

ITEM 6A

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes September 14, 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 12:01 p.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert.
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
Director JB Hamby
Mayor Donna Griffith
Mayor Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Russ Martin
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Councilmember Ron deHarte
Councilmember Ted Weill
Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
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

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez
Board Member Patricia Oygarr

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Griffith led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director JB Hamby introduced Imperial Irrigation District's new General Manager, Jamie Asbury, who briefly introduced herself to the committee.

Councilmember Betts discussed the City of Desert Hot Springs' zero graffiti policy and asked about a regional approach. Executive Director Tom Kirk stated that the Transportation

Committee met earlier in the week and created an ad hoc committee related to I-10 issues that will help address graffiti, maintenance and other concerns.

Chair Ortiz provided an update from Southern California Association of Governments, including Connect SoCal 2024 plan, with the draft now out for review.

Councilmember Betts highlighted the new EV charging stations installed across the City.

Mr. Kirk updated the committee on the tree planting partnership grant and announced that CVAG was not selected for the grant. Mr. Kirk acknowledged IID's partnership in their efforts to attempt to secure the funding.

Chair Ortiz asked for an update on the Torres Martinez spill from the Lawson Dumpsite and an EPA notice update. Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper provided details on testing for toxins in the water.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve June 8, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes**
- B. Appoint the Rancho Mirage Councilmember Ted Weill and City of Indio Environmental Programs Coordinator Sara Toyoda as CVAG's representatives on the Solid Waste Advisory Council/Countywide Local Taskforce, and City of Cathedral City Environmental Conservation Manager Deanna Pressgrove and City of Palm Springs Director of Sustainability Lindsey-Paige McCloy as taskforce alternates, for two-year terms**
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-003 promoting California Clean Air Day to raise awareness of the importance of improving air quality to improve public health**

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

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Councilmember Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Griffith	Aye
Mayor Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Councilmember deHarte	Aye
Councilmember Weill	Aye
Deputy Chief of Staff Cooper	Aye

Secretary Santillanes

Absent

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update from the California Air Resources Board

Tracey Harper, CARB Tribal Affairs Liaison, joined the meeting via Zoom and briefly addressed the committee regarding their programs. Due to technical issues, the connection with Ms. Harper was lost and staff noted they would provide additional details at the next meeting.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Regional Approach to Regulating Mylar Balloons in Public Spaces

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci presented the staff report, along with the state's efforts to regular mylar balloons and the request from the City of Palm Desert to adopt an ordinance to ban mylar balloons in public parks. It was noted that the Public Safety Committee had met earlier in the week and endorsed the City's approach.

Member discussion ensued. It was a consensus along members that educational efforts were preferred over an ordinance, with members questioning how to enforce ordinances or a ban.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DEHARTE TO LAUNCH A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ABOUT DANGERS OF IMPROPER USE OF MYLAR BALLOONS IN LIEU OF SUPPORTING AN ORDINANCE

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Councilmember Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Griffith	Aye
Mayor Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Councilmember deHarte	Aye
Councilmember Weill	Aye
Deputy Chief Cooper	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

C. Contract for Used Oil Recycling Program

Management Analyst Emily Langenbahn presented the staff report and the recommendation to hire HF&H.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A ONE-YEAR SERVICES CONTRACT WITH HF&H CONSULTANTS, LLC FOR A TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$56,995 FOR THE USED OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM, WITH THE OPTION FOR TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS, ALL CONTINGENT ON RECEIVING A CALRECYCLE GRANT

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Councilmember Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Griffith	Aye
Mayor Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Councilmember deHarte	Aye
Councilmember Weill	Aye
Deputy Chief Cooper	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

D. Senate Bill 583 and the Proposed Salton Sea Conservancy

Program Manager Emmanuel Martinez shared Senator Padilla’s announcement that Senate Bill 583 would be a two-year bill, meaning the bill will be placed into an “inactive” status on the Senate side.

Member discussion ensued. Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper shared Supervisor Perez’s request the committee holds their “oppose until amended” stance.

Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority, joined the meeting via Zoom and updated the Committee on the ongoing discussions.

It was the consensus among Committee members to maintain the current position of “oppose until amended” and encourage the Senator to meet with local stakeholders.

E. Election of Energy & Sustainability Committee Officers

Mr. Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Director Hamby nominated Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Evans remain Chair and Vice Chair. No other nominations were made.

IT WAS MOVED BY DIRECTOR HAMBY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR GRIFFITH TO ELECT MAYOR ORTIZ AS CHAIR AND MAYOR EVANS AS VICE CHAIR OF THE ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Councilmember Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Griffith	Aye
Mayor Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Councilmember deHarte	Aye
Councilmember Weill	Aye
Deputy Chief Cooper	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

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

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Letter from CVAG Chairman Scott Matas**
- C. Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program**
- D. Efforts to fund regional shade and tree initiatives**
- E. Demand Side Grid Support and Distributed Electricity Backup Assets Program**
- F. Update on the Inland Regional Energy Network**
- G. Update on efforts to identify funding for electric vehicle planning and infrastructure**
- H. Imperial Irrigation District Governance and Electricity Services Study Update**

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Nestande distributed a handout to committee members to show what the City of Palm Desert is doing to try and obtain funding for EV charging stations in Palm Desert.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at noon 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.

11. ADJOURN –

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado
Management Analyst