

**ITEM 5A**

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 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 Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to AB 361 and the guidelines for governing how public meetings are held virtually.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Councilmember Nancy Ross  
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen  
Councilmember Russell Betts  
Mayor Donna Griffith  
Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*  
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*  
Director Russ Martin  
Councilmember Gina Nestande  
Councilmember Ron deHarte  
Councilmember Ted Weill  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

**Agency**

City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
Mission Springs Water District  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
Riverside County – District 4

**Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present**

Vice President Vincent Gonzales III  
Board Member Anthony Bianco  
Director Karin Eugenio  
Secretary Altrena Santillanes  
Board Member Patricia Oyar  
Supervisor Yxstian Guterrez

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Desert Water Agency  
Riverside County – District 5

Due to a technical issue, City of Blythe's Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck was present but unable to cast a vote on the agenda items.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Chair Ortiz provided an update from the Southern California Association of Governments. He requested a future agenda item focus on residential solar development, microgrids and other renewable energy solutions.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez noted that conversations are occurring with renewable energy developers around the future of energy, particularly in the unincorporated areas of the county. He stated a future agenda item should focus on forming a regional approach.

Councilmember Nancy Ross noted that financing and funding incentives should be part of the agenda item.

In response to timing of the agenda item, Executive Director Tom Kirk indicated a roundtable discussion could be scheduled quickly but it would likely take a more time to bring back a more detailed staff report.

## 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

### A. Approve November 10, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

### B. Authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Imperial Irrigation District, extending the term until December 31, 2023 with an option to extend for an additional year, to assist its Coachella Valley Energy Commission and to help achieve a local collaborative governance and electrical service solution post-2033

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR MARTIN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES, 1 MEMBER PRESENT AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Vice Chair Vincent Gonzales III	Absent
Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck	Present
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Aye
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Russell Betts	Aye
Director Karin Eugenio	Absent
Mayor Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Ron deHarte	Aye
Councilmember Ted Weill	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Secretary Altrena Santillanes	Absent

## 6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

### A. Presentation: Coachella Valley Water District and Regional Conservation Programs – Adam McVey, CVWD Acting Conservation Manager

Adam McVey, Coachella Valley Water District's Acting Conservation Manager, provided an overview of their conservation programs. Member discussion ensued, including discussion on turf rebates and ways to promote water conservation.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

**B. Update on Inland Regional Energy Network Agreements, Programs, and Governance – Kenyon Potter**

Director of Energy & Sustainability Kenyon Potter provided the staff report. Member discussion ensued.

Mayor Linda Evans and Councilmember Russell Betts were identified to represent the region for the I-REN survey.

**C. Urban Tree Planting and Shade Initiative – Kenyon Potter**

Mr. Potter provided the staff report. Mr. Kirk noted that approving a big picture goal would help CVAG as it seeks outside funding opportunities.

Member discussion ensued, including discussion of partnering with other agencies and ideas for grant applications.

No vote was taken, but the Committee expressed consensus around endorsing a regional urban tree planting and shade initiative to increase shading, build climate resilience and reduce the impacts of increased heat.

**7. INFORMATION – The following items were provided in the agenda for information only:**

**A. Attendance Record**

**B. Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program**

**C. Update on Senate Bill 379 and Automated Solar Permitting**

**D. California Public Utilities Commission NEM 3.0 and Net Billing Tariff Decision**

**E. Heat Mitigation Opportunities**

**F. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Guidance**

Supervisor Perez announced the upcoming fishing derby for veterans and their families, which Riverside County is hosting at Lake Cahuilla.

Councilmember Ross discussed the City's recent goal setting and the pushback residents expressed in expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Other members – including Chair Ortiz, Mayor Griffith and Director Martin – added the concerns they had received from residents about the impact on California's grid as the availability of EV stations is expanded. Mr. Kirk noted Supervisor Perez's role on the California Air Resources Board.

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

None.

## 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ortiz asked about getting an update on water negotiations along the Colorado River.

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at noon with additional meeting logistics to be announced.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

## 10. ADJOURN –

Chair Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erica Felci*  
*Assistant Executive Director*