

ITEM 7A

**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2023**



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

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 10:30 a.m. in the CVAG Conference Room, Suite 119, in Palm Desert. Mayor Evans welcomed all commissioners back to the CVCC’s first in-person meeting since the pandemic.
- 2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Agency

Councilmember Ernesto Gutierrez	City of Cathedral City
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Coachella Valley Water District (arrived at 7A)
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner	City of Desert Hot Springs
Mayor Donna Griffith	City of Indian Wells
Councilmember Elaine Holmes	City of Indio
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	City of La Quinta
Director Russ Martin	Mission Springs Water District
Councilmember Evan Trubee	City of Palm Desert
Councilmember Ron deHarte	City of Palm Springs
Mayor Richard Kite	City of Rancho Mirage
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Riverside County – District 1
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Riverside County – District 2 (arrived at 7A)
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Riverside County – District 4
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	Riverside County – District 5 (arrived at 7A)

Members Not Present

Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	City of Coachella
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Riverside County – District 3
Director Alex Cardenas	Imperial Irrigation District

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Evans.

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (IF ANY)

None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Tom Kirk explained meeting logistics and technology being used for the meeting. He also noted that lunch that will be provided directly after meeting.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve February 9, 2023 CVCC Meeting Minutes**
- B. Receive and file a 7.4-percent inflationary adjustment to the Local Development Mitigation Fee for fiscal year 2023/2024, to take effect July 1, 2023**
- C. Authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment #2 to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Friends of the Desert Mountains for the cooperative management of conservation lands**
- D. Authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) to continue to provide services as CVCC’s Land Acquisition Manager, extending the contract for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$258,347 through June 30, 2026**
- E. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with The Dore Group for appraisal of parcels consisting of approximately 308 +/- acres in the Willow Hole Conservation Area at a cost not to exceed \$32,000 through June 12, 2023**

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLMES TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES, AND 6 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Ernesto Gutierrez	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
Mayor Donna Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Councilmember Evan Trubee	Aye
Councilmember Ron deHarte	Aye
Mayor Richard Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Absent
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Absent
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	Absent

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. 2022 Annual Report

Peter Satin, Conservation Program Manager, gave an in-depth review of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan annual report, along with ecological features and development patterns.

Member discussion ensued. Mr. Satin addressed questions about the short term and long-term plans for managing conservation lands.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Ernesto Gutierrez	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
Mayor Donna Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Councilmember Evan Trubee	Aye
Councilmember Ron deHarte	Aye
Mayor Richard Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Absent
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	Aye

B. Update on CVCC's Reserve Management Activities

Kathleen Brundige, Director of Conservation, gave an update of acquired land and the management of it by the CVCC and its partners, including the protection of the endangered species and their ecosystems.

No action was taken on this information item.

8. INFORMATION

A. Attendance Record

B. Contracts under \$25,000

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Association of Governments' conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260.

11. ADJOURN

Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst