



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023
9:00 a.m.

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

**Members of the Committee and the public may attend and participate by
video at the following remote location:**

**Desert Hot Springs City Hall
11999 Palm Drive
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
760-329-6411**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88423142214?pwd=UG0wL3pnUkdYTETkcGJGQldRcDNxUT09>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128
Webinar ID: 884 2314 2214
Password: 598815**

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

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 September 11, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

P5

8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**

A. **Update on Local and Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans – Eric Cadden,**
Riverside County's Emergency Management Program Supervisor

P11

Recommendation: Information

B. **Training: Preparing Elected Officials For The Next Tropical Storm Hilary –**
Riverside County Emergency Management Department staff

P12

Recommendation: Information

9. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

P17

B. **Annual Review of CVAG's Legislative Platform**

P18

C. **Follow up on Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons**

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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, 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.

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 Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor 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 September 11, 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 8:00 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
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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez (*arrived at item 3*)
Councilmember Raymond Gregory, *Vice Chair*
Councilmember Frank Figueroa
Councilmember Roger Nuñez (*arrived at item 5*)
Councilmember Dana Reed
Councilmember Waymond Fermon, *Chair*
Councilmember John Peña
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla
Mayor Grace Garner
Councilmember Meg Marker
Supervisor V Manuel Perez (*arrived at item 3*)

Ex-Officio Members Present

Cathedral City Fire
Cathedral City Police
Desert Hot Springs Police
District Attorney's Office
Indio Police Department
Riverside County Fire

Captain Craig Sanborn
Commander Rick Sanchez
Deputy Chief Steve Shaw
Chief Deputy DA Rodney Tethal
Assistant Chief Christopher Shaefer
Division 2 Chief Michael Beverlin

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
California Highway Patrol
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation
Palm Springs Fire
Palm Springs Police
Riverside County Probation
Riverside County Sheriff's Department
Thermal Sheriff Station
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III
Tribal Councilmember Desiree Franco
Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager
Commander Dennis Woodbury
Captain Dean Agnoletto
Fire Chief Paul Alvarado
Chief Andrew Mills
Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller
Sheriff Chad Bianco
Captain Michael Bianco
Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Moment of Silence and Reflection

Chair Fermon led a moment of silence to acknowledge the 22nd anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks and honor those who were killed. , He also honored the life of our local hero Marine Corporal Hunter Lopez, who was among the 13 U.S service members killed on August 26, 2021, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Vice Chair Raymond Gregory led the Pledge of Allegiance following the moment of silence.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla discussed trees and the public safety concerns with those that are falling.

Chair Fermon reports the City of Indio has passed an ordinance prohibiting spectators and planning and coordinating of illegal motor vehicle contests and side shows. Chair Fermon also reports the City of Indio has proclaimed August 26 as “Hunter Lopez Day” and every year at the nearest city council meeting, the City of Indio will honor a service member. This year, US Army Veteran Ralph Durate was honored for his exemplary service to the local veteran community.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Cal Fire Division Chief Michael Beverlin recognized the three department members killed on August 6 in a helicopter crash. Chief Beverlin also expressed Cal Fire’s appreciation to the cities and agency partners for assisting the department during that time.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the May 8, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Dana Reed	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE

Councilmember John Peña
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla
Mayor Grace Garner
Councilmember Meg Marker
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Councilmember Denise Franco

AYE
AYE
AYE
AYE
AYE
ABSENT

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Roundtable Discussion: Public Safety Response to Tropical Storm Hilary

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci presented a slide show presentation of before and after pictures of the damage caused by the storm.

Supervisor V Manuel Perez thanked Riverside County Director of Emergency Management Bruce Barton and his team for their hard work during these times and suggested an additional meeting be held at a later date to specifically address incidents of this nature and how to prepare for them.

Director Barton provided the Committee information on damage estimates and work done to prepare for the storm.

Jason Uhley, General Manager for Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation talked about the preparations taken prior to and during the storm in the western part of the Coachella Valley. Mr. Uhley reported on the infrastructure impacts and efforts to recover funding on both the state and federal levels.

Member discussion ensued. Committee members expressed interest in this topic becoming a reoccurring agenda item.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Riverside County's Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers

Director Barton presented the staff report and provided an update on the changes to Title 42 and how Riverside County is transitioning operations since the changes.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

C. Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons in Public Spaces

Ms. Felci presented the staff report and gave a brief background about the concerns of the use of mylar balloons.

Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla provided the committee with a brief overview of the ordinance the City of Palm Desert recently adopted against the use of mylar balloons in public parks.

Brief member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RAYMOND GREGORY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Dana Reed	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

D. Election of Public Safety Committee Officers

Executive Director Tom Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Councilmember Gregory nominated Chair Fermon to remain Chair of the Public Safety Committee. No other nominations were submitted.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM QUINTANILLA TO APPROVE COUNCILMEMBER FERMON REMAIN CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Dana Reed	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

Mr. Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Councilmember Peña nominated Councilmember Gregory to remain Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. No other nominations were submitted.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY CHAIR FERMON TO APPROVE COUNCILMEMBER GREGORY TO REMAIN VICE CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember John Preckwinkle	ABSENT
Mayor Pro Tem Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Councilmember Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Dana Reed	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Grace Garner	AYE
Councilmember Meg Marker	AYE
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	AYE
Councilmember Denise Franco	ABSENT

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

- A. **Attendance Record**
- B. **CVAG Schedule of Meeting for Fiscal Year 2023/24**
- C. **National Preparedness Month**
- D. **Letter from CVAG Chairman Scott Matas**
- E. **School Resource Officers in the Coachella Valley**

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, November 13, 2023, 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, September 25, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260

12. ADJOURN

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m. in memory of the three personnel killed in CAL Fire's August helicopter crash: Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Captain Tim Rodriguez and pilot Tony Sousa.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst

ITEM 8A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
November 13, 2023**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Local and Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans

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

Recommendation: Information

Background: In April 2023, Riverside County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2023-106 and published an updated 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. This plan is required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and is necessary to be eligible for various federally funded grants and post-disaster assistance.

The County's 2023 plan covers a five-year period. It provides goals and mitigation strategies for the top 10 hazards and risks: earthquake, pandemic, wildland fire, electrical failure, emergent disease/contamination, cyberattack, terrorist event, communications failure, flooding and civil disorder. It was produced after an extensive public outreach effort, and is inclusive of feedback from local cities and Tribal nations.

Additionally, a number of Coachella Valley cities are working on updates to their own hazard mitigation plans and disaster preparedness efforts. In Cathedral City, for example, a Nov. 8 staff report to City Council stated that the City is seeking a \$175,000 grant to update the City's 2017 plan. La Quinta's Council at its Nov. 7 meeting was considering an agreement with the County's Emergency Management Department to provide a part-time emergency service coordinator position.

The issue of hazard mitigation planning was brought up at the September 2023 meeting of CVAG's Public Safety Committee, when committee members discussed the public safety response to Tropical Storm Hilary. The August storm set new rainfall records and also caused widespread damage. At the time, Riverside County staff noted that updated hazard mitigation plans were critical for jurisdictions to secure various grants and post-disaster assistance.

A team from Riverside County Emergency Management Department, including Program Supervisor Eric Cadden, will attend the November meeting of the Public Safety committee to provide an update on the County's plan and local planning efforts.

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
November 13, 2023**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Training: Preparing Elected Officials For The Next 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 even neighborhoods were buried under several feet of mud and debris. The 911 emergency phone system experienced an outage.

The Public Safety Committee members in September discussed the ongoing recovery efforts as well as lessons learned. Members also requested several follow-ups for upcoming meetings, including a training opportunity to better prepare elected officials for future storms and natural disasters. Staff from Riverside County's Emergency Management Department, including Program Supervisor Eric Cadden, will provide this training as part of the November committee meeting.

CVAG staff is also providing resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that are designed for local elected and appointed officials. According to the FEMA resource guide (attached), *"Senior officials make significant policy and resource decisions before, during and after disasters. In many ways, senior officials can make or break the success of disaster operations. Disaster response and recovery are more effective when senior officials are familiar with emergency management processes and have established relationships with their community's emergency managers."*

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

Attachments:

1. FEMA's Quick Reference Guide with resource highlights
2. FEMA's "Local Elected and Appointed Officials Guide: Roles and Responsibilities in Emergency management," September 2022:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_local-elected-officials-guide_2022.pdf

Local Elected and Appointed Officials Quick Reference Guide

This resource highlights key concepts from FEMA's [Local Elected and Appointed Officials Guide: Roles and Resources in Emergency Management](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/plan). For the full document, please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/plan>.

Introduction

Local elected and appointed officials—subsequently referred to as “senior officials”—balance many responsibilities and are expected to serve in numerous roles to support and lead their jurisdiction. During emergencies, the public may see senior officials as responsible for the success or failure of disaster response and recovery efforts.

Leading Communities Before, During and After Disasters

Senior officials make significant policy and resource decisions before, during and after disasters. In many ways, senior officials can make or break the success of disaster operations. Disaster response and recovery are more effective when senior officials are familiar with emergency management processes and have established relationships with their community's emergency managers.

- Senior officials typically make key policy decisions, collaborate with emergency managers and communicate key information to the public, including use of sign language, closed captioning and foreign language interpretation.
- Emergency managers work with relevant agencies and organizations to assess and mitigate risks, respond to emergencies and carry out recovery activities.

Understanding Potential Impacts on the Community

Local senior officials should be familiar with the potential impacts of threats and hazards such as floods, storms, earthquakes and wildfires, as well as less predictable incidents like active shooters, technological hazards, extended power outages or cyber incidents. Emergency managers can help senior officials learn about the threats and hazards most likely to affect the jurisdiction and the potential incident's impact on people, infrastructure and the economy.¹

¹ FEMA's [Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#) is a source of information that can assist local senior officials in formulating questions and help provide insights about their jurisdiction's threat and hazard profile.



FEMA



Equity Considerations

Understanding potential disaster consequences begins with knowing who in the area might be affected, especially those disproportionately impacted. It is vitally important for senior officials to understand the demographic composition within their communities such as historically underserved populations, individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs since they may require additional assistance during a disaster. See the last page of this quick reference guide for more information.

Key Roles

Senior officials have important roles during every stage of a disaster. Key elements are presented below. The [Local Elected and Appointed Officials Checklists](#) provide additional details to help senior officials prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies.

BUILD RESILIENCE BEFORE A DISASTER



Work with the emergency manager to establish preparedness priorities and encourage all government agency heads, academic and nonprofit organizations and business leaders to coordinate and collaborate on the jurisdiction's mitigation, response and recovery planning efforts. FEMA's [Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans \(Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101, Version 3.0\)](#) offers comprehensive information on how to develop effective plans.



Champion community risk reduction by adopting and implementing mitigation and climate adaptation strategies. Examples include implementing hazard-resistant building codes and land use planning.



Encourage individuals, families and businesses to develop emergency plans and be self-sufficient in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.



Participate personally in emergency and disaster preparedness exercises to demonstrate support and practice executing legal and leadership responsibilities. Exercises also build familiarity with emergency management plans and staff.



Prepare for possible media interviews by working with the Public Information Officer (PIO) to build relationships with traditional and social media outlets and develop coordinated messaging.



Understand how continuity of essential private sector services and government operations will be maintained during disasters to minimize casualties and impacts, which may continue for long periods and require decentralized employee work locations.

RESPOND EFFECTIVELY DURING A DISASTER



Get informed quickly and stay in close touch with the emergency manager. Develop a regular meeting cadence with the lead emergency manager and appropriate individuals.



Trust and empower emergency management officials. This may include obtaining assistance from other agencies, the private sector or neighboring jurisdictions, declaring a state of emergency, issuing emergency orders and assuring compliance with proper fiscal procedures.



Communicate quickly, clearly and effectively to the whole community, and work with the PIO and other partners to ensure coordinated and accessible communication.

RECOVER EFFICIENTLY AFTER A DISASTER



Identify opportunities to build more resilient communities through improved planning and smart infrastructure investments, including mitigation projects and climate adaptation strategies that reduce risk from future events.



Understand use of the financial and in-kind assistance programs available that will help both community members and the government.



Leverage the expertise and resources of various departments and partner organizations. Include personnel with planning, community outreach, housing, public works, education systems, economic development, natural resources and public health expertise. FEMA's [Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Guide for Local Governments](#) provides more potential partners.



Clearly communicate with community members and set realistic expectations to help instill trust and confidence during the recovery process. The recovery process and programs can be complex.



Ensure all codes and regulations are enforced during the recovery process. Develop disaster financial management processes and procedures before an incident.

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid agreements facilitate rapid, short-term deployment of emergency support from public or private sector partners before, during or after incidents, especially if local resources are inadequate or overwhelmed. They can be local, regional, statewide or interstate in scope. Additional information can be found in FEMA's [National Incident Management System Guideline for Mutual Aid](#).

Federal Disaster Financial Resources

The federal government can support jurisdictional governments that respond to and recover from disasters. Additional information can be found in FEMA's Local Elected and Appointed Officials Guide and [Disaster Financial Management Guide](#).

Key Stakeholder Considerations


- **Equity.** As stated in [Executive Order 13985](#), equity means “the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.” The most at-risk members of communities often experience the greatest losses from disasters.
- **Individuals with disabilities.** Individuals with disabilities are protected by the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) against being denied participation in or receiving benefits from emergency plans. Senior officials can use their authority, contacts and influence to promote inclusion of people with disabilities living in the community in the planning process so that their needs are met effectively during disasters.
- **Individuals with access and functional needs.** Examples include, but are not limited to, individuals with disabilities, elderly and populations having limited English proficiency, limited access to transportation, or limited access to financial resources to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. A “One-Size-Fits-All” approach to emergency management planning, resourcing and information dissemination does not work for individuals with access and functional needs. Senior officials and civic leaders play important roles in developing plans and solutions that address the entire community.
- **Private sector organizations.** Including [private sector partners](#) in planning activities can improve and accelerate preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Senior officials may be helpful in connecting private sector businesses and emergency managers.
- **Voluntary and Non-Governmental Organizations.** These groups may respond to a disaster with available resources in accordance with the requirements of their internal policies and in cooperation with emergency management or senior officials. See FEMA's [Engaging Faith-Based and Community Organizations guide](#) for more information.
- **Individual Preparedness.** A community's ability to respond to or recover from disasters depends on the level of preparedness of every member. Basic individual preparedness requires enough resources to survive without outside help for several days. Senior officials should work with emergency managers to identify groups in the community that can help educate individuals, families and households about preparedness. Visit [ready.gov](#) for resources.

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	1
City of Blythe			●										1	out of	1
City of Cathedral City			●										1	out of	1
City of Coachella			●										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
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians			○										0	out of	1
Riverside County			●										1	out of	1
Total Attendance Per Meeting			11												

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

No Meeting 
 Vacant *
 Present ●
 Absent ○

ITEM 9B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee November 13, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Annual Review of CVAG's Federal and State Legislative Platform

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager - External Affairs (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: CVAG's legislative platform is a key document that helps to guide advocacy work in Washington and Sacramento. As part of a legislative strategy, the legislative platform is integral to engaging and advocating on key issues as it provides direction on issue areas of importance to CVAG. Because this document outlines key positions on issue areas both at the state and federal level, staff and advocacy teams are able to monitor and track priority issues for CVAG and expedite engagement.

The legislative platform does not include any major changes from 2023. This is due to the alignment of the platform with the state's legislative cycle. The state is entering its second year of the two-year session and many of the issues in the first year will carry over into the second year. The Public Safety Committee last reviewed the legislative platform in November 2023, right before the beginning of the legislative session in Sacramento.

The legislative platform is divided into various issues areas, including transportation, energy and environment, homeless and affordable housing and public safety. The platform will be presented to all of CVAG's committees this month as informational items. On Nov. 15, CVAG staff will also be seeking feedback from the Homelessness Committee about whether to strengthen CVAG's position on advocating for additional vouchers for homeless clients. Ultimately, this process will help ensure the platform is comprehensive and reviewed before it is considered by the Executive Committee for adoption on Dec. 4, 2023.

To ensure adequate coverage and informed engagement, CVAG's advocacy strategy will be to continue to coordinate with all of CVAG's member jurisdictions, Riverside County Transportation Commission, Southern California Association of Governments and the County of Riverside.

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

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

2023-24 Federal and
State Legislative
Platform



Coachella Valley Association of Governments

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

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

**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla
Indians**

City of Blythe

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

City of Cathedral City

City of Coachella

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Indian Wells

City of Indio

City of La Quinta

City of Palm Desert

City of Palm Springs

City of Rancho Mirage

County of Riverside

**Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla
Indians**

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

CVAG

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Key Categories



TRANSPORTATION

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



ENERGY

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



ENVIRONMENTAL

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



BROADBAND

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



HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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



PUBLIC SAFETY

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

FEDERAL

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

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

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

Active Transportation

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

Intelligent Transportation Systems

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

Energy and Environment

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

Broadband

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

Homeless and Affordable Housing

- Identify and advocate for opportunities for CVAG's member agencies to secure funding that assists in building affordable housing and increasing housing opportunities for low-, moderate-, and workforce housing.
- Monitor and support programs and funding for CVAG's CV Housing First program and regional solutions to addressing homelessness.

Public Safety

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

STATE

Fighting for Fairness and Funding

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

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

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

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

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

Active Transportation

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

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

Intelligent Transportation Systems

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

Energy and Environment

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

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

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

Broadband

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

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

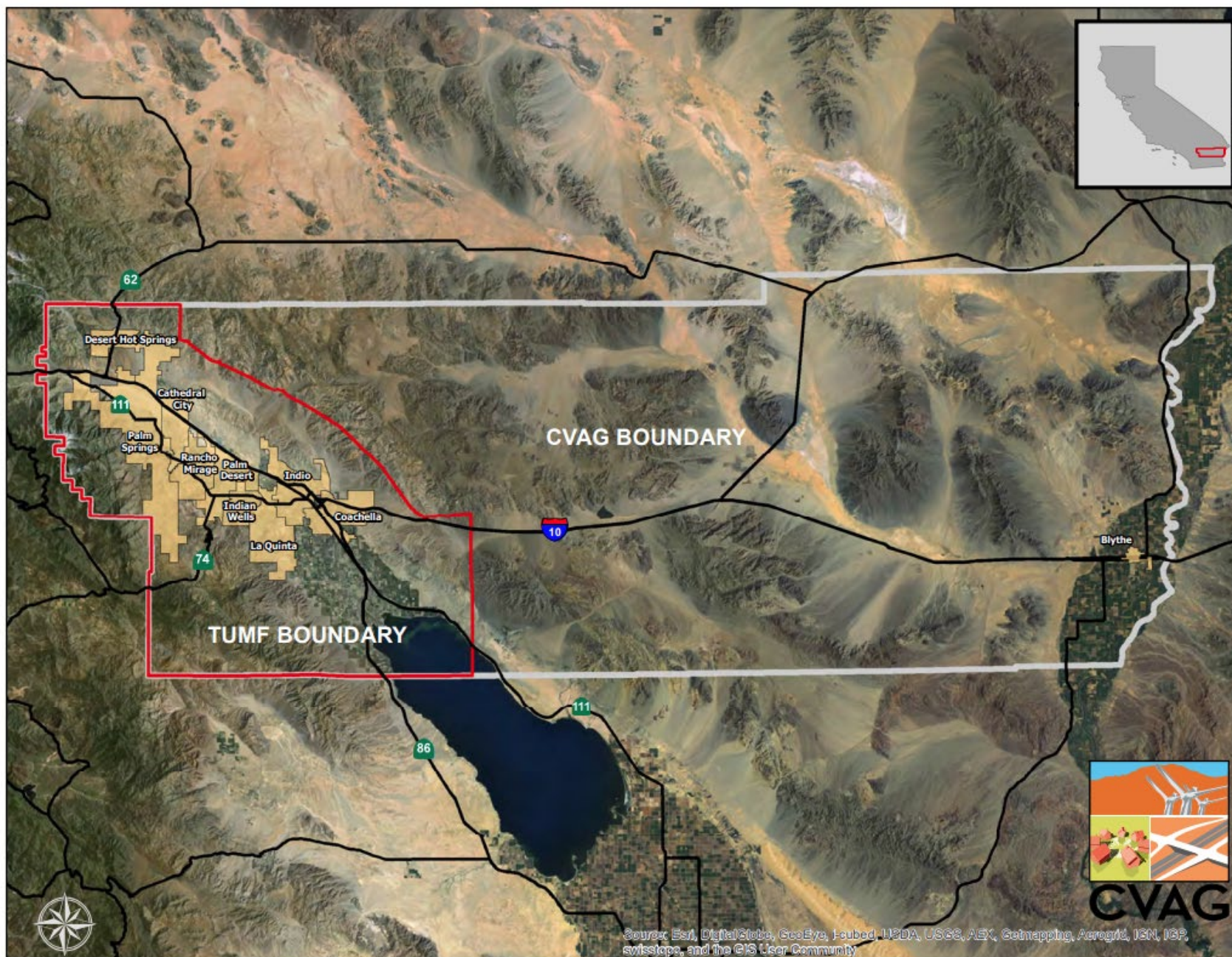
Homelessness and Affordable Housing

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

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 9C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee November 13, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Follow up on Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons

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

Recommendation: Information

Background: Over the course of several meetings last year, the Public Safety Committee was provided updates on the increasing public safety concerns related to Mylar balloons and power outages. The issue, which has drawn attention from both Southern California Edison (SCE) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID), led to discussions around both the sale and possession of Mylar balloons.

The issue was last brought to the Public Safety Committee's attention in September 2023, when the City of Palm Desert requested a regional endorsement of the City's new ordinance to regulate Mylar balloons at public parks. Palm Desert's Ordinance No. 1397 states "*Within the limits of any public park or recreation area of the city, no person shall possess, bring, decorate with, or use a foil balloon that is filled with a gas lighter than air.*" The ordinance went into effect on August 20, 2023.

Mylar balloons are made with Mylar nylon, a non-biodegradable material, and are typically coated with a metallic finish that conducts electricity. These balloons are a common feature at celebratory events such as birthdays or graduations, and they stay inflated for two weeks or longer. When they are not sufficiently weighted and are released into the air, Mylar balloons have the potential to contact power lines, which can result in power outages and fires.

The Public Safety Committee, which met on September 11, recommended CVAG make a regional adoption of the Palm Desert ordinance on Mylar balloon restrictions and distribute to cities. The issue was also brought before the Energy & Sustainability Committee, which met on September 14 but did not recommend supporting the ordinance. Instead, they recommended a regional public awareness campaign about dangers caused by improper use of Mylar balloons.

Staff presented both recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration. After much discussion, the Executive Committee did not favor one approach over the other. Instead, they directed staff to provide both approaches to member jurisdictions for their own information and consideration of any next steps. That correspondence was provided this month.

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