

ITEM 5A

Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes May 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 Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, at 12:00 p.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, in the City of Palm Desert. Videoconferencing was available from the City of Blythe and Imperial Irrigation Offices in El Centro.
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Councilmember Russell Betts
Mayor Donna Griffith
Mayor Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Councilmember Ted Weill
Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper

Agency

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Blythe
City of Coachella (*arrived at item 4*)
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4

Director JB Hamby, Imperial Irrigation District, attended by phone but did not count towards the quorum.

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Councilmember Nancy Ross
Councilmember Ron deHarte
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez
Director Russ Martin
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Board Member Patricia Oygarr

City of Cathedral City
City of Palm Springs
Riverside County – District 5
Mission Springs Water District
Coachella Valley Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Desert Water Agency

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Riverside County Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper informed the committee about SB 583, a bill being proposed by State Senator Padilla to create a Salton Sea Conservancy. Supervisor Perez was requesting CVAG join the opposition to the bill. Executive Director Tom Kirk noted the item would be brought to the committee at its next meeting.

Councilmember Betts commented on the ongoing graffiti issue on the Interstate 10 corridor and asked if the committee can reach out to Caltrans about how to get it addressed. Mr. Kirk noted he will reach out to Caltrans about the issue.

Mr. Kirk welcomed the committee and explained the operations of the meeting with regards to the Brown Act and Zoom availability.

Mr. Kirk updated the committee on the ongoing urban green project and funding for more shade trees. He reported CVAG submitted an application for state funding last month and are in consultation with IID and cities for additional funding.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve April 13, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 6 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson	Aye
Mayor Joseph DeConinck	Aye
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Absent
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Russell Betts	Aye
Director JB Hamby	Absent
Mayor Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Director Russ Martin	Absent
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Ron deHarte	Absent
Councilmember Ted Weill	Aye
County staff Pat Cooper	Aye
Secretary Altrena Santillanes	Absent

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Distributed Energy Resources, Community Solar and Microgrids

Program Manager Emmanuel Martinez introduced Executive Director Jaime Alonso from GRID Alternatives Inland Empire and Community Development Officer Victoria Pacheco, who presented an overview of clean renewable energy solar programs and opportunities available to the region.

Member discussion ensued. Mr. Alonso and Ms. Pacheco both addressed questions from the committee regarding funding sources and opportunities, as well as questions regarding availability of services to the Palo Verde Valley and City of Blythe.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Colorado River Negotiations and the Potential Impacts for California

Jessica Neuwerth, Deputy Director of the Colorado River Board of California, provided an update via Zoom that included the history of the Colorado River and its issues, along with an update on the negotiations with the basin states.

No action was taken for this item as this was an information item.

C. Renaming of the Energy and Environment Resources Committee

Mr. Kirk presented the staff report.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER NESTANDE AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS TO RENAME CVAG'S ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO BE CVAG'S ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 6 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson	Aye
Mayor Joseph DeConinck	Aye
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Absent
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Russell Betts	Aye
Director JB Hamby	Absent
Mayor Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Director Russ Martin	Absent
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Ron deHarte	Absent
Councilmember Ted Weill	Aye
Deputy Chief Pat Cooper	Aye
Secretary Altrena Santillanes	Absent

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Update on the Inland Regional Energy Network

C. Net Energy Metering 3.0 and the Implementation of the Solar Billing Plan

D. Update on Efforts to Regulate Mylar Balloons

E. Availability of Southern California Edison's Green Rate

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

At the request of Councilmember Ted Weill, Mayor Joseph DeConinck provided an update on the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison closure that was discussed during April's Executive Committee meeting. Mayor DeConinck noted they were trying to get a meeting with Gov. Newsom and that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors joined the Save Chuck efforts.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at noon at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260.

10. ADJOURN –

Chair Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado
Management Analyst