



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024
9:00 a.m.

**Indio Police Department - Auditorium
46800 Jackson Street
Indio, CA 92201**

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Public Safety Committee meeting 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 Waymond Fermon, Councilmember, City of Indio

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. **Member Roster**

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3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety 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 MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS**

6. **EX-OFFICIO UPDATES**

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the November 13, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

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8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**

A. **Update on Regional Coordination After Tropical Storm Hilary – Erica Felci**

P9

Recommendation: Information

B. **Presentation: Building for the Future in the City of Indio – Indio Police Department**

P11

Recommendation: Information

C. **Tour: Construction of Indio’s Public Safety Campus**

Recommendation: Following the presentation, the Public Safety Committee will take a walking tour of the construction site.

9. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

P12

B. **Recap of Riverside County’s Fourth District Homeless Symposium**

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10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 9:00 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, February 26, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Item 2A

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



Voting Members	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory – VICE CHAIR
City of Coachella	Councilmember Frank Figueroa
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Dana Reed
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon - CHAIR
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Grace Garner
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Meg Marker
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember Desiree Franco
Ex-Officio Members	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury, Commander
Cathedral City Fire	Michael Contreras, Fire Chief
Cathedral City Police	George Crum, Chief of Police
Desert Hot Springs Police	Jim Henson, Chief of Police
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin, District Attorney
Indio Police	Mike Washburn, Chief of Police
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Dean Agnoletto, Captain
Palm Springs Fire	Paul Alvarado, Fire Chief
Palm Springs Police	Andrew Mills, Chief of Police
Riverside County Fire Department	Robert Fish, Deputy Chief
Riverside County Probation Department	Ron Miller, Chief Probation Officer
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Thermal Sheriff Station	Michael Bianco, Captain
U.S. Border Patrol	David Kim

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023



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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 9:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260. Zoom videoconferencing was available from the City of Desert Hot Springs.
- 2. ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Blythe	Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Raymond Gregory, <i>Vice Chair</i>
City of Coachella	Councilmember Frank Figueroa
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Dana Reed
City of Indio	Councilmember Waymond Fermon, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla (<i>via Zoom</i>)
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Meg Marker
County of Riverside	Asst. Chief Executive Officer Michelle Paradise (<i>arrived at item 6</i>)

Ex-Officio Members Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Emergency Services Manager Robert Bradbury
Cathedral City Fire	Captain Craig Sanborn
Desert Hot Springs Police	Deputy Chief Steve Shaw
District Attorney's Office	Assistant DA Rodney Tethal
Indio Police Department	Chief Mike Washburn
Riverside County Fire	Division 2 Chief Michael Beverlin

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Grace Garner
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Councilmember Desiree Franco
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury
Cathedral City Police	Chief of Police George Crum
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Captain Dean Agnoletto
Palm Springs Fire	Fire Chief Paul Alvarado
Palm Springs Police	Chief Andrew Mills
Riverside County Probation	Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Michael Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Raymond Gregory led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Management Analyst Elysia Regalado read an emailed public comment submitted by retired Palm Springs Fire Chief Blake Goetz regarding Agenda Item 9B- Annual Review of CVAG’s Legislative Platform, and encouraged keeping earthquake warning systems as a priority.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci explained the meeting logistics and Zoom broadcasting.

Ms. Felci explained a clarification on the minutes, Agenda Item 7A, related to the mylar balloon discussion and asked that a motion reflect an update in the minutes.

Councilmember John Peña discussed the recent news on smash and grab robberies, and asked for an update on what the agencies in the Coachella Valley are doing to address it.

Chair Fermon highlighted Veteran’s Day and reported there were several events in the valley this weekend honoring local veterans.

He noted there was interruption in some 911 emergency services over the week due to a theft in some of the equipment in the Whitewater area. He emphasized Councilmember Peña’s comments about the smash & grab robberies. Chair Fermon also gave an update on plate-reading cameras and statistics received from Indio Police about their use.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Indio Chief of Police Mike Washburn outlined arrest statistics from October’s Power Trip concert weekend. He noted the challenges with staffing as hotels are limited for out-of-town law enforcement. Chief Washburn also detailed recruitment efforts.

Riverside County District Attorney’s Assistant District Attorney Rodney Tethal reports the County received a second degree murder conviction on a fentanyl case, which was the County’s first ever such conviction.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the September 11, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER REED AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH MODIFICATIONS TO THE MYLAR BALLOON DISCUSSION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES, 4 MEMBERS ABSENT AND ONE “NO VOTE RECORDED” DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE

Councilmember Frank Figueroa	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez	ABSENT
Councilmember Dana Reed	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla*	NVR
Mayor Grace Garner	ABSENT
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
ACEO Michelle Paradise	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Quintanilla was participating by Zoom but did not have audio or video controls at the time of this vote.

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update on Local and Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans

Ms. Felci introduced Riverside County’s Emergency Management Program Supervisor Eric Cadden, who updated the committee about the local hazard mitigation plan and its importance to the County during storms and other emergencies.

Member discussion ensued including discussion about broadcast radio and the usage of it during Hurricane Ida and importance of training city staff for these emergencies.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Training: Preparing Elected Officials For The Next Tropical Storm Hilary

Mr. Cadden presented the training.

Member discussion ensued, including the potential for sheltering during disasters for those who are displaced.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

9. INFORMATION – The following item was provided for information only:

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Annual Review of CVAG’s Legislative Platform**
- C. Follow up on Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons**

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, expressed his concerns of when public comments are taken in the agenda. He expressed concern with remote meeting access and said all members should be present in person. Mr. Anderson also expressed concerns about

the Emergency Management Department and not wanting them to interfere with his city's decisions during emergencies.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 9:00 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.

Chair Fermon requested an upcoming agenda include an update on open air drug laws and an update from Care Court.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst

ITEM 8A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 12, 2024**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Regional Coordination After Tropical Storm Hilary

Contact: Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At the September 2023 meeting of the Public Safety Committee, members were provided an update on the public safety response to Tropical Storm Hilary. The August storm set new records, with the desert experiencing a year's worth of rainfall in a matter of hours. Major arterials and local neighborhoods were buried under several feet of mud and debris. The 911 emergency phone system experienced an outage.

The Public Safety Committee members requested that the ongoing recovery activities as well as lessons learned be a reoccurring item on the agenda. This staff report provides a recap of some of CVAG's recent efforts to address the storm damage and lasting impacts of Tropical Storm Hilary. These updates are especially timely now, given the atmospheric river that caused flooding and wind gusts after it rolled into Southern California between February 4-6, 2024.

Funding opportunities

CVAG staff has been coordinating with member jurisdictions' staffs to ensure the region is maximizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) financial assistance available under the federal disaster declaration that President Biden declared on November 21, 2023. Agencies have six months from the declaration to complete emergency work such as debris removal as well as emergency and protective measures. One of those eligible expenses is the application of soil stabilizer in areas that were impacted by flood and mud, which, as further detailed below, can have benefits on the region's air quality.

Permanent work can occur up to 18 months after the declaration, or until May 2025, which includes repairs to roads, bridges, water control facilities, utilities, buildings, equipment and parks.

Additionally, CVAG staff is tracking the call for projects from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services' (OES) Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch. This is a statewide, competitive program that will provide about \$16 million statewide, with a focus on resiliency.

Applicants seeking funding from OES must have a hazard mitigation plan in place. At the November 2023 meeting, the Public Safety Committee was provided an update on these plans, including Riverside County's 2023 update to the Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan identifies the County's hazards, reviews and assesses past disaster occurrences, estimates the probability of future occurrences, and sets goals to mitigate potential risks to reduce and/or eliminate long-term risk of natural and human-caused hazards. A number of CVAG's member jurisdictions are also in the process of updating their own plans.

Air Quality

At the January meetings of the Energy & Sustainability Committee and the Executive Committee, CVAG staff provided a detailed briefing on the potential long-term impacts that Tropical Storm Hilary is having on the region's air quality.

The deposit of new mud and sediment, comprised of fine silt, seems to be the culprit. It is much smaller than gravel and sand that is typically deposited during storms. Such small diameter material appears to be much more likely to become airborne, even during the fall, which isn't the desert's windiest season. Currently, rough estimates are that there are more than 6,500 acres of such muddy deposits from Mission Creek's flood flows.

Poor air quality is not only bad for residents' health, but also bad for the health of the regional economy. Based on the preliminary findings of hourly PM10 data, there have been several days of extremely high levels of PM10 (Particulate Matter of 10 microns or less) since the storm. The South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) monitoring stations in both Palm Springs and Mecca have shown high levels. The levels downwind, at the Mecca monitoring station, are particularly high, even hazardous. Derived from the hourly data, the Coachella Valley has experienced at least five days that have exceeded the Federal 24-hour PM10 health standard of 150 ug/m³ at the Mecca monitoring site. In comparison, only three days are reported exceeding the Federal standard over a six year, 2015-2021, period.

CVAG staff has been meeting with the County of Riverside, SCAQMD and impacted cities to better understand the air quality issues that are resulting from these mud deposits. CVAG staff has also interfaced with the office of Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, who represents Riverside County on SCAQMD and sits on the California Air Resources Board. SCAQMD staff has noted the increase prevalence of poor air quality days post-Hilary, noting that dust is becoming emissive at lower windspeeds, about 12 miles per hour, which is not typical. Although a direct correlation between the storm, the mud deposits and increased PM10 has not been conclusively proved, there does not seem to be any other plausible reasons for the horrible air quality. SCAQMD has responded to these new conditions and modified their agency's wind advisory alerts to account for the lower wind speeds which are leading to poor air quality.

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

Attachments:

Riverside County's Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, April 2023:
<https://rivcoready.org/sites/g/files/aldnop181/files/2023-08/MJLHMP%208.7.23.pdf>

ITEM 8B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 12, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Presentation: Building for the Future in the City of Indio

Contact: Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The City of Indio is heading towards completion of its new, 43,000-square-foot public safety campus, and law enforcement is providing the Public Safety Committee with a preview as part of the February meeting.

The new, \$50 million campus is designed to accommodate the City's current needs and future growth. Spanning over three buildings it will be home to a dispatch center, Indio Fire Station 86, and administrative offices for both Indio Police Department and the Indio Fire Department.

Currently, the public safety teams are using cramped facilities that date back to the 1970s. The layout not only has space constraints – with police officers working in the hallways and in modular buildings – but it also was not designed with modern law enforcement needs in mind. The City plans to remodel the existing facility to provide additional space in the future.

Construction started in May 2022 and a public beam signing was held in January 2023. The project is scheduled to be complete this year. Indio is covering the project costs through bond sales and tax measure dollars.

At the February meeting, Committee members will gather in the existing Indio Police Department's auditorium, which is generally used for trainings. After an overview presentation, Indio officials will provide walking tours of the current facility and new buildings. This is an active construction site, so closed-toe shoes are required and safety vests will be provided.

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

Item 9A

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2023-2024

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED		
Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians			○		○								0	out of	2
City of Blythe			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Cathedral City			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Coachella			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		○								1	out of	2
City of Indian Wells			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Indio			●		●								2	out of	2
City of La Quinta			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Palm Desert			●		●								2	out of	2
City of Palm Springs			●		○								1	out of	2
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●								2	out of	2
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians			○		○								0	out of	2
Riverside County			●		●								2	out of	2
Total Attendance Per Meeting			11		9										

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED		
Agua Caliente			○		●								1	out of	2
California Highway Patrol			○		○								0	out of	2
Cathedral City Fire			●		●								2	out of	2
Cathedral City Police			●		●								2	out of	2
County Probation Department			○		○								0	out of	2
Desert Hot Springs Police			●		●								2	out of	2
District Attorney's Office			●		●								2	out of	2
Indio Police			●		●								2	out of	2
Palm Desert Sheriff Station			○		○								0	out of	2
Palm Springs Fire			○		○								0	out of	2
Palm Springs Police			○		○								0	out of	2
Riverside County Fire			●		○								1	out of	2
Riverside County Sheriff			○		○								0	out of	2
Thermal Sheriff Station			○		○								0	out of	2
U.S. Border Patrol			○		○								0	out of	2
Total Attendance Per Meeting			6		6										

No Meeting
 Vacant *

Present ●

Absent ○

ITEM 9B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 12, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Recap of Riverside County's Fourth District Homeless Symposium

Contact: Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Addressing homelessness across the Coachella Valley is often cited as a top public safety priority, which is why CVAG staff provides items of interest to both the Public Safety Committee and the Homelessness Committees. With this item, staff is providing a recap of Riverside County's Fourth District Homeless Symposium, which was held Feb. 1 at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission in Indio.

The symposium was hosted by Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez in partnership with the Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions Department and the County's Continuum of Care. The symposium provided an update on implementing the ideas identified in Riverside County's Homeless Action Plan, which was adopted by the Continuum of Care in March 2023 to provide a five-year framework to transition the County's services into a *"high functioning, high-performing network that sets vision and direction, engages in collective decision-making, and improves the impact of programs that address homelessness."*

The symposium also highlighted programs across the Fourth District, including CVAG's CV Housing First program. 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 CV 200 list was developed in partnership with CVAG's member jurisdictions and local law enforcement. It is also maintained in partnership with those agencies. At the end of each calendar year, CVAG staff meets with the local police departments, code enforcement and other partners identify who needs to remain on the list and who may not need to be on the list, either because they are being helped by other programs or because they have left the Coachella Valley. Staff then resets the CV 200 list by using the names and feedback from its agency partners.

Additional presentations at the symposium featured outreach services in the City of Palm Desert, the Navigation Center that's under construction in the City of Palm Springs and the newly opened shelter beds in the City of Desert Hot Springs.

Riverside County staff will provide a detailed synopsis of the event to CVAG's Homelessness Committee when it meets on February 21.

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

Attachments:

Riverside County's Homeless Action Plan:

<https://rivcohpws.org/sites/g/files/aldnop131/files/cocdocumnets/County%20of%20Riverside%20Homeless%20Action%20Plan.pdf>