funding, which will be the third round of HHAP funding, provides a share of \$1 billion to every county, Continuum of Care, and the 13 largest cities in the state. However, it has new requirements for recipients, including creating a Homelessness Action Plan that addresses what actions are being taken to prevent and reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness at the community level.

In Riverside County, about \$16.6 million of HHAP Round Three funding is on hold. That includes \$4.2 million that goes to the County, nearly \$4 million that goes to the Continuum of Care and \$8.4 million that goes to the City of Riverside. County officials are now engaged in the statewide meetings that are occurring with the Governor's office, and will provide an update to CVAG's Homelessness Committee at the November meeting.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There are no additional costs to CVAG for this update. The Governor's announcement impacts future funding opportunities, and does not have a direct impact on existing grants that the CV Housing First program is receiving from Riverside County.

**Attachment:** Gov. Newsom's November 3 news release on pausing state funding

# Governor Newsom Calls for More Aggressive Action on Homelessness, Pauses Latest Round of State Funding

Published: Nov 03, 2022

*Collectively, the plans as-submitted would reduce street homelessness statewide by just 2% Governor Newsom will convene local governments later this month to partner on driving more ambitious action to tackle homelessness*

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that he will convene local leaders in mid-November to review the state’s collective approach to homelessness and identify new strategies to better address the growing homelessness crisis. Until this convening, the state will hold on providing the remaining third round of Homelessness Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grants.

“Californians demand accountability and results, not settling for the status quo,” said Governor Newsom. “As a state, we are failing to meet the urgency of this moment. Collectively, these plans set a goal to reduce street homelessness 2% statewide by 2024. At this pace, it would take decades to significantly curb homelessness in California – this approach is simply unacceptable. Everyone has to do better – cities, counties, and the state included. We are all in this together.”

All together, the plans result in just a 2% decrease of homelessness over four years statewide. While some plans show local leaders taking aggressive action to combat homelessness, others are less ambitious – some plans even reflect double-digit increases in homelessness over four years. The Governor is calling all local jurisdictions together for a meeting in mid-November to coordinate on an approach that will deliver more substantial results. This meeting will be an opportunity to learn from one another about what works, as well as to identify barriers that inhibit the progress we all want to make and strategies to remove them.

The third round of HHAP grants provides a share of \$1 billion to every county, Continuum of Care, and the 13 largest cities in the state, on the condition that each local government has a plan approved by the state that reduces the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and increases permanent housing.

The state has so far provided over \$1.5 billion of flexible emergency aid to address homelessness through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program and the first two rounds of HHAP funding. Now, for the first time, recipients of the third round of HHAP funding have new requirements and must create a Homelessness Action Plan that addresses, in detail, local actions to prevent and reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness at the community level. The plans must include a landscape analysis that assesses the current number of people experiencing homelessness in a given community and identify all existing programs, and all sources of funding aimed at tackling this crisis. Additionally, the plans must include outcome-driven results and strategies for achieving these goals using clear metrics to track success.

The HHAP program is part of a \$15.3 billion, multi-year state effort to turn the tide on homelessness – an all-of-the-above approach that includes cutting red tape and funding the largest expansion of homeless housing in California history. Governor Newsom has taken unprecedented steps to address homelessness and housing statewide, providing local governments more money than ever before to address this crisis. Groundbreaking programs like Homekey and Project Roomkey have become national models for getting people off the streets, faster than ever before and at a fraction of the usual cost. In partnership with cities and counties throughout the state, Project Roomkey has sheltered more than 60,000 people since the pandemic began, and Homekey has funded 12,500 units since its inception in late 2020.

Additionally, since September 1, 2021, Caltrans has cleared over 1,600 encampments, cleaning up 2,227 tons of trash, enough to fill more than 40 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The budget Governor Newsom signed earlier this year includes \$700 million for encampment resolution grants with \$350 million earmarked for assisting those living on state right-of-way property. Also, through Clean California, the Governor has invested \$1.1 billion to revitalize streets and public spaces through litter abatement and local beautification projects – generating an estimated 10,000 jobs, including for people exiting homelessness, at-risk youth, veterans, formerly incarcerated people, local artists and students.

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**ITEM 7A**

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE RECORD  
FY2022-2023

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians			●										1 out of 1
City of Blythe			○										0 out of 1
City of Cathedral City			●										1 out of 1
City of Coachella			○										0 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			●										1 out of 1
City of Rancho Mirage			●										1 out of 1
County of Riverside			●										1 out of 1
<b>Total Attendance Per Meeting</b>			11										

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
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			●										1 out of 1
The Salvation Army (vacant)			*										0 out of 1
Shelter From the Storm			●										1 out of 1
<b>Total Attendance Per Meeting</b>			2										

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, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

**REVENUES**

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 259,950
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>259,950</u>

**EXPENDITURES**

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	188,311
BUILDING LEASE MAINTENANCE/RENT	68,560
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	12,322
MISC SUNDRIES/HOUSING ESSENTIALS	6,955
RAPID RESOLUTIONS	4,907
PROJECT COSTS/OTHER EXPENSES	16,377
ELECTRIC (UTILITIES)	18,069
OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,794
LOCAL MEETINGS/STAFF MILEAGE	3,818
MOBILE ACCESS CENTER (MAC)	2,339
ADVERTISING	1,078

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>325,531</u>
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NET INCOME (DEFICIT)	<u>(65,581)</u>
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FUND BALANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	<u>2,229,682</u>
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PRELIMINARY FUND BALANCE AS AT SEPTEMBER, 2022	<u>\$ 2,164,100</u>
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## **ITEM 7D**

### **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee November 16, 2022**



#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** SB 535 and California Climate Investments - Tribal Designation

**Contact:** Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager ([emartinez@cvag.org](mailto:emartinez@cvag.org))

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#### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** The State of California has increasingly relied on mapping tools such as CalEnviroScreen to make determinations on what qualifies as a “disadvantaged community,” which in turn has an impact on how competitive projects are for various funding types. California’s climate investments funded through proceeds from the state’s Cap-and-Trade program are required to provide benefit to disadvantaged communities (most commonly called DACs) throughout the state. The climate investments are authorized by Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and Senate Bill 535 and Assembly Bill 1550 are among the ways that help identify and direct funding to DACs. However, it has been CVAG’s position that these maps don’t always reflect the socioeconomic diversity of the region. Since April 2015, the CVAG Executive Committee has authorized its chairman and the CVAG Executive Director to seek administrative or legislative changes in programs that make projects in the Coachella Valley more competitive, particularly as it pertains to the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) program.

The California Environmental Protection Agency has recently provided an update to one of those qualifications – SB 535 disadvantaged communities – and the result is that the disadvantaged communities criteria now includes lands under the control of federally recognized tribes. CVAG staff is monitoring the impact of this change, but anticipates it has the positive impact of increasing funding opportunities for Tribal Nations from the State’s climate investments portfolio. Given the number of local tribes and the land under their control in the Coachella Valley, the region should be in a better position to compete for climate investment dollars.

Specifically, SB 535 (statutes of 2012) requires that 25 percent of the cap-and-trade dollars go to projects that provide benefits to DACs, and that a minimum of 10 percent of said funds go to projects directly within DACs. It also states that DACs shall be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria. In 2016, AB 1550 increased the percentage of funds that must go to projects within DACs to 25 percent. Additionally, this bill required that an additional 5 percent of fund must go to projects in low-income communities anywhere in the state and that an additional 5 percent go to low-income communities withing half-mile of a DAC as designated by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

SB 535 does not define DACs but rather tells CalEPA how to identify them. To help identify DACs based on the criteria set forth in SB 535, the CalEPA and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment use the CalEnviroScreen tool. The CalEnviroScreen is a mapping tool that analyzes data on environmental, public health and socioeconomic conditions and helps to identify communities

disproportionately impacted by said criteria, which is in line with SB 535 DAC designation requirements. The CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. However, as it relates to the Coachella Valley, utilizing the CalEnviroScreen tool to determine climate investments has proven unfavorable largely because the majority of census tracts in the Coachella Valley do not fall within the top 25% highest scoring census tracts in the state most affected by various sources of pollution. Only eight census tracts in the CVAG region – located generally in the eastern Coachella Valley and Blythe – qualify in this top 25 percent. The result is that every other census tract either loses points or can't even qualify for large funding opportunities, making them. For that reason, programs that use the AB 1550 low-income designation have generally been more favorable to the Coachella Valley than those that solely rely on the SB 535 designation. CVAG has strongly advocated for increased use of AB 1550 and will continue to do so given the increased funding opportunities it provides.

During late 2021, the CalEPA, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard and Assessment and the California Air Resources Board held a couple of virtual workshops to receive input regarding SB 535 and CalEnviroScreen 4.0. The purpose of the workshops was to ensure the agencies gathered input to update the SB 535 designation to ensure communities that meet the criteria are captured in any new designation.

After workshops were conducted and public input was received, CalEPA released its SB 535 DAC designation update, which went into effect July 1, 2022. Communities qualifying as a DAC include the 25 percent highest scoring census tracts per CalEnviroScreen, including those from the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 version; areas with high amounts of pollution and low-population; and federally recognized tribes, which is the first time in the CalEnviroScreen and SB 535 updates that tribes are included as part of the DAC designation. The CalEPA has reported that data gaps related to Tribal nations has made it difficult to assess pollution burden and population characteristics in the CalEnviroScreen. As a result, Tribal nations have been effectively excluded from Cap-and-Trade related funding despite high levels of poverty, health and environmental burdens. Therefore, because Tribal lands have data gaps and face geographic, socioeconomic, public health and environmental hazards, CalEPA has determined that these factors warrant their DAC designation.

In addition, in order to fully capture all lands under the control of a federally recognized Tribe, CalEPA has established a process by which lands not reflected in the American Indian Areas Related National Geodatabase but under their control can be included in the DAC designation. A Tribe may establish that a particular area of land is under its control by submitting evidence that would provide a reasonable basis for CalEPA to make the determination. A Tribe interested in this process should contact the CalEPA Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations.

The California Air Resources Board is responsible for providing guidance to agencies administering California Climate Investment programs. Ultimately, the goal of the Climate Investment Programs is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The adopted FY 22-23 State Budget approved \$1.069 billion from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which funds California's Climate Investment Programs. With the new adopted designation, Tribal nations are eligible to apply to 25 programs funded by cap-and-trade dollars (see full list here: <https://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/funding-for-tribal-governments>). For example, some of the programs that may be of interest include the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC), Technical Assistance, Training and Workforce Development, Transformative Climate Communities, and the Community Air Grants program to name a few. There are also other programs that are not funded by Cap-and-Trade dollars but that use the SB 535 designation, such as the Clean California Program that is administered by Caltrans and the Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passage Program, administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

CVAG staff and state lobbying team will monitor future efforts to modify the SB 535 designation and track funding programs that use SB 535 for determining eligibility. Also, it is important to note that although this new SB 535 designation is a positive change for the Tribes, this change does not help improve the competitiveness for the majority of Coachella Valley jurisdictions. As aforementioned, currently, only parts of the cities of Indio and Coachella are designated as a DAC under SB 535. To help improve the ability for the Coachella Valley as whole to compete for state dollars, the AB 1550 low-income designation is more favorable as that designation is income-based and, as a result, covers additional eligible areas of the Coachella Valley in comparison to SB 535.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There are no additional costs to CVAG for this report.

**ITEM 7E**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Homelessness Committee  
November 16, 2022**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Launch of Countywide “Faces of Fentanyl” Campaign

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** In October 2022, Riverside County officials from across various departments, including law enforcement and public health, came together to launch a “Faces of Fentanyl” informational campaign. The goal is to raise public awareness of the drug and underscore how fentanyl deaths affect all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups.

Riverside County’s news release is attached. The report is attached. The Public Safety Committee was previously briefed on the emerging fentanyl epidemic when Riverside County District Attorney Michael Hestrin attended its May 2022 meeting. Fentanyl is a synthetic, manmade opiate that can easily be produced in a lab or on the streets. Fentanyl is less expensive than other opiates and is highly addictive. Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Officials have noted that deadly amounts of fentanyl are also being used in manufacturing and packaging of other drugs, with these counterfeit pills being misrepresented as Xanax and/or Oxycodone. Previous public education efforts have included an initiative led by the District Attorney’s Office to highlight the dangers of fentanyl through public service announcements, social media and school presentations in the Inland Empire.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no cost to CVAG for this informational update.

**Attachment:** News release to launch “Faces of Fentanyl” campaign, October 28, 2022



## **Faces of Fentanyl Campaign Launches, County leaders come together to fight Fentanyl on multiple fronts**

**October 28, 2022**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

Riverside County resident Ernie Gutierrez lost his life to fentanyl on Aug. 24, 2021. Gutierrez struggled with mental illness, and prior to his death had just started his recovery journey.

“Growing up, Ernie loved sports and played different musical instruments throughout his school years,” shared his mother, Christina Rodriguez. “He graduated from Temecula Valley High School in 2012. He couldn’t wait to join the Marine corps to continue his family tradition of serving his country.”

Rodriguez publicly shared her son’s story, including his struggle with mental illness and finding renewed hope with a joint team of deputies and therapists from the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department and Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health, respectively. Tragically, Gutierrez’s recovery was cut short when one illicit pill laced with fentanyl took his life.

“We need to talk to our kids of all ages about the dangers and lethality fentanyl is causing,” continued Rodriguez. “We are in a crisis situation. We all, as a community, need to be part of the solution.”

The County of Riverside this month launched a public awareness campaign, known as *Faces of Fentanyl*, to inform the community about the deadly drug and underscore how fentanyl deaths affect all races, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups.

“This is a very dangerous drug,” said Second District Supervisor Karen Spiegel. “Our goal is to bring all the different disciplines together to share information, data, and resources, with the mission to prevent poisonings.”



During a recent *Faces of Fentanyl* launch event, county leaders shared facts and information on the alarming rise of fentanyl deaths in Riverside County, which increased from 28 deaths in 2017 to 406 deaths in 2021. This year, fentanyl deaths are expected to top last year's highest number.

"Fentanyl has killed hundreds of people and yet many in the community know little about the drug until it impacts their families," said Dr. Geoffrey Leung, Riverside County Public Health Officer.

At the launch event, Sheriff Chad Bianco put into perspective how much fentanyl is found in the community. "Our agency alone seized more than 3.7 million fentanyl pills and nearly 400 pounds of fentanyl powder since January 1," said Bianco. "That amount of fentanyl is enough to kill nearly 94 million people or enough to kill the entire population of California twice."

In addition, District Attorney Hestrin expressed the need for a strong stance on those who deal and supply the drug to Riverside County residents. "Our office is dedicated to taking a tough stance on prosecuting fentanyl drug dealers," said Hestrin. "We must prosecute these cases because it just might save someone's life and bring justice to a family who has seen a family member lose theirs."

Led by Supervisor Spiegel and Third District Supervisor Chuck Washington, a multi-disciplinary ad-hoc committee meets regularly to combine resources to address this epidemic. The committee brings together the Executive Office, Riverside University Health (RUHS)-Behavioral Health, RUHS-Public Health, RUHS-Medical Center, Department of Public Social Services, District Attorney, Emergency Management Department, Probation Department and Sheriff's Department.

One example of department collaboration was shared during the launch event by both Ernie Gutierrez's mother, Christina Rodriguez, as well as Supervisor Washington.

"Pairing skilled behavioral health therapists with law enforcement is a crucial part of our field response," said Washington. "Often times, deputies are the first to encounter someone who is in a mental health emergency or who is overdosing. Having a behavioral health therapist with law enforcement provides immediate therapeutic





to many people on some of the worst days of their lives. This service helps people get into treatment.”

The *Faces of Fentanyl* campaign is centered around the statement “You are not the exception. Don’t be another Face of Fentanyl.” The slogan will appear in public service announcements, animated graphics, static posts, and billboards in both English and Spanish. The advertisements can be seen across Riverside County and social media channels through January 2023. Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors approved \$300,000 for the advertising placements. All creative assets were made by county employees, and a local marketing agency was hired to place the advertisements.

Residents who want to learn more about fentanyl can visit the campaign website at [www.FacesofFentanyl.net](http://www.FacesofFentanyl.net), which provides information on the drug, treatment resources and overdose data for Riverside County.

*Cutline: County leaders and members of the media gather in front of the County Administrative Center for the Faces of Fentanyl Awareness Campaign launch.*



Cutline: *Top row from left: Chris Rosselli (DPSS), DA Mike Hestrin, Jeff Van Wagenen. Bottom row from left: Sheriff Bianco and Supervisor Spiegel.*



Cutline: *Christina Rodriguez, mother of Ernie Gutierrez, speaks about her son who lost his life to fentanyl poisoning.*







Cutline: *From left: Dr.Geoffrey Leung, Michelle DeArmond, Tim Kirkconnell, Dr.Matthew Chang, Jen Cruikshank, Jeff Van Wagenen.*





## Latest News

