

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.



Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 and the findings made by CVAG, this meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
12:00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83025909815?pwd=bnVUU0F4aG1PVEIBL2NYdjVRdFpPd09>

Passcode: 689468

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,83025909815#

Dial In #: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 830 2590 9815

Passcode: 689468

This will provide listening access and ability to address the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee when called upon.

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

Public Comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee 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** – Mayor Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, Chair
2. **ROLL CALL** P4
 - A. Member Roster
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Anyone wishing to address the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. At the discretion of the Chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.
4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. Approve June 9, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes P5
 - B. Approve Amendment Number Two to the agreement with Southern California Mountains Foundation for the regional Tire Amnesty Program for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 through October 31, 2023; and authorize the Executive Director and/or legal counsel to make clarifying changes before execution P9
6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**
 - A. **Presentation: Overview of the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan** – Sarah Rees of South Coast Air Quality Management District P16

Recommendation: Information
 - B. **Regional PM10 Street Sweeping Study** – Emmanuel Martinez P17

Recommendation: Discuss the preliminary results of the efficiency and effectiveness study of CVAG’s Regional PM10 Street Sweeping Program
 - C. **Update on Colorado River Shortages and Potential Impacts to the Salton Sea** – Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority P19

Recommendation: Information

- D. **Election of Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Officers –** **P21**
Tom Kirk

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

7. **INFORMATION**

- A. **Attendance Record** **P23**
- B. **Feedback from Members on the Continued Use of Virtual Meetings** **P24**
- C. **Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program** **P26**
- D. **Public Safety Concerns Related to Mylar Balloons** **P28**
- E. **Update on Inland Regional Energy Network Agreements, Governance and Programs** **P30**

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

Any member of the public wishing to address the Committee on items not appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 2 minutes. At the discretion of the Chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at noon via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. **ADJOURN**

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
Member Roster
2022 – 2023**



| VOTING MEMBERS | |
|--|---|
| Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | Tribal Vice Chair Vincent Gonzales III |
| City of Blythe | Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck <i>Alternate: Councilmember Joseph Halby III</i> |
| City of Cathedral City | Councilmember Nancy Ross <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb</i> |
| City of Coachella | Councilmember Neftali Galarza <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez</i> |
| Coachella Valley Water District | Board Member Anthony Bianco |
| City of Desert Hot Springs | Councilmember Russell Betts <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner</i> |
| Imperial Irrigation District | Director JB Hamby |
| City of Indian Wells | Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith <i>Alternate: Councilmember Richard Balocco</i> |
| City of Indio | Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz, Vice Chair <i>Alternate: Councilmember Elaine Holmes</i> |
| City of La Quinta | Mayor Linda Evans, Chair |
| Mission Springs Water District | Vice President Nancy Wright <i>Alternate: President Randy Duncan</i> |
| City of Palm Desert | Councilmember Gina Nestande |
| City of Palm Springs | Councilmember Dennis Woods <i>Alternate: Mayor Lisa Middleton</i> |
| City of Rancho Mirage | Mayor Charles Townsend <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Richard W. Kite</i> |
| Riverside County – District 4 | Supervisor V. Manuel Perez |
| Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members | |
| Desert Water Agency | Board Member Patricia Oyar |
| Riverside County – District 5 | Supervisor Jeff Hewitt <i>Alternate: Director Russ Martin, Mission Springs Water District</i> |

ITEM 5A

Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes June 9, 2022



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 Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 12:02 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

Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Councilmember Nancy Ross
Councilmember Russell Betts
Director JB Hamby
Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith
Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz
Mayor Linda Evans
Vice President Nancy Wright
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Mayor Charles Townsend
Riverside County – District 4

Agency

City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert (*Arrived at Item 6A*)
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Ex-Officios Present

Director Russ Martin

Riverside County District 5

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Sec./Treasurer Vincent Gonzales III
Councilmember Neftali Galarza
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Board Member Patricia Oygur

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District Councilmember
Desert Water Agency

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Tom Kirk addressed Item 5B and funding for the used oil program, and noted that a contract extension would be added before the item was presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve May 12, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

- B. Adopt Resolution 2022-04, authorizing CVAG to act as lead applicant for funding from CalRecycle for the Used Oil Recycling Program**

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR TOWNSEND TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck | Aye |
| Secretary/Treasurer Vincent Gonzales III | Absent |
| Councilmember Nancy Ross | Aye |
| Councilmember Netfali Galarza | Absent |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco | Absent |
| Councilmember Russell Betts | Aye |
| Director JB Hamby | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz | Aye |
| Mayor Linda Evans | Aye |
| Vice President Nancy Wright | Aye |
| Councilmember Gina Nestande | Absent |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods | Aye |
| Mayor Charles Townsend | Aye |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez | Aye |

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Inland Regional Energy Network Agreements, Governance and Programs – David Freedman

David Freedman presented the staff report and provided an update on the Inland Regional Energy Network. A robust discussion ensued, with staff responding to questions.

Committee members stated they wanted to make it clear that, should the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee Chair be unavailable, the Vice Chair should have the first opportunity to represent CVAG.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER NANCY ROSS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM GRIFFITH TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FINALIZE AND EXECUTE THE PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS AGREEMENT, MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, AND GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS CHARTER FOR THE INLAND REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK (I-REN) PROGRAM; AND 2.) DELEGATE THE CHAIR OF THE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, OR WHEN ABSENT THE VICE CHAIR AND THEN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE, AS THE CVAG VOTING REPRESENTATIVE ON THE I-REN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES, 1 ABSTENTION AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck | Aye |
| Secretary/Treasurer Vincent Gonzales III | Absent |
| Councilmember Nancy Ross | Aye |
| Councilmember Netfali Galarza | Absent |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco | Absent |
| Councilmember Russell Betts | Abstain |
| Director JB Hamby | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz | Aye |
| Mayor Linda Evans | Aye |
| Vice President Nancy Wright | Aye |
| Councilmember Gina Nestande | Aye |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods | Aye |
| Mayor Charles Townsend | Aye |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez | Aye |

B. Presentation on Energy Infrastructure Financing Option – Bryan Montgomery,
Indio City Manager

City Manager Bryan Montgomery provided a detailed presentation on energy infrastructure needs in the Coachella Valley and responded to committee members comments and questions.

It was also noted that IID was circulating an ordinance to regulate Mylar balloons, and staff indicated the item would likely come back based on feedback from the Public Safety Committee.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

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

A. Attendance

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

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at noon via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **General Assembly** will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 6 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

It was mentioned that the September Energy and Environmental Committee meeting would conflict with the League of California's annual conference and it was suggested moving the meeting to September 15th once members are polled for availability.

10. ADJOURN – Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Executive Assistant/ Clerk

ITEM 5B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee September 15, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Amendment #2 with Southern California Mountains Foundation for Tire Amnesty Program

Contact: Elizabeth Barnwell, Management Analyst (ebarnwell@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Approve Amendment Number Two to the agreement with Southern California Mountains Foundation for the regional Tire Amnesty Program for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 through October 31, 2023; and authorize the Executive Director and/or legal counsel to make clarifying changes before execution

Background: CVAG annually applies for funding from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) for the Tire Amnesty Program. The program is run in partnership with Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF), allowing people around the Coachella Valley to dispose of waste tires to prevent dumping. The tires recycled through this program might otherwise have been dumped around the community and in open desert areas. The tires that are collected are all recycled into tire-derived aggregate, rubberized asphalt concrete or used for tire-derived products such as floor mats, drainpipes, mulch, office supplies and surfacing.

CVAG has participated in this grant program since 2011. After a competitive bid process, CVAG in January 2020 selected Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF) as the contractor for the program. The COVID-19 pandemic required some program changes in order to adjust to social distancing. With money remaining, CVAG in September 2021 authorized a no-cost contract extension that runs through September 29, 2022, which coincided with CalRecycle's Tire Amnesty Cycle 5.

CVAG has received additional funding as part of Cycle 6, which will fund events through October 2023. CVAG staff is recommending approval of a second contract amendment to the existing agreement with SCMF for the 2022/2023 program year, with SCMF continuing to provide all services it has contracted for in the past. CVAG staff and SCMF are planning a total of seven events for the 2022/2023 cycle, and the dates and locations are being coordinated with member jurisdictions.

Moving forward, CVAG staff plans to issue a request for proposals in conjunction with the regional used oil recycling program. The goal will be to find efficiencies and maximize resources. Based on the timing of the request for proposals, any recommended contracts will come to CVAG's committees in 2023.

Fiscal Analysis: The Tire Amnesty Program is fully funded by a \$50,000 grant from Cycle 6 of the Tire Amnesty Program. This covers consultant contract costs, event costs, CVAG staff time, and community outreach.

Attachments:

1. Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with Southern California Mountains Foundation
2. Proposed Budget
3. Scope of Work

**AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO
TO THE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION
FOR THE
WASTE TIRE RECYCLING PROGRAM**

This **AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO** is made and entered into this 26th day of September 2022, by and between **COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**, a California joint powers agency ("**CVAG**"), and **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION** ("**CONSULTANT**"), and is made with reference to the following background facts and circumstances. All other terms and conditions shall remain the same as stated in the original Agreement dated January 15, 2020 for the Waste Tire Recycling Program.

1. This Amendment Number Two extends the term of the Agreement to October 31, 2023 coinciding with the CalRecycle's amended Tire Amnesty 6 grant term extension.
2. This Amendment Number Two replaces Exhibit A. PRICE FORMULA in its entirety with the attached Exhibit A. PRICE FORMULA for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000.
3. This Amendment Number Two replaces Exhibit B. SCOPE OF WORK in its entirety with the attached Exhibit B. SCOPE OF WORK.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Amendment Number Two to be executed by their duly authorized representatives on this date:

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS
FOUNDATION**

By: _____
Steven Hernandez, Chair

By: _____
Jennifer Prado, Executive Officer

Contract No. CVAG-20-060-02
Project: Waste Tire Recycling Program

EXHIBIT A
PRICE FORMULA

Please refer to the following page for a detailed breakdown of the FY2022-2023 project budget for the not to exceed amount of \$50,000.

Coachella Valley Association of Governments

| Category/Description | | Cost/Event | Total Cost |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Provide Waste Tire Amnesty Events | | | |
| Personnel (project/grant oversight)* | | | |
| CVAG: | | | |
| Contract Staff for Grant Oversight, Education | | | \$ 7,500.00 |
| (\$54 per hour (without benefits) for 139 hours) | | | |
| | | | |
| Labor (handling and collection of Tires) | | | |
| Personnel Costs are for each event | | | |
| City Staff (Recycling Technician or equivalent) for 7+ events | | \$ 305.45 | \$ 3,360.00 |
| (1 staff @ 6 hours per event: 42 hours \$80 per hour) | | | |
| Contract Staff for 7+ events | | | |
| 1 staff @ 6 hrs per event: 42 hours \$80 per hour | | \$ 305.45 | \$ 3,360.00 |
| avg 2 staff @ 6 hrs per event: 84 hours \$20 per hour | | \$ 240.00 | \$ 1,680.00 |
| Contracts (removal, transportation, disposal) | | | |
| Waste Tire Hauler | | | |
| 2 Haul Charge per Box (\$350 per box, avg 4 boxes) | | \$ 2,800.00 | \$ 19,600.00 |
| Disposal Charge (\$55/ton, 4 boxes = 12 tons, 12tons x \$55) | | \$ 660.00 | \$ 4,620.00 |
| | | | |
| Additional Roll off w/o haul charge (3) | | \$ 1,050.00 | \$ 3,150.00 |
| Disposal charge for additional Roll off (3) | | \$ 165.00 | \$ 495.00 |
| (\$55/ton, roll off equivalent to 3tons) | | | |
| | | | |
| Materials and Equipment | | | |
| Miscellaneous material and equipment for each event | | \$ 150.00 | \$ 1,050.00 |
| Education and Advertising | | | |
| Radio Advertising for Events (125 spots for \$3,125.00) | | | \$ 3,125.00 |
| Printing: Event flyers, billing inserts, mailing | | | \$ 1,875.00 |
| Total Program Expenses | | | \$ 49,815.00 |
| Additional Events (TBD) | | | |
| Depending on actual expenses per event, there may be room in the budget for additional events. | | | |
| In-kind Matching Funds | | | |
| All other Cities labor hours/event - coordination; contracts | | | \$ 185.00 |
| 1 Hourly Salary Rates include Salary & Eligible Benefits | | | |
| 2 Average full load of tires in 40-yard bin is 3 tons, 266 tires (@ 30lbs/tire) | | | |
| | Estimated total tires 10,015 | Cost/tire \$ 4.99 | Total Budget \$ 50,000.00 |

EXHIBIT B

SCOPE OF WORK

The following scope of work identifies the tasks that are basic elements of the Waste Tire Recycling Program. Consultant is encouraged to include recommendations and creative suggestions for enhancements to the program that could result in greater participation and more waste tire recycling. The consultant will be responsible for an initial meeting with CVAG staff to review scope of work, project tasks, role of key project participants, and deliverables for the program.

Waste Tire Recycling Events

Task 1: Event Coordination

- Survey participating cities to create a schedule of events, determine level of city staff participation at the events, assess advertising opportunities and preferences, and identify support needs for member jurisdictions
- Coordinate with auto parts and tire stores and local jurisdictions to reserve event dates.
- Coordinate the preparation and submittal of all necessary permits, certificates of insurance, and other documents as required.
- Develop detailed event schedule (up to 7 Events)

Event schedule:

| <i>TASK DESCRIPTION</i> | <i>CONTRACTOR OR STAFF</i> | <i>TIMEFRAME</i> (month/yr–month/yr) |
|---|--|--|
| 2 Events in the City of Coachella | Southern California Mountains Conservation | October 2022 March 2023 |
| 2 Events in the City of Indio | Southern California Mountains Conservation | November 2022 January 2023 |
| 1 Event in the City of La Quinta | Southern California Mountains Conservation | December 2022 |
| 1 Event in the City of Rancho Mirage/Thousand Palms | Southern California Mountains Conservation | April 2023 |
| 1 Event in the City of Blythe | Southern California Mountains Conservation | February 2023 |

- Develop contract(s) for waste tire hauling and recycling with Waste Tire Hauler.
- Coordinate with Waste Tire Hauler on events, certification, and proper disposal.
- Develop logistics/operational plan and program details.

- Obtain commitment from retailers (auto part and tire stores) to post event information/advertise events
- Prior to each event, contact participating store to ensure sufficient capacity for used tires, that promotional items have been delivered, and confirm all event logistics.
- Ensure that one representative fluent in Spanish is available for each event.

Task 2: Event Education and Marketing

- Coordinate design, printing, and distribution of event flyers and other printed material with CVAG and member jurisdictions (English and Spanish).
- Coordinate with CVAG staff to develop event marketing/advertising (radio, print, other media), promotional items necessary to complete the program.
- Coordinate the development of contracts as appropriate for CVAG approval with media outlets for pre-event advertising and onsite programs.
- Create billing inserts in English and Spanish to be mailed with Waste Hauler billing.
- If requested by CVAG, consultant will obtain from two or three vendors' price quotes for promotional items, and media expenditures.

Task 3: Program Measurement and Monitoring

The grant funding from CalRecycle requires program measurement and monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the program in meeting goals. Program measurement and monitoring is also needed to assess program effectiveness in meeting needs of CVAG jurisdictions.

- Track and document for each Waste Tire Recycling Event, various program measurements including.
 - Location
 - Assessor Parcel Number/Address
 - Number of Tires o Number of Participants
 - Media Outreach (How did Participant become aware of event)
- Provide event data to participating auto parts & tire stores
- Include event data in reports to the Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Working Group.
- Coordinate with the event locations to collect data one month and three months after each event
- Provide a memorandum documenting the event statistics and assessment of program effectiveness.
- Help prepare final report to CalRecycle

Task 4: Grant Application and Report Assistance

The grant performance period ends September 30, 2023. The consultant is expected to prepare and submit the Final Report for the Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program, in coordination with CVAG staff during the Report Preparation period October 23, 2023-October 30, 2023. The Final Report is due October 31, 2023.

Task 5: Provide Support at Meetings as Requested by CVAG

The consultant will be expected to provide support to the CVAG Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Working Group meetings as requested by CVAG. This support could include attendance at meetings to report on the Waste Tire Recycling Program, preparation of staff reports, and other updates on the program as needed.

ITEM 6A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee September 15, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Presentation: Overview of the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager (emartinez@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, lowering the primary and secondary ozone standard levels to 70 parts per billion (ppb). The South Coast Air Basin is classified as an “extreme” non-attainment area and the Coachella Valley is classified as a “severe-15” non-attainment area for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS.

Ground-level ozone is an air pollutant that can trigger health problems in humans and damages crops, trees, and other vegetation. Ozone causes difficulty breathing in healthy people and can worsen asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory problems. Ozone is a problem for anyone who spends time outdoors in hot weather when strong sunlight and high temperatures result in harmful ozone concentrations in the air.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is now developing the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan to address the requirements for meeting this standard. The plan is envisioned as the blueprint for clean air policy in the four-county South Coast AQMD jurisdiction, and South Coast AQMD is required by federal law to update the plan approximately every three to five years. Earlier this year, South Coast AQMD held a series of scoping meetings to circulate the plan, including a Zoom webinar designed for the Coachella Valley. Public comments were solicited over the summer of 2022.

Sarah Rees, South Coast AQMD’s Deputy Executive Officer of Planning, Rule Development, and Implementation, will provide an overview of the draft plan at the September meeting of CVAG’s Energy and Environmental Resources Committee. The Draft 2022 Air Quality Management Plan includes a variety of strategies, including relying on emissions reductions through economy-wide transition to zero emission technologies when cost-effective and feasible. The draft plan also includes a voluntary reclassification request to “extreme” nonattainment for the Coachella Valley to provide additional time for that area to meet the standard, extending the deadline to 2037. Additional information about the plan can be found here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan>

Fiscal Analysis: There is no fiscal impact to CVAG for this item.

ITEM 6B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee September 15, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Regional PM10 Street Sweeping Study

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Discuss the preliminary results of the efficiency and effectiveness study of CVAG's Regional PM10 Street Sweeping Program

Background: The Regional Street Sweeping program is an air quality program focused on addressing PM10 (particulate matter less than 10 microns) by removing sand and entrained dust from regional streets in the Coachella Valley. The program is part of the Coachella Valley's State Implementation Plan (SIP) and is a best available control measure for the Coachella Valley given the area is in non-attainment for PM10. The goal of the program is to improve air quality and public health and safety by decreasing entrained roadway dust from suspending into the air due to vehicular traffic and creating fugitive PM10 emissions.

In September 2021, the Executive Committee approved an agreement with ECORP Consulting, Inc. to conduct an efficiency and effectiveness study of the street sweeping program. The program has been operating since the 1990s, and the study was designed to evaluate sweeping routes, increased traffic areas and growth in and adjacent to the valley's blow sand zone, cost, and other factors to identify the current effectiveness of program and make recommendations to improve its operation.

After the Executive Committee's approval of the ECORP agreement, CVAG staff worked with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to finalize the agreement for the study. ECORP commenced work in early 2022. In April 2022, the Executive Committee provided the existing sweeping company, M&M Inc, with a six-month extension to allow for the completion study. As a starting point, ECORP utilized the original Strategic Street Sweeping study from 1993 on PM10 in the Coachella Valley to determine significant average daily traffic counts (ADT) for intersection and road stretches, both within and adjacent to the Coachella Valley blowsand area. The blowsand area generally stretches along Interstate 10 from the pass area downwind into the Coachella Valley. To review the current state of PM10, ECORP used wind data and meteorological data in combination with the traffic data aforementioned. Additionally, they analyzed monthly data to identify periods of concern, which are periods of high winds and high PM10 concentrations.

In collaboration with staffs of all the nine Coachella Valley cities and the County of Riverside, ECORP conducted quantitative and qualitative surveys to analyze costing and service data. The data gathered for this analysis also compares street sweeping programs in similar areas and their current best management practices for sweeping in areas with windblown dust. These surveys ultimately serve to help identify areas of concern for each city and the County of Riverside. CVAG staff and ECORP have also coordinated with SCAQMD staff to provide them

an update on the methodology, data collection and pre-liminary findings, to ensure adherence to SCAQMD's grant requirements.

The study is being finalized this month, and ECORP will present preliminary findings and recommendations to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee when it meets on September 15. ECORP and CVAG staff have also consulted with Dr. Emily Nelson, who has been instrumental in these efforts and will also be available to provide information to the committee.

Ultimately, from a broad perspective, the study identifies intersections and roadways which have an increased ADT and are not included in the regional street sweeping program. In addition, any changes to the PM10 concentrations in the Coachella Valley will be included based on current monitoring data and studies. ECORP also conducted a review of current sweeper technology for the study, as well as associated regulatory data, to ensure the sweepers are meeting minimum regulatory requirements and to identify opportunities to use sweepers that exceed minimum requirements, helping to further air quality improvements.

The findings will help determine next steps with the program. The current contract for services is with M&M Sweeping, Inc. and it is set to expire on December 31, 2022. CVAG is currently soliciting proposals from street sweeping companies interested in serving the Coachella Valley starting in 2023. The proposals are due at the end of September, with CVAG staff anticipating recommending a contract to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee in November 2022.

Fiscal Analysis: The total cost of the ECORP study is \$28,511, including a 10 percent contingency.

It is funded as part of the \$1.15 million grant from SCAQMD, which provides \$220,000 per year for five years to support the street sweeping program. Of this amount, \$50,000 was allocated for the study. However, years two through five of the grant funding are contingent on completion of the study. Therefore, the grant agreement was bifurcated: one agreement for year-one of the program and a separate agreement for the study and years two through five of the program. For year-one of the grant, CVAG staff has already requested and received \$220,000 from SCAQMD for program operation in fiscal year 2021-22. Because the study was less than the grant allocated for the study, the remaining balance will help cover CVAG staff time for managing and implementing the grant and the program.

The Regional PM 10 Street Sweeping Program is funded through various funding sources including Col-Mac (Desert View) funds apportioned to the program by Riverside County, AB 2766 Vehicle Subvention funds received from all nine cities and through the aforementioned grant funds from the SCAQMD. Completion of the efficiency and effectiveness study will allow CVAG to draw down the remaining \$880,000 of the SCAQMD grant funds.

ITEM 6C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
September 15, 2022**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Colorado River Shortages and Potential Impacts to the Salton Sea

Contact: Elizabeth Barnwell, Management Analyst (ebarnwell@cvag.org) and Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The Energy & Environmental Resources Committee meeting regularly receives updates on the reduced water inflows to the Salton Sea and the associated public health and environmental impacts that have been a concern and priority for the Coachella Valley. As noted in previous presentations, a major contributor to declining water levels at the sea is due to the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), a water transfer agreement between the United States, the State of California, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and San Diego County Water Authority. The agreement was designed to secure reliable water supply for future generations of Californians. .

Signed in 2003, the QSA was executed to settle certain disputes related to the Colorado River between the above-mentioned signatories of the QSA. Specifically, these issues related to the Colorado River's reasonable and beneficial use; the ability to conserve, transfer and acquire conserved Colorado River water; quantification and priorities of the river; and environmental mitigation related to implementation of the QSA. As a result, the QSA allows for more efficient and effective water delivery system for California. The agreement ensured California adhered to its annual Colorado River entitlement of 4.4 million acre-feet. It also helped achieve a balance between growing urban water demand and farming needs. For example, the QSA allows for a water transfer of as much as 200,000 acre-feet a year from the Imperial Valley to coastal San Diego for up to 75 years - the largest agricultural to urban water transfer in the United States. Also, a transfer of 105,000 acre-feet annually between IID and Metropolitan and a transfer of as much as 103,000 acre-feet annually between IID and the Coachella Valley Water District. To help conserve water to make available for transfer and farming, IID was compensated to implement canal lining projects and farm fallowing programs, to name a few.

However, water conservation to meet the requirement of the water transfers have negatively impacted the environmental health of the Salton Sea. Reduced water inflow to the Sea as a result of conservation and water transfers tied to the QSA has accelerated the exposure of dry playa or lakebed causing an increase of fugitive dust and air quality issues. Furthermore, reduced water inflow has also eliminated critical habitat for more than 400 avian species on the Pacific Flyway

Although the QSA has allowed for more efficient use of Colorado River water and has helped ensure the availability of this water supply, the environmental and public health issues have been challenging. Nonetheless, increased political attention and investment has been made, prompting

the State of California to address these challenges. On November 7, 2017, the State Water Board adopted Order WRO 2017-0134, amending revised Order WRO 2002-0013 to incorporate additional conditions that set forth specific restoration milestones to address public health and environmental concerns. This prompted the State to adopt the Salton Sea Management Program, which is a 10-year plan comprised of the following goals:

- meet a short-term goal of 9,000 acres to 12,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects; and
- set a medium-term plan to construct 18,000 acres to 25,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects.

The California Natural Resources Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Water Resources are lead agencies implementing the SSMP. Additionally, the agencies are also studying long-term water importation and are undergoing an evaluation of proposals.

Despite the incremental progress, the drought currently facing the western states has exacerbated ongoing concerns regarding water availability. In addition to the impacts this has to potable and farming uses, it further stresses the operating environment under which the Sea is addressed. For example, water levels at Lake Mead – a key water reservoir for Colorado River users -- is at a historic low and approaching dead-pool levels. The Federal Bureau of Reclamation has declared a Tier 2a shortage, which entails significant water cuts to Arizona, Nevada and Mexico. If the drought worsens, it may have a significant consequence for Colorado River water users, and by extension negative impacts to the Salton Sea.

At the September 2022 meeting, Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority, will update the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee on negotiations that have been taking place to address the shortages on the Colorado River and potential impacts to the Salton Sea and surrounding region. Mr. O'Dowd will also briefly highlight the State's work relating to their obligations under the QSA and the Authority's efforts and accomplishments at the State and federal level.

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

ITEM 6D

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
September 15, 2022**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Election of Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Officers

Contact: Tom Kirk, Executive Director (tkirk@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Background: Each fiscal year, the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee considers the election of a Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee does not have a formal officer rotation, or a set policy for how to select the Chair and Vice Chair.

A list of the officers for this Committee, dating back to 2004, is attached for member information.

Staff recommends that the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee provide nominations and elect its officers for this fiscal year.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to the budget as Energy & Environmental Resources Committee officers receive the same per diem as other committee members.

Attachment: History of Chair and Vice Chair

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR HISTORY**



| | <u>Chair</u> | <u>Vice Chair</u> |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2021/2022 | Linda Evans | Oscar Ortiz |
| 2020/2021 | Linda Evans | Oscar Ortiz |
| 2019/2020 | Linda Evans | Vacant |
| 2018/2019 | Linda Evans | Richard Balocco |
| 2017/2018 | Linda Evans | Yvonne Parks |
| 2016/2017 | Linda Evans | Yvonne Parks |
| 2015/2016 | Linda Evans | Yvonne Parks/Paul Lewin |
| 2014/2015 | Michael Wilson | Linda Evans |
| 2013/2014 | Michael Wilson | Linda Evans |
| 2012/2013 | Michael Wilson | Linda Evans |
| 2011/2012 | Stephen Pougnet | Yvonne Parks/Michael Wilson |
| 2010/2011 | Ben Godfrey | Stephen Pougnet |
| 2009/2010 | Ben Godfrey | Stephen Pougnet |
| 2008/2009 | Ben Godfrey | Stephen Pougnet |
| 2007/2008 | Ben Godfrey | Stephen Pougnet |
| 2006/2007 | Hank Hohenstein | Ben Godfrey |
| 2005/2006 | Buford Crites | Stanley Sniff |
| 2004/2005 | Buford Crites | Stanley Sniff |

ITEM 7A

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY 2021-2022**

| <i>VOTING MEMBERS</i> | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | - | - | | - | | | |
| City of Blythe | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | - | - | ✓ | - | | | ✓ |
| City of Cathedral City | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| City of Coachella | - | - | ✓ | - | | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Coachella Valley Water District | - | - | | - | | - | - | ✓ | - | | | |
| City of Desert Hot Springs | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Imperial Irrigation District | - | - | | - | ✓ | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 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 | - | - | ✓ | - | | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Desert Water Agency | - | - | | - | | - | - | | - | | | |
| Riverside County - District 5 | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | - | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | | ✓ |

Absent
Vacancy



No Meeting
Present

-
✓

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee September 15, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Feedback from Members on the Continued Use of Virtual Meetings

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: All meetings of CVAG's standing committees are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code §§ 54950 *et seq.*), and must be open and public so that any member of the public may attend and participate in the meetings.

Starting in March 2020, CVAG, along with many of its member jurisdictions, began having committee meetings via video/ teleconferencing in place of in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has proven to be an efficient way to conduct business for CVAG and its sister agencies – the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) and Desert Community Energy (DCE) – which collectively cover an expansive geographic area across eastern Riverside County. Meetings have been well attended, leading to thoughtful and robust conversations on policies, projects and programs. The use of both videoconference and telephone access has also fostered public engagement, as people can join the meetings from a convenient location instead of driving to CVAG's Palm Desert conference room.

In May and June 2021, CVAG staff provided information to its committees that it would be seeking feedback from members on meeting formats that could be implemented this fiscal year, including exploring the options of continuing with at least some form of videoconferencing. The 2021 survey of CVAG's members found overwhelming support for continuing with virtual meetings. In September 2021, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized the Chair and/or the Executive Director to advocate for Brown Act changes that would allow regional agencies such as CVAG to continue utilizing virtual meetings. With the passage of Assembly Bill 361, CVAG, CVCC and DCE have also made findings that support the continued use of virtual meetings.

Over the summer 2022, CVAG staff circulated another survey to elected officials to gauge the interest in continued use of virtual meetings. The survey was simplified for members' ease, and designed for staff to identify if there was any particular committee where the members preferred a change. CVAG received responses from 33 elected officials who were asked for insight on the committees on which they serve. A total of 58 responses were recorded for the standing CVAG committees and CVCC, and 50 of them – or more than 86 percent – were for continuing virtual meetings. Only eight of the responses indicated a preference for in-person meetings, which equated to no more than a couple of votes per committee. Because DCE has only a two-member Board, staff solicited feedback outside of the poll.

The results were more split for the General Assembly, which includes the elected representatives of every member jurisdiction. The General Assembly meets annually, historically on the last Monday in June, to adopt a CVAG's budget as well as elect a Chair and Vice Chair. Of those who replied, 13 preferred virtual meetings and 11 preferred in-person meetings.

Finally, the poll asked elected officials about what meeting format would be most beneficial for their constituents. Of those who responded, 24 respondents – or more than 70 percent – indicated they prefer virtual meetings for their constituents.

Staff would also note that the use of virtual meetings has generally promoted good attendance, and there has not been any meetings rescheduled due to lack of quorum. Virtual meetings have also created less impact to member schedules and made it easier for them to attend during the workday. The public also benefited from virtual meeting attendance, given they didn't have to drive to CVAG's Palm Desert office during their busy day.

Given the feedback, CVAG staff anticipates continued use of Zoom for its meetings and will work with the Chair of the Executive Committee about options for the 2023 General Assembly meeting, which will be a celebration of CVAG's 50th anniversary.

Fiscal Analysis: There are no additional costs to CVAG hosting virtual meetings. Committee members are paid the same stipends as they would in person.

ITEM 7C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy and Environmental Resources Committee
September 15, 2022**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

Contact: Elizabeth Barnwell, Management Analyst (ebarnwell@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs provide financing to property owners to implement energy saving, renewable energy, water conservation, and seismic strengthening improvements to their homes and businesses, with little or no money out of pocket. Financing for these improvements is paid back through a lien placed on the property and collected through the annual tax bill.

The attached report details the PACE activity through August 2022. While PACE providers continue to provide services in the Coachella Valley and in the City of Blythe, the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee should anticipate a slowing down or drop in the program. Ygrene Energy Fund (Ygrene), the primary provider of local PACE services, recently notified CVAG staff that it has stopped accepting new residential PACE originations as of August 15, 2022. Ygrene also notified CVAG that it will continue to accept new commercial applications as well as service existing residential and commercial accounts. According to Ygrene, the decision is due to current economic conditions and will continue until further notice. However, the company will actively monitor economic conditions and re-evaluate the viability of its residential PACE program as economic conditions change. Ygrene has assured CVAG staff that there will be no disruption or suspension of service to any residential property owner who is currently serviced by them.

CVAG will continue to monitor and report on the status of the PACE residential and commercial PACE providers that operate in CVAG's member jurisdictions.

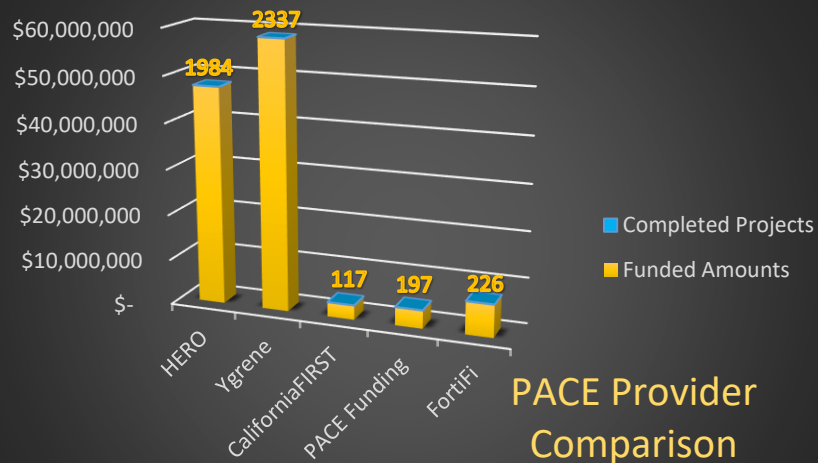
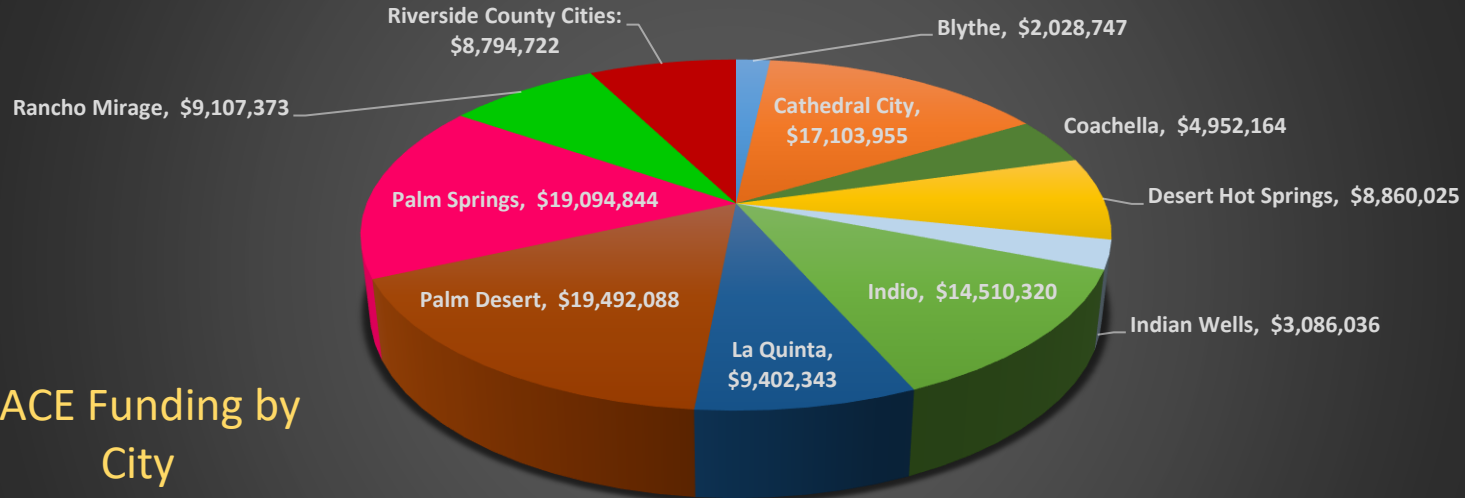
Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost associated with this update. CVAG's staff time spent on these programs is recovered by a participation fee collected from each provider.

Attachment:

PACE Report for Activities through August 31, 2022

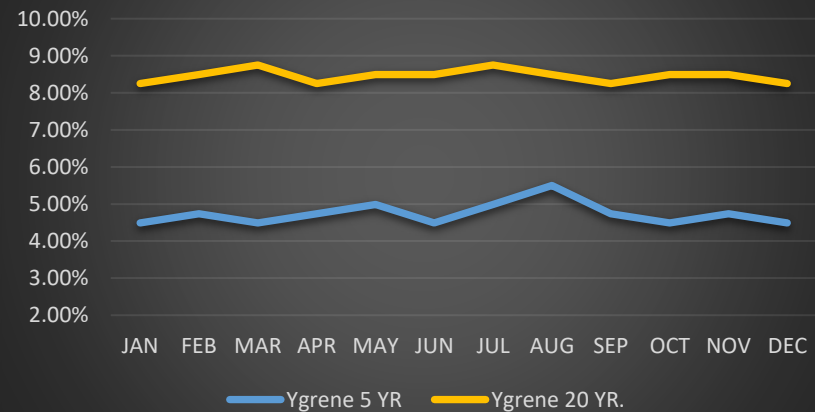
CVAG PACE REPORT

PACE Funding by City



PACE Provider Comparison

PACE Interest Rates



CARS REMOVED FROM ROAD: 41583

Other PACE providers have interest rate ranges from 5.99%-10.98%

JOBS CREATED: 1058

Updated for August 31, 2022

ITEM 7D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy and Environmental Resources Committee September 15, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Public Safety Concerns Related to Mylar Balloons

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: During the June 2022 meeting of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee, it was mentioned that Imperial Irrigation District (IID) had been raising awareness of the public safety concerns related to Mylar balloons and power outages. The issue, which has drawn attention from Southern California Edison (SCE) as well, has led to conversations around limiting the sale or possession of Mylar balloons. CVAG staff noted the item had been broached CVAG's Public Safety Committee, and this staff report serves as an informational update on the discussion.

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. In the first couple months of 2022 alone, IID reported five outages caused by these balloons, impacting 1,672 customers. IID notes that the outages also result in a loss of power to customer medical devices and equipment, can cause damage to IID's and customers' equipment, and cause fire risks.

Since 1990, California has prohibited the release of Mylar balloons into the air in an effort to help reduce power outages. Additional legislative efforts have sought to limit the manufacture or sale of celebratory foil balloons. In June 2022, based on the direction and recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, the CVAG Executive Committee issued support for Assembly Bill 847, authored by Assemblymember Bill Quirk (D-Hayward). AB 847 aims to impose additional regulations to govern the manufacture or sale of celebratory foil balloons, including requiring the manufacturer to permanently mark each balloon with a statement warning the consumer of either the dangers balloons can cause overhead powerlines or requirements for proper disposal. The bill also requires balloons to pass a standard by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, which is testing balloons at electric distribution voltages without causing an electrical fault.

AB 847 passed out of the Legislature before the legislative session ended in August 2022, and is awaiting signature by the Governor. However, the bill was amended since CVAG's committees endorsed it. Whereas the bill initially aimed to ban the sale of Mylar balloons in 2026 if they cannot pass the standards and requirements, the final version has a much longer phase-out that will start no sooner than January 2027 and could extend past 2031.

Given this, CVAG staff is seeking additional feedback from the Public Safety Committee on whether to pursue a model ordinance that would follow the lead of other California municipalities that have enacted bans to limit the use of Mylar balloons, including limits on the sale or prohibiting them in public parks.

IID staff has drafted a conceptual model ordinance that provides options for bans on limits and possession, and it will be brought to the Public Safety Committee for discussion when the Committee meets on September 12. Based on the committee's interest, staff will work with IID and SCE representatives to finalize the language and return with proposed language that would be vetted by both the Public Safety Committee and the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee before it is presented to the Executive Committee.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this informational update. The development of a model ordinance can be covered under existing staff time, should the Public Safety Committee endorse a regional approach to addressing Mylar balloons.

ITEM 7E

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee September 15, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Inland Regional Energy Network Agreements, Governance and Programs

Contact: David Freedman, Program Manager (dfreedman@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: As previously reported to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, CVAG has been collaborating with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) on creating a new joint Regional Energy Network for the Inland Empire, known as Inland Regional Energy Network or I-REN. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the I-REN application and business plan in November 2021. Following the recommendation from the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, the CVAG Executive Committee's approval at its June 27 meeting of the draft I-REN Programs and Budgets Agreement (Programs Agreement), Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), and Governance & Operations Charter (Charter). This staff report provides an update on I-REN agreements, governance, and programs,

I-REN Agreements

Staff at WRCOG worked over the summer with SoCalGas – which the CPUC designated as the fiscal and contracting agent for I-REN – to finalize the Programs Agreement. CVAG staff has been actively engaged with WRCOG and its legal counsel in reviewing and providing comments on the draft Programs Agreement for WRCOG to relay to SoCalGas, to ensure that I-REN retains operational flexibility for the benefit of the member jurisdictions of the three Councils of Government (COGs).

The Programs Agreement establishes the fiscal authority of SoCal Gas and defines how I-REN funds are to be transferred from one agency to another, setting out the roles and deliverables of SoCalGas and WRCOG in invoicing, reporting and payments. The WRCOG Executive Committee is scheduled to consider the Programs Agreement at its September 12 meeting. SANBAG's Board of Directors is expected to consider the Programs Agreement at its next meeting, on October 5.

Additionally, the staffs of the three COGs have reached agreement on the I-REN governance structure, as detailed the MOA and Charter. The MOA, together with the Charter, is an exhibit to the Programs Agreement and will be considered by the WRCOG and SANBAG governing bodies at the same time as the Programs Agreement.

I-REN Governance

I-REN will be governed by a new Executive Committee, which will hold open and public meetings on a quarterly basis and consist of representatives from each member COG. The I-REN Executive Committee will have the final responsibility to make all executive decisions regarding overall I-REN prioritization, managing portfolio-level budgets, program design, authorizing relevant CPUC

regulatory filings, and authorizing of any procurements. WRCOG will serve as I-REN Administrative Lead COG and manage I-REN on a day-to-day basis.

Each member COG will have three votes on the I-REN Executive Committee. At its June 27 meeting, the Executive Committee confirmed the consensus from the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee to allow the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee to review and provide direction on all items being considered at the I-REN Executive Committee, and delegate voting on such items to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Chair, or, in the Chair's absence, to the Vice Chair and then to the Executive Director or his designee.

The I-REN Executive Committee is expected to have its first meeting in mid-November 2022, and CVAG staff anticipates providing the agenda items to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee at its November 10 meeting. The agenda will include approval of agreements for consultants to assist in carrying out I-REN's programs (which are detailed below). More information on other agenda items and the identity of the WRCOG and SANBAG designees to the I-REN Executive Committee will be available following approval of the Programs Agreement, MOA, and Charter by their respective governing bodies. Once a narrower date range for the I-REN Executive Committee meeting is available, staff will consult with the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Chair and Vice Chair to determine their availability. WRCOG, like CVAG, is currently meeting virtually pursuant to AB 361, and that practice is expected to apply to the I-REN Executive Committee.

I-REN Programs

I-REN has three program sectors approved by the CPUC: Public sector, Workforce Education & Training sector, and Codes & Standards sector. Initially, CVAG is leading the developing and implementing I-REN's Codes & Standards sector, and WRCOG and SANBAG will share lead responsibility for developing and implementing the other two sectors.

To assist it in carrying out its programs, I-REN will be engaging consultants for the Public and Codes & Standards sectors, as well as a marketing consultant who will work on all I-REN programs. On August 9, WRCOG launched RFPs that were developed with input from CVAG and SANBAG staff. Prospective consultants must submit proposals by September 16, 2022. Staff from the three COGs will participate jointly in evaluating and interviewing these consultants and recommending proposed awardees for approval by the I-REN Executive Committee in November.

I-REN will carry out Workforce Education & Training programs using staff resources from the three COGs. Another consultant may later be engaged for that program on an as-needed basis. Initially, I-REN will assess the current training marketplace in the Inland Empire and conduct a gap analysis identifying regional needs, including from students' perspective. Workforce Education & Training will also include an internship program, starting with the 2023-24 academic year. It is anticipated that the interns will work directly with the member jurisdictions of the three COGs on energy efficiency projects.

I-REN continues to receive ongoing administrative support for its implementation plan from Frontier Energy (Frontier), who prepared I-REN's Business Plan approved by the CPUC in November 2021. WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, carried out an RFP for an implementation plan advisor shortly after the CPUC approved I-REN's Business Plan. Although Frontier was the sole proposer for the project, staff from the three COGs evaluated Frontier's proposal and determined that it conformed to the RFP. Frontier is also expected to submit a proposal in response to the Codes & Standards RFP and was excluded from preparation of that RFP.

Although a formal launch of I-REN programs will occur in the fall following approval of the Programs Agreement, MOA and Charter and selection of the consultants, CVAG staff has already begun Codes & Standards sector programming, including hosting a webinar in July on the SolarAPP+ automated

solar permit platform and the California Energy Commission (CEC)'s California Automated Permit Processing (CalAPP) Program. It provides funding to assist local governments establish online solar permitting through the adoption of an automated permitting software such as SolarAPP+. CVAG member cities with a population less than 50,000 can be awarded up to \$40,000 from the CEC, and those with a population of 50,000 to 99,999 can be awarded up to \$60,000. Riverside County as the solar permitting agency for unincorporated areas can be awarded up to \$100,000. As of September 1, 2022, \$17.6 million of the \$20 million CalAPP Program budget remains available. The nearby City of Beaumont is currently piloting SolarAPP+ and is among the initial CalAPP Program awardees.

This funding and training will have even greater importance if Gov. Gavin Newsom supports SB 379. The bill, which passed in the Legislature in late August, will require jurisdictions of a certain size (including all CVAG member cities and Riverside County) to implement an automated online solar permitting system for residential rooftop solar systems such as SolarAPP+. The SB 379 implementation deadline is September 30, 2023, for cities and counties with populations greater than 50,000, and September 30, 2024, for cities with a population of 50,000 or fewer. Upon recommendation of the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, the CVAG Executive Committee approved a letter of support for SB 379 at its meeting of April 25, 2022. CEC's CalAPP Program flyer is included as an attachment, and the text to SB 379 can be found here: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB379. CVAG staff will continue to work with member jurisdictions to address these new requirements.

CVAG staff plans to organize additional Codes & Standards training sessions in the coming months in order to address key changes in the 2022 California Energy Code, which takes effect on January 1, 2023. Training topics include energy efficiency requirements for indoor cannabis cultivation facilities, solar and battery electric storage requirements for new nonresidential buildings, and heat pump water heater requirements for new residential buildings. CVAG staff will inform the building and permitting departments in CVAG member jurisdictions of these programs, and the resource materials will be posted on I-REN's website, which is currently under development.

As part of I-REN's Codes & Standards Technical Support Program, CVAG staff is providing ongoing technical assistance to the Palm Springs Office of Sustainability on an existing home energy efficiency ordinance that exceeds 2022 Energy Code requirements, as well as on energy efficiency requirements for indoor cannabis cultivation facilities. These measures can serve as templates for other CVAG member jurisdictions wishing to promote energy efficiency.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for participation in I-REN. Staff time dedicated to I-REN is covered through the I-REN budget, which is nearly \$65.6 million through 2027. This funding comes from customers of Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) such as SCE and SoCalGas through the on-bill Public Goods Charge levied by the IOUs. The I-REN Executive Committee will, as part of its budget process, determine amounts to be allocated in furtherance of I-RENs programs.

Attachment: California Energy Commission CalAPP Program flyer

Grant Money For Solar Permitting



Expedite your solar permitting process! Reduce the time and resources needed to review and approve small residential solar installations in your community with money from the California Energy Commission. **Millions of dollars in grant funding** are available to all permitting jurisdictions in California for the adoption of an online, automated solar permitting platform such as SolarAPP+.

The **application window is open now** until May 1, 2023. Funding is reserved on a first-come, first-served basis while money is still available.

Program Highlights:

Quick and easy
application with
electronic submittal

Grants between
\$40,000-\$100,000
based on population
of jurisdiction

Grant activities can
be reimbursed until
May 1, 2027



The California Automated Permit Processing (CalAPP) Program is administered by the California Energy Commission. The program was funded with \$20 million from the California Budget Act of 2021 to support a grant program for California cities and counties to establish online solar permitting. Visit the CalAPP Program webpage at www.energy.ca.gov/calapp for more information.

Questions? Contact the CalAPP team at CalAPP@energy.ca.gov