



ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023
12:00 p.m.

**CVAG Conference Room
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104 (Formerly 119)
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**Members of the Committee and the public may attend and participate by
video at the following remote location:**

**Blythe City Hall
235 N Broadway, Room A
Blythe, CA 92225**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the
Energy & Sustainability Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86116818380?pwd=RnArWnZmREFzSU83UmNJTExaakRIQT09>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128
Webinar ID: 861 1681 8380
Password: 762566**

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 & Sustainability 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 Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, Chair

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. Member Roster

P4

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Anyone wishing to address the Energy & Sustainability 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.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approve the September 14, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

P5

7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. **Presentation: Development of the Cadiz Water Project** – Cadiz Executive
Chair Susan Kennedy

P11

Recommendation: Information

B. **Dust Storms and Poor Air Quality Likely Resulting from Tropical Storm Hilary** – Tom Kirk

P13

Recommendation: Information

C. **Inland Regional Energy Network Program and Policy Development** –
Jacob Alvarez

P15

Recommendation: 1. Provide concurrence with the I-REN's Executive Committee's approach to distributing Public Sector technical assistance resources and 2. Authorize the Executive Director to take any necessary steps to amend I-REN agreements and any other documents to remove SoCalGas as the fiscal agent

- D. **Update on Coachella Valley Energy Commission and Ongoing Analysis of Regional Alternative Governance – Emmanuel Martinez** **P18**

Recommendation: Information

8. **INFORMATION**

- A. **Attendance Record** **P21**
- B. **Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program** **P22**
- C. **California Air Resources Board – Funding and Program Opportunities Update** **P24**
- D. **Annual Review of CVAG's Legislative Platform** **P35**

9. **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.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, 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, December 4, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260

11. **ADJOURN**

ITEM 2A

**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Member Roster
2023 – 2024**



VOTING MEMBERS	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
City of Blythe	Mayor Joseph DeConinck
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Nancy Ross
City of Coachella	Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Coachella Valley Water District	Board Member Anthony Bianco
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts
Imperial Irrigation District	Director Karin Eugenio
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Donna Griffith
City of Indio	Mayor Oscar Ortiz, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Mayor Linda Evans, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Mission Springs Water District	Director Russ Martin
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Gina Nestande
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Ron deHarte
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Ted Weill
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Riverside County – District 5	Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

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

ITEM 7A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee November 9, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: **Presentation: Development of the Cadiz Water Project**

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project aims to supply a new source of water for Southern California through groundwater pumping and replenishment from diverted water from the Colorado River. It is located in the Fern Valley in the town of Cadiz, which is in eastern San Bernardino County in the Mojave Desert. Cadiz is the largest private landowner, comprising of 45,000 acres with water rights. Currently, Cadiz has a permit to withdraw 50,000 acre feet of water over 50 years under a Sustainability Yield Plan. Cadiz officials have established partnerships with the Salton Sea Authority and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to import water to key projects, such as the Salton Sea's North Lake Plan, and to provide clean drinking water to disadvantaged areas of the eastern Coachella Valley. At the November meeting, Cadiz's Executive Chair, Susan Kennedy, will provide CVAG's Energy & Sustainability Committee with a project update that includes details on efforts to import water to the Coachella Valley.

The Cadiz water project has been under development since 2009. According to the project's website, the first phase is focused on conservation and recovery, and it includes a 43-mile underground steel pipeline. The second phase is focused on imported storage, including recharge basins that would be constructed on Cadiz Inc. property to filter imported water into the aquifer system. The project is projected to provide enough water to serve approximately 400,000 people in the region for the next 50 years. Project supporters tout Cadiz as a way to address the ongoing drought and improve water quality.

Cadiz anticipates utilizing the 1-million-acre feet of water storage and importing water from the Colorado River or the State Water Project. To transport the water, Cadiz is undertaking efforts to purchase natural gas pipeline right-of-way easements and converting them to water transport. In 2022, Cadiz executed a Letter of Intent with the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribe. As part of the LOI, Cadiz will allocate 1,500 acre feet per year to the Tribe and 3,500 acre feet per year to the CVWD. Cadiz is also committing up to \$5 million in funding for water conveyance infrastructure, to deliver the water to disadvantaged communities in the eastern Coachella Valley. The project has also completed environmental review process per the California Environmental Quality Act.

CVAG has taken no position on this project. Cadiz staff has been working with the Office of Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez. These efforts are meant to keep the County apprised of current developments related to the project development and efforts related to

deliver water to eastern Riverside County. Supervisor Perez, who is a member of the Energy & Sustainability Committee, will provide additional details regarding the partnerships and efforts at the meeting.

Fiscal Analysis: There are no costs for providing this update.

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee November 9, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Dust Storms and Poor Air Quality Likely Resulting from Tropical Storm Hilary

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

Recommendation: Information

Background: On August 20, 2023, Tropical Storm Hilary pummeled the Coachella Valley,. Record amounts of rainfall landed in the western Coachella Valley, particularly in the upper Mission Creek water shed. The impacts of the storm were unprecedented, receiving national media coverage. The storm flooded roads and damaged bridges and low water crossings. It carried debris and mud which damaged homes and businesses, especially in neighborhoods south of interstate 10, particularly in Cathedral City and Palm Desert. Regional arterial roads such as Dillon Road, North Indian Canyon, Gene Autry Trail and Vista Chino, which are susceptible to flooding, were hardest hit. When CVAG's committees met in September, staff provided various updates on the clean-up efforts. The Executive Committee on September 25 authorized the CVAG Chair and/or Executive Director to take any steps necessary to advocate for a federal emergency declaration and secure additional funding to address the storm's devastating impacts. President Biden in October approved a major disaster declaration for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians as the tribe continued its cleanup efforts. However, a federal declaration of emergency for the entire region is still pending.

When the updates were last provided, much of the focus was on roadway fixes and infrastructure. But in the weeks since, one of the longer-term impacts of the Tropical Storm Hilary has become increasingly evident: horrible air quality. The deposit of new mud and sediment, comprised of fine silt, seems to be the culprit. It is much smaller than gravel and sand that is typically deposited during storms. Such small diameter material appears to be much more likely to become airborne, even during the fall, which isn't the desert's windiest season.

Based on the preliminary findings of hourly PM10 data, there have been several days of extremely high levels of PM10 (Particulate Matter of 10 microns or less) since the storm. The South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) monitoring stations in both Palm Springs and Mecca have shown high levels. The levels downwind, at the Mecca monitoring station, are particularly high, even hazardous. Derived from the hourly data, the Coachella Valley has experienced four days over a six-week period which have exceeded the Federal 24-hour PM10 health standard of 150 ug/m³ at the Mecca monitoring site. In comparison, only three days are reported exceeding the Federal standard over a six year, 2015-2021, period.

CVAG staff has been meeting with the County of Riverside, SCAQMD and impacted cities to better understand the air quality issues that are resulting from these mud deposits. CVAG's

longtime consultant on air quality issues, Dr. Emily Nelson, has reviewed data gathered from SCAQMD to help analyze air quality post-Hilary.

CVAG staff has also interfaced with the office of Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, who represents Riverside County on SCAQMD and sits on the California Air Resources Board. SCAQMD staff has noted the increase prevalence of poor air quality days post-Hilary, noting that dust is becoming emissive at lower windspeeds, about 12 miles per hour, which is not typical. Although a direct correlation between the storm, the mud deposits and increased PM10 has not been conclusively proved, there does not seem to be any other plausible reasons for the horrible air quality. SCAQMD has responded to these new conditions and modified their agency's wind advisory alerts to account for the lower wind speeds which are leading to poor air quality.

CVAG staff also attended a meeting with SCAQMD's AB 617 Committee, which focuses on air quality issues for the eastern Coachella Valley, to inform them of regional concerns about the increased frequency and severity of PM 10 events.

PM 10 problems have long plagued the Coachella Valley. SCAQMD, CVAG, local cities and Riverside County have made important strides, such as CVAG's Regional Street Sweeping Program, to reduce PM10 levels. If the current conditions result in more extremely dusty days, the public's health and the regional economy will suffer.

CVAG staff is working with local stakeholders and partners to gather more data on the likely links between Hilary and recent poor air quality. For instance, understanding hospitalizations, mortality, hotel room or event cancellations, can render additional data that can help better understand the health and economic impacts of days in which the Coachella Valley experiences poor air quality.

CVAG staff has also encouraged agencies to apply soil stabilizer in areas that were impacted by flood and mud, which is believed to be the source of fine silt that has contributed to poor air quality. Currently, rough estimates are that there are more than 5,000 acres of such muddy deposits from Mission Creek's flood flows.

Fiscal Analysis: There are no costs for providing this update. CVAG is working with Riverside County and local cities to provide documentation that may allow FEMA reimbursement for air quality mitigation work.

ITEM 7C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee November 9, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Inland Regional Energy Network Program and Policy Development

Contact: Jacob Alvarez, Program Manager (jalvarez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: 1. Provide concurrence with the I-REN's Executive Committee's approach to distributing Public Sector technical assistance resources and 2. Authorize the Executive Director to take any necessary steps to amend I-REN agreements and any other documents to remove SoCalGas as the fiscal agent

Background: CVAG is collaborating with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) on a joint Regional Energy Network (REN) for the Inland Empire, known as Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN). I-REN is governed by an Executive Committee, with CVAG's votes represented by the Energy & Sustainability Committee Chair, or Vice Chair as needed. Based on previous CVAG committee direction, CVAG's Energy & Sustainability Committee reviews the items being presented to the I-REN Executive Committee and provides direction to the Chair on how to vote for the region.

With this report, CVAG staff is seeking feedback on a policy discussion that will guide the Public Sector's technical assistance funding. Anticipating a change in I-REN's multi-agency structure, staff also recommends the Executive Director be granted authority to amend governing documents and agreements with I-REN partners. Finally, this report provides an update on various program developments and a preview of a potential funding opportunity.

Distribution of Public Sector Technical Assistance

With orientations nearly complete and various trainings well underway, the I-REN team is focusing on getting funding distributed to local jurisdictions. This includes the Public Sector's Technical Assistance program, which aims to provide agencies with various staff training, facility benchmarking, as well as direct financial incentives for various energy efficiency retrofit projects.

The Public Sector budget offers more financial assistance to local jurisdictions than the other two programmatic areas (which are Codes & Standards and Workforce Education & Training). The most cost-intensive service is anticipated to be technical assistance and project management support for individual energy efficiency projects. These project services are customized to each agency, but generally include an engineering site visit, an energy model, funding and assisting with financing applications.

The question before the I-REN Executive Committee is how to fairly roll out these programs in line with the I-REN Business Plan and goals set by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). This concept last came up for discussion in April 2023, where staff explained that jurisdictions in all three Councils of Governments would have equitable access to I-REN's resources without regard to

geography. At the time, the Executive Committee members asked staff to come back with options showing how this would be achieved.

This follow up was presented at the October 2023 meeting, when WRCOG outlined four policy options for consideration. At CVAG staff's request, the I-REN Executive Committee only provided feedback and input, with a vote planned in January 2024 to ensure CVAG's Energy & Sustainability Committee had a chance for feedback. The four policy options are outlined below:

- Option 1: Operate on a first-come, first-served basis until the budget runs out, which could mean some agencies benefit more than others.
- Option 2: Allow only one energy efficiency project per agency at a time and reserve funding for all eligible agencies, which could make it difficult to meet I-REN goals if not every agency participates.
- Option 3: Allow up to two projects per agency at a time and reserve funding for all eligible agencies, which would assume a moderate level of adoption.
- Option 4: Support a maximum of two energy efficiency projects per agency at a time but up to four for county-led projects, which also assumes a moderate adoption of project services by each agency.

The general consensus of the I-REN Executive Committee members was that they favored Option 4, as it ensured across-the-board opportunities while acknowledging the counties may have more project needs based on their geographic spans. Based on the analysis by WRCOG staff and I-REN consultants, Option 4 could finance up to eight projects per agency and 16 for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties through 2027.

CVAG staff is recommending the Energy & Sustainability Committee concur with the approach and provide any additional feedback, which Chair Ortiz could relay before the methodology is approved in January 2024. WRCOG anticipates program roll outs to follow that approval.

I-REN Fiscal Agent Substitution

In June 2022, the CVAG Executive Committee, at the recommendation of the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, authorized the CVAG Executive Director to finalize and execute I-REN's Programs and Budgets Agreement, Memorandum of Agreement, and Governance & Operations Charter. At the time, it was noted that the three Councils of Governments were working with SoCalGas – which the CPUC designated as the fiscal and contracting agent for I-REN. The agreement also included Southern California Edison as a party to the Programs Agreement.

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. In recent months, WRCOG staff sought to find a more efficient way to distribute funding.

It has been determined by the CPUC that WRCOG will replace SoCalGas as the I-REN Fiscal Agent. SoCalGas and WRCOG are currently working to formalize this action in the governing documents. In preparation, CVAG staff recommends that CVAG's Executive Director be authorized to amend all necessary agreements and related documents to reflect this change.

Program updates and potential for additional funding

The October I-REN meeting included several programmatic updates, such as the launch of www.iren.gov. Additional outreach includes the ongoing orientation sessions with local cities, including three that have been held for CVAG's member jurisdictions. Another series of meetings has provided local staffs with

Codes & Standards training opportunities, where topics included heat pump water heaters, residential load calculations, Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) registry, nonresidential tenant improvements and alterations, and residential new construction compliance. Additional training courses are planned through the end of 2023, with anticipated topics including residential new construction, alterations, electrification, energy savings for school facilities, and updates on the 2022 Energy Code.

A special I-REN Executive Committee meeting will be held on November 21, 2023. The focus will be an emerging funding opportunity from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program is designed to develop Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAP) and then fund the projects identified in these plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Authorized under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act, this two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

To apply for the large implementation grants, an applicant must have a PCAP. The region currently has one under development, as the federal government allocated \$1 million to develop a PCAP for the Riverside / San Bernardino Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This effort is being led by SBCOG in coordination with CVAG, WRCOG, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on the plan.

The regional PCAP will be completed in March 2024 – and the implementation grant applications are due by April 1, 2024. At the November 21 special meeting, WRCOG staff will provide the I-REN Executive Committee with an overview on this grant opportunity and an update on the planning efforts, and will seek feedback on whether to move forward with an application. Applications for implementation funding are competitive and the amount awarded to the Riverside / San Bernardino MSA will depend on a variety of factors including the amount of funding requested, the GHG emissions reduction benefits, the measure cost / benefit ratio, and other factors. Given the relative size of the Riverside / San Bernardino MSA, WRCOG staff has estimated that the region could be eligible for up to \$200 million in funding.

Should a grant application be pursued, CVAG and the other partners would have opportunities to provide feedback on project types that should be included in the PCAP as well as any application.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to CVAG for these items. Staff time dedicated to I-REN and the costs of the services of consultants are covered through the I-REN budget.

ITEM 7D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee November 9, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Coachella Valley Energy Commission and Ongoing Analysis of Regional Alternative Governance

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: For many stakeholders that represent communities and interests that are served by the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID's) power department, addressing representation and governance has been a priority. There have been numerous attempts to find legislative solutions to governance and representation for the Coachella Valley ratepayers. Given the complexity of the issue, legislation proposed on this matter has fallen short of addressing the crux of representation and governance concerns. The interconnectedness of energy and water matters under the 1933 Agreement of Compromise between IID and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) complicates matters. Finding a governance solution while maintaining low power rates has been elusive. Adding to the pressure to find a solution are the increased cost and time for IID to deliver electricity to new projects and developments.

In the summer of 2021, IID established the Coachella Valley Energy Commission (CVEC) to help identify mutually agreeable solutions between the IID and Coachella Valley stakeholders related to governance and direct representation on energy matters. To help identify a viable long-term governance solution, the State's 2021 Budget Act included \$500,000 from the General Fund to finance a study that will provide governance options that offer opportunities to give energy customers in the Coachella Valley a voice after 2033, when the lease provision under the existing agreement between CVWD and IID expires. The study is overseen by the Imperial County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and the Riverside County LAFCO. As such, one of the top activities that CVEC has engaged in relates to the joint LAFCO study.

The Draft "Alternative Governance Structures and Alternative Electricity Service Provision Study" was released in March 2023. As noted in previous updates to the Energy & Sustainability Committee, the scope of the study was to evaluate potential alternative electrical governance structures for stakeholders' consideration and to address representation on electrical matters for the Coachella Valley. The study aimed to identify governance structures that could be the best fit for Coachella Valley ratepayers and stakeholders.

To allow for review, analysis, and input, the study allowed substantial time to receive comments, and the public comment period concluded on October 15, 2023. Copies of the comments received, as well as LAFCO's responses to the comments, can be found here: <https://lafco.org/studies/alternative-governance-structures-and-alternative-electricity-service-provision-imperial-irrigation-district/>

The CVEC, at the recommendation of the CVEC's Governance Committee, in August discussed drafting a letter that suggested a Joint Powers Authority or a Public Utility District be considered as the potential governance and representation options for the Coachella Valley. These were two options amongst the eight provided in the study and were also most strongly aligned with the foundational objectives that were established through the stakeholder engagement process. These foundational objectives include, but are not limited to, a governance structure that provides services under a publicly owned utility model, provides representation for Coachella Valley customers, can provide flexible financing options, and provides for local control. However, CVEC decided at the August meeting that additional financial analysis should be included in the study.

At the direction of CVEC, the August draft study comment letter supported an extension of the comment period and requested a revised study that included a supplemental financial analysis. After additional discussion of CVEC's Governance Committee and CVEC, a final comment letter regarding the study was submitted on October 13, 2023. The letter requests that the final study focus on the feasibility of a JPA or a Municipal Utility District (MUD), as well as to include policy recommendations and consideration for moving forward with selecting the preferred governance option.

The final study will be completed by November 30, 2023.

As part of the narrowing of options, it is proposed that CVEC require additional financial and strategic analysis. The CVEC Governance Committee has met twice with Leading Resources, Incorporated – a Sacramento-based management consulting firm that has completed similar work on board governance, strategic planning, and organization development – to discuss their services and ability to carry out the next phase of work, which would build on the LAFCO study and its recommendations. Ultimately, the goal of the post-LAFCO study is to narrow the viable options for providing energy services, including the costs and benefits, and develop a strategic plan around those options. The LAFCO study itself was limited in its scope related to financial analysis, so the next phase of the work will have to include a more robust financial understanding of the impacts of each of the governance options considered. The goal would be to develop a cost/risk analysis that helps CVEC better evaluate governance options and better understand business models. To help facilitate this process, CVAG staff, and others, have proposed that IID AND Coachella Valley agencies share in funding the next phase

The final study, when released at the end of this month, will mark a key milestone and help provide recommendations for direction action by CVEC to arrive at viable long-term governance options for the Coachella Valley. Through collaboration and independent facilitation on key governance issues, CVEC will get closer to achieving its objective of delivering a Governance Plan by July 2025.

Meeting electrical infrastructure needs in the Coachella Valley is a reason for Coachella Valley representation on IID electrical matters. However, the City of Indio and IID are forging ahead to meet the urgent need for energy in the City of Indio, to help facilitate economic development and associated load growth. Concurrent with the study and governance efforts, the City of Indio and IID created the Indio Electric Financing Authority, which was established to fund electrical infrastructure in the City. In September 2023, the IEFA approved the issuance of bonds not to exceed \$70 million for capital projects. To provide the revenue to service the bonds, on July 19, 2023, the IEFA approved a surcharge of \$0.0055 per kilowatt hour used by each class customer in the city and is expected to take effect in fall 2023. At the IID Board meeting of October 31,

2023, the IID Board approved four separate agreements to build new and upgrade existing electrical substations which will be financed through the IEFA. The four projects include:

- Avenue 40 Project – The proposed project involves construction of a new electrical substation with up to two transformer banks at a cost of approximately \$19.8 million.
- Northgate Project – The proposed project involves construction of a new electrical substation with up to two transformer banks at a cost of approximately \$18.7 million.
- Avenue 42 Project – The proposed project involves construction of one additional electrical substation bank and post-project condition of three transformer banks at a cost of approximately \$12.1 million.
- Carreon Project – The proposed project involves expansion of the existing substation with construction of up to two additional transformer banks at a cost of approximately \$18.7 million.

As part of the IEFA and IID partnership, IID will be responsible for the procurement, design, engineering, construction, operation, maintenance and repair of the projects. CVAG provides a coordinator position to CVEC, to help administer and facilitate matters before the CVEC and serve as liaison between the CVEC, Coachella Valley cities served by IID and CVAG. CVAG staff will continue to engage and monitor efforts related to the CVEC and keep the Committee apprised of key milestones and efforts.

Fiscal Analysis: Costs associated with this item are covered by IID under its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CVAG. The MOU provides for a coordinator to be provided by CVAG, to help with efforts related to the CVEC and stakeholders.

ITEM 8A

**ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY 2023-2024**

<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	-	-	✓	-		-	-		-			
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	-	-		-		-	-		-			

EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Desert Water Agency	-	-		-		-	-		-			
Riverside County - District 5	-	-		-		-	-		-			

Absent
Vacancy

**

No Meeting
Present

-

✓

ITEM 8B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee November 9, 2023



STAFF REPORT

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

Contact: Emily Langenbahn, Management Analyst (elangenbahn@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 property tax bill. CVAG staff provides quarterly updates on the PACE program to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee. The attached quarterly report details the PACE activity through September 2023.

Current active residential and commercial PACE providers in Coachella Valley consist of CaliforniaFIRST/Renew Financial (Renew), HomeRun Financing/PACE Funding (HomeRun), and FortiFi (formerly known as Energy Efficient Equity or E3). Ygrene Energy Fund (Ygrene) has suspended operations as a result of an unfair practices and fraud lawsuit filed by the California Attorney General's Office on behalf of the State of California and Ygrene customers, with the Court's final judgment rendered in favor of the State of California. It is unclear at this time whether Ygrene will continue to service its existing customers. CVAG staff is actively monitoring this situation and will provide updates to the Energy & Sustainability Committee as soon as they are available.

Residential and commercial installations have slowed down since the last report, potentially due to changes in the net energy metering (NEM) program put into effect by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). This change is known as NEM 3.0, or the Solar Billing Plan, for Southern California Edison customers and took effect on April 15, 2023. Under the new program, new solar customers are compensated at a significantly lower rate for excess solar generation, leading to fewer rooftop solar installations in the coming months.

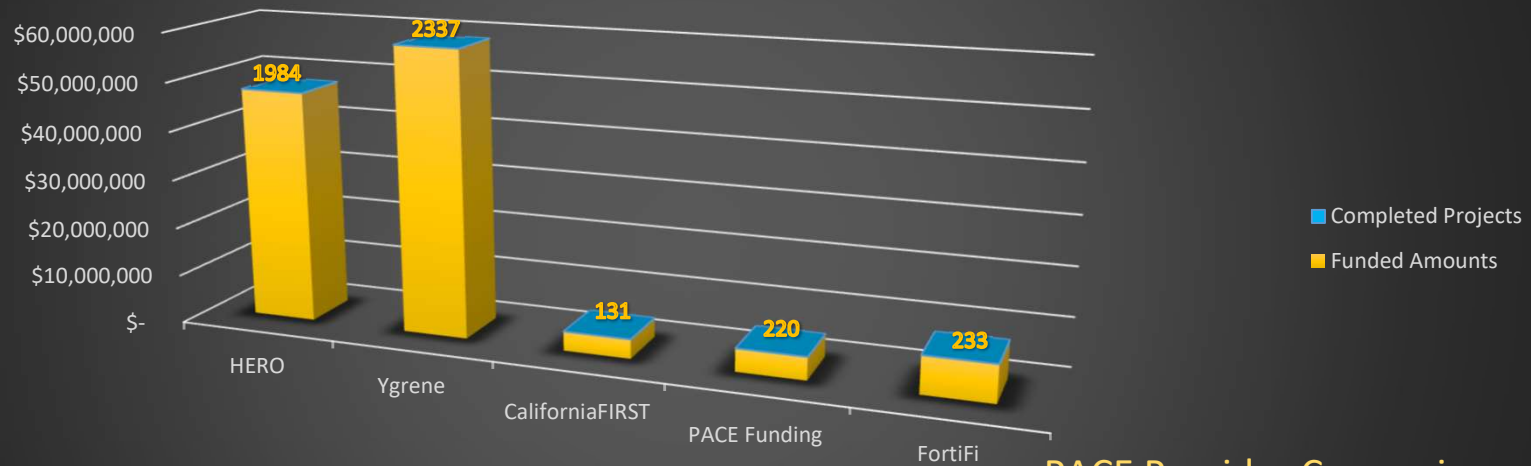
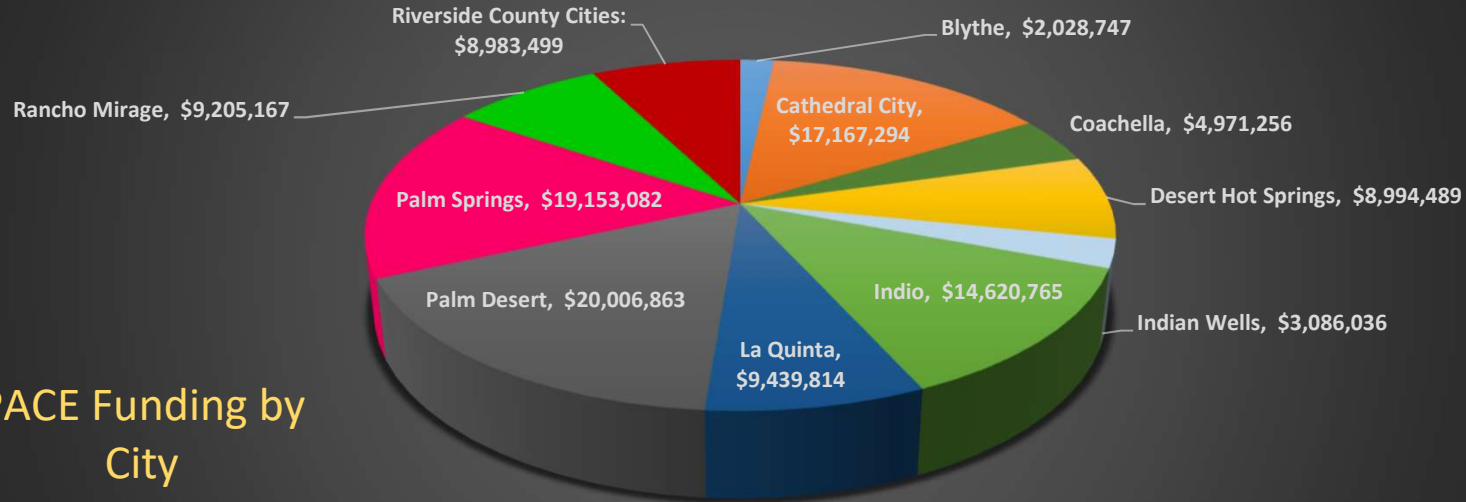
CVAG will continue to track and report on the status of the PACE residential and commercial PACE providers that operate in CVAG's member jurisdictions.

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 Activity Report through September 2023

CVAG PACE REPORT

PACE Funding by City



PACE Provider Comparison

CARS REMOVED FROM ROAD: 42020

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

JOBS CREATED: 1070

Updated for October 27, 2023

ITEM 8C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee November 9, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: California Air Resources Board – Funding and Program Opportunities Update

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At its meeting in September, the Energy & Sustainability Committee received an update from Tracey Harper, Tribal Affairs Liaison with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), about the programs and available resources for local cities and Tribal Nations. Unfortunately, technical difficulties with the teleconferencing platform prevented the full presentation. As a follow up, CVAG staff wanted to ensure committee members received the background and information she was prepared to deliver. Another presentation can also be scheduled in the future if the Committee requests it.

By way of background, CARB is governed by a 16-member board, 12 of which are appointed by the Governor. The 12 members include six individuals who serve on local air districts, four experts in fields that shape air quality rules, two public members and one Chair, who serves as the only full-time member. The other four members include two who represent environmental justice communities, and two who are non-voting members who serve for purposes of legislative oversight. Most recently, in January 2023, Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Riverside County Fourth District Supervisor, V. Manuel Perez, to the Board. Also, serving on the CARB Board as an Ex Officio Member, is Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, who was appointed in 2017.

As California's lead agency for climate change programs that address air pollution, CARB is responsible for reducing emissions of criteria pollutants. A program being implemented in coordination and collaboration with the South Coast Air Quality Management District is AB 617 Community Air Protection Program. In 2019, the [Eastern Coachella Valley was selected under the Community Air Protection Program](#) due the high cumulative exposure burden due to poor air quality attributed to the Salton Sea, unpaved roads and parking lots, and agriculture activities. The Community Steering Committee leads efforts for emission reduction plans in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Most recently, a [Community Emission Reduction Plan](#) was adopted by the committee. With the adoption of the CERP, communities under AB 617 are eligible to apply to CARB's [Community Air Grants program](#).

Additionally, CARB provides other key programs that help to address air pollution and improve air quality and public health. Through revenue proceeds from California's Cap-and-Trade CARB's that support new affordable housing, increase mobility through transit, advance low- and zero-emission technologies, facilitate more sustainable agriculture, divert organic waste from landfills to composting, among others. Of these investments, at least 35 percent of funding

must be directed to disadvantaged communities. According to CARB, from December 2022 through the end of May 2023, [California Climate Investments](#) programs implemented nearly \$511 million through 7,326 projects that are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 3.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent over project lifetimes.

Fact sheets detailing funding opportunities available to local governments and tribes are found attached to this staff report. CVAG staff will continue to monitor opportunities for funding that are available to cities and tribes, to ensure that Coachella Valley entities are aware of funding opportunities to improve air quality and public health. Staff will continue to work with CARB staff and identify future opportunities to provide an update from CARB to the committee on funding and programs.

Fiscal Analysis: There are no costs for providing this update.

Attachments: Fact sheets on funding available to local governments and to Tribal governments

Funding Available to Local Governments

Local governments can receive funds to reduce climate pollution through clean transportation, waste prevention, clean air initiatives, and more. To find a program's current funding availability and timeline, please follow the listed program link.



Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects

This program provides grants for pre-commercial demonstrations and pilots of advanced vehicles, engines, equipment, vessels, and transportation systems with supporting infrastructure.

bit.ly/ATDPPcci



Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program

This program provides funding that supports infill affordable housing development as well as sustainable transportation infrastructure. Affordable housing developers can apply in partnership with local jurisdictions, including a Tribal Entity, to build housing and improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as fund transit facilities and operations. AHSC has a funding goal to award at least one project from an eligible Tribal Entity. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/AHSCcci



Clean Off-Road Equipment Voucher Incentive (CORE)

This program provides vouchers for zero-emission off-road equipment, such as forklifts, transport refrigeration units, terminal trucks, commercial harbor craft, switcher locomotives and other zero emission off-road equipment used in pro landscaping, agriculture, and construction.

bit.ly/CalCOREcci



Clean Truck and Bus Vouchers Program (HVIP)

This program provides vouchers for the purchase or lease of clean trucks and buses with set-aside funding for public transit agencies, public school buses, drayage trucks, and small fleets.

bit.ly/CalHVIPcci



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Clean Mobility Options (CMO)

This program provides voucher-based funding in support of small-scale clean mobility projects, such as electric carsharing, bike sharing, vanpooling, and other clean mobility options, as well as community transportation needs assessment projects in disadvantaged, income-eligible, and Tribal communities. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/CMOcci



Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP)

This program provides rebates for purchase or lease of new, eligible, light-duty vehicles including electric, fuel cell, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

bit.ly/CVRPcci



Climate Ready Program and Climate Adaption

The Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Program helps natural resources and human communities along California's coast and around San Francisco Bay adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Conservancy supports multi-benefit projects that use natural systems to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

bit.ly/CRPCAcci



Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

This program supports communities in applying to California Climate Investments and other climate-related funding programs. The CACE program aims to make the process fairer for applicants that may lack the capacity to successfully access these funds, particularly those that live in the state's most disadvantaged communities.

bit.ly/CACEcci



Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant (CCG)

This program provides grants to create, expand, and improve small-scale composting programs located in disadvantaged and low-income communities.

bit.ly/ComCompostcci



Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program (FW)

The purpose of this program is to lower overall greenhouse gas emissions by establishing new or expanding existing food waste prevention projects (source reduction or edible food recovery for people) in California to reduce the amount of food being disposed of in landfills. Eligibility limited to Federally Recognized Tribes in California.

bit.ly/FWPcci



Forest Health Program

This program provides grants for active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing more resilient forests by funding activities such as forest fuels reduction, prescribed fire, pest management, reforestation, biomass utilization, conservation easements and/or land acquisition through the Forest Legacy Program, and research through the Forest Research Program.

bit.ly/ForestHealthcci



Forest Health Research Program (FHRP)

This program funds scientific research projects on topics related to forest health and wildfire. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/FHRPcci



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Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER)

This program provides incentives to replace older, higher-polluting agricultural vehicles and equipment with cleaner options. To learn more about the program, please see the program website at bit.ly/carbFARMER or contact your local air district. The California Air Resources Board provides funding to local air districts to administer the FARMER Program for their region. Local air district contact information is available at bit.ly/FARMERdistrict.



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program

This program provides loans to fund construction, renovation, or expansion of facilities for preprocessing, digesting, or composting organics, or the preprocessing or manufacturing of value-added finished products using recycled fiber, plastic, or glass. bit.ly/GHGLoans



Healthy Soils Program (HSP)

This program has two components. The Healthy Soils Incentives Program provides financial incentives for on-farm implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Healthy Soils Demonstration Projects showcase on-farm implementation of Healthy Soils practices to support farmer/rancher outreach and education. Technical assistance is available. bit.ly/HealthySoilsccl



Multi-Family Energy Efficiency & Renewables

This program provides technical assistance and incentives for the installation of energy-efficiency measures and solar photovoltaics in low-income multi-family affordable housing serving priority populations. These projects reduce both residential energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions. bit.ly/MFEEARcccl



Organics Grant Program (ORG)

Grants for projects that expand organic recycling and food recovery efforts. Technical assistance is available. bit.ly/OGPcccl



Recycled Fiber, Plastic, and Glass Grant

This program provides grants for manufacturing projects that expand paper, plastic, or glass recycling. bit.ly/FPG2cccl



Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund is a part of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program. SAFER is a set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities designed to meet the goals of safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water for all Californians. Technical assistance is available. <http://bit.ly/SAFERcccl>



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Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program

This program provides planning and acquisition grants to protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more greenhouse gas intensive uses. Funds can be used by eligible applicants to purchase conservation easements or fee title from landowners to protect the property's agricultural uses, and/or in partnership with Tribal Entities to protect land use to promote healthy trees and perennial forbs for the cultivation of foods, herbal medicine, fibers, and dyes. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/SALCcci



Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP)

This program offers funding for community-scale clean transportation and land use projects in disadvantaged and low-income communities. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/STEPcci



Training and Workforce Development Program - Energy Corps

This program trains California Conservation Corps members to conduct energy surveys as well as retrofit lighting and controls in public buildings.

bit.ly/CalEnergyCorps



Training and Workforce Development Program - Forest Health

This program trains California Conservation Corps members to conduct fuel reduction, reforestation, wetland restoration, urban forestry, and urban greening projects.

bit.ly/CalConservationCorps



Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)

Grants for transformative capital improvements that modernize California's intercity, commuter and urban rail system, and bus and ferry transit systems, to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/TIRCPcci



Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

This program funds hazardous fuels removal, wildfire prevention planning, wildfire prevention education, and wildfire prevention research with an emphasis on improving public health and safety. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/WPGPcci

These programs are part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

See all programs at:
caclimateinvestments.ca.gov



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Funding Available to Tribal Governments

Tribal governments can receive funds to reduce climate pollution through clean transportation, agricultural equipment, clean air initiatives, land conservation projects, and more.



- Tribal Governments are eligible for the following California Climate Investments programs. Visit the listed program links to view current funding availability and program timelines.
- Please see page 5 for recent policy changes that promote access to Tribal Governments.
- Please see page 5 to learn more about funding opportunities available to the broader Tribal community.



Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects

This program provides grants for pre-commercial demonstrations and pilots of advanced vehicles, engines, equipment, vessels, and transportation systems with supporting infrastructure.

bit.ly/ATDPPcci



Alternative Manure Management Program

This program provides grants to implement non-digester practices that reduce dairy and livestock manure methane emissions, such as solid separation or conversion from flush to scrape manure collection in conjunction with a manure treatment or drying practice, compost bedded pack barns, and enhanced pasture-based management practices. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/AMMPcci



Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program

This program provides funding that supports infill affordable housing development as well as sustainable transportation infrastructure. Affordable housing developers can apply in partnership with local jurisdictions, including a Tribal Entity, to build housing and improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as fund transit facilities and operations. AHSC has a funding goal to award at least one project from an eligible Tribal Entity. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/AHSCcci



Clean Mobility Options (CMO)

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bit.ly/CMOcci



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bit.ly/CalHVIPcci



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bit.ly/CVRPcci



Climate Ready Program and Climate Adaption

The Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Program helps natural resources and human communities along California's coast and around San Francisco Bay adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Conservancy supports multi-benefit projects that use natural systems to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

bit.ly/CRPCAcci



Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE)

This program supports communities in applying to California Climate Investments and other climate-related funding programs. The CACE Program aims to make the process fairer for applicants that may lack the capacity to successfully access these funds, particularly those that live in the state's most disadvantaged communities.

bit.ly/CACEcci



Community Air Grants Program (Air Grants Program)

The Air Grants Program is meant to provide support for community-based organizations to participate in the AB 617 process, and to build capacity to become active partners with government to identify, evaluate, and ultimately reduce air pollution and exposure to harmful emissions in their communities. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/CAGcci



Community Air Protection Incentives (CAP) Program

This program provides incentive grants to help owners of older high-polluting vehicles and equipment to replace them with newer models that have much lower emissions—or zero emission.

bit.ly/CAPicci



Community Composting for Green Spaces Grant (CCG)

This program provides grants to create, expand, and improve small-scale composting programs located in disadvantaged and low-income communities.

bit.ly/ComCompostcci



Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP)

This program awards grants for the implementation of dairy digesters on California dairies that result in long-term methane emission reductions from dairy manure while mitigating or minimizing adverse environmental impacts.

bit.ly/DDRDPcci



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Farmworker Housing Single-Family Energy Efficiency and Solar Photovoltaics (PV)

This program provides energy efficiency upgrades such as appliance replacements, insulation and lighting upgrades, solar PV, and health and safety improvements for farmworker-occupied housing at no cost to residents.

bit.ly/FHSFEESP



Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program (FWP)

The purpose of this program is to lower overall greenhouse gas emissions by establishing new or expanding existing food waste prevention projects (source reduction or edible food recovery for people) in California to reduce the amount of food being disposed of in landfills.

bit.ly/FWPcci



Forest Health Program

This program provides grants for active restoration and reforestation activities aimed at providing more resilient forests by funding activities such as forest fuels reduction, prescribed fire, pest management, reforestation, biomass utilization, conservation easements and/or land acquisition through the Forest Legacy Program, and research through the Forest Research Program.

bit.ly/ForestHealthcci



Forest Health Research Program (FHRP)

This program funds scientific research projects on topics related to forest health and wildfire. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/FHRPcci



Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER)

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The California Air Resources Board provides funding to local air districts to administer the FARMER Program for their region. Local air district contact information is available at bit.ly/FARMERdistrict.



Healthy Soils Program (HSP)

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bit.ly/HealthySoilscqi



Multi-Family Energy Efficiency & Renewables

This program provides technical assistance and incentives for the installation of energy-efficiency measures and solar photovoltaics in low-income multi-family affordable housing serving priority populations. These projects reduce both residential energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions.

bit.ly/MFEEARcci



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bit.ly/OGPcci



Recycled Fiber, Plastic, and Glass Grant Program

This program provides grants for manufacturing projects that expand paper, plastic, and glass recycling.

bit.ly/FPG2cci



Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program

The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund is a part of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program. SAFER is a set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities designed to meet the goals of safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water for all Californians. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/SAFERcci



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program

This program provides planning and acquisition grants to protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more greenhouse gas intensive uses. Funds can be used by eligible applicants to purchase conservation easements or fee title from landowners to protect the property's agricultural uses, and/or in partnership with Tribal Entities to protect land use to promote healthy trees and perennial forbs for the cultivation of foods, herbal medicine, fibers, and dyes. Technical assistance is available.

bit.ly/SALCcci



Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP)

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bit.ly/STEPcci



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bit.ly/CalEnergyCorps



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bit.ly/CalConservationCorps



Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

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bit.ly/WPGPcci



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Woodsmoke Reduction Program

This program provides financial incentives to tribal members and households residing on tribal lands within participating districts to replace older, higher-polluting wood stoves, inserts, or fireplaces used for primary space heating with cleaner burning and more energy-efficient home heating. Apply through participating air districts.

bit.ly/WRPcci

At least 35 percent of California Climate Investments are made in disadvantaged communities and low-income communities and households. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) has included lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes in its recent designation of disadvantaged communities. For the purposes of this designation, a Tribe may establish that a particular area of land is under its control even if not represented as such on CalEPA's disadvantaged communities map and therefore should be considered a disadvantaged community by requesting a consultation with the CalEPA Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs and Border Relations at TribalAffairs@calepa.ca.gov. To learn which Tribal lands are currently designated as disadvantaged communities, visit the CalEPA webpage at: <https://calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/ghginvest/>.

California Climate Investments also funds projects and vouchers for a wide variety of audiences, including [businesses](#), [nonprofits](#), and [individual members of the public](#). Tribal members, and Tribal-Led nonprofits and businesses are encouraged to learn more about these opportunities and apply.

These programs are part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

See all programs at:
caclimateinvestments.ca.gov



@CAClimateInvest



info@caclimateinvestments.ca.gov



800.757.2907

ITEM 8D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee November 9, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Annual Review of CVAG's Legislative Platform

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs (emartinez@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Adopt CVAG's 2023-24 Federal and State Legislative Platform

Background: In February 2022, CVAG adopted its first legislative platform to help guide legislative advocacy work in Sacramento and Washington D.C. As part of a legislative strategy, the legislative platform is integral to strategic advocacy as it provides direction on key issue areas of importance to CVAG. With adoption of a legislative platform, staff and advocacy teams are able to monitor and track priority issues for CVAG and expedite engagement. As such, this allows staff and lobbying team to engage on policy priority issues efficiently and effectively, especially when they move rapidly through the legislative process. Because the state legislative session is entering its second year of a two-year cycle, many of the issues carry over. In effect, the legislative platform does not include any changes from last year.

The legislative platform is divided into various focus areas, including energy and environment. Throughout the month of November and December, CVAG staff will present to all of CVAG's committees so that each could review on the section pertinent to their jurisdiction. Ultimately, this process helped ensure the platform is comprehensive and well vetted before it is considered by the Executive Committee for adoption. Because the Legislature is entering into its second year of a biennial legislative session and legislative issues carry over from 2023 to 2024, staff is not recommending any significant changes to the "Energy and Environment" sections of the platform.

Of major interest to the committee will be the statewide funding for energy and sustainability programs, given the decreased revenues which resulted in a \$31 billion deficit in 2023. Despite the financial setback, the State's 2023-24 Budget maintained approximately \$51.4 billion or 95 percent of climate related investments and ensured disadvantaged communities, which face disproportionate harm from climate related issues, such as extreme heat, flooding and air pollution, were prioritized. Further, the budget includes an additional \$890 million in new climate expenditures for a total approximately \$52.3 billion over six years.

The State continues to focus on nature-based solutions and natural and working lands to combat climate change. The 2023-24 Budget maintained \$1.4 billion or 90 percent in investments over multiple years in projects and programs that support climate related nature-based solutions. These include addressing extreme heat, community resilience, water conservation, and other related climate investments. SB 905 established a framework for capture, utilization, and storage of compressed carbon dioxide and created the Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization, and Storage Program. The Budget includes \$7.8 million Cost of Implementation Account for the State Air Resources Board (\$3.6 million), Department of

Conservation (\$3.7 million), and State Water Resources Control Board (\$280,000) in 2023-24 and ongoing to support implementation. It is expected that funding and policies related to these programs will continue to be a priority for the Legislature in 2024. As it relates to extreme heat, the Budget maintained \$404 million or 62 percent of the multiple-year investment, which include, but are not limited to, Urban Greening, Low-Income Weatherization, and Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Programs.

As it relates to water and conservation, the Budget maintains \$8.1 billion (93 percent) of these investments over multiple years in programs and projects to bolster the capacity of communities and ecosystems to endure droughts and floods. However, due to the deficit, the Budget reflects \$632 million in General Fund reductions and \$455 million in delays across various programs – including but not limited to Salton Sea restoration, water recycling and water conservation programs. Additionally, the Budget reflects \$630 million of General Fund reductions and \$85 million in delays across various program, which include but are not limited to, Community Resilience Centers, Regional Climate Resilience, and Transformative Climate Communities Programs. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will help offset these decreases by \$250 million in fund shifts. On matters related to energy, the Budget appropriates \$100 million for projects in the Clean Energy Reliability Investment Plan.

In 2023, there were attempts to pass climate bond legislation which will continue into 2024. SB 867 by Sen. Ben Allen and AB 1567 by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) each proposed \$15 billion for climate related efforts. Some of the major provisions of each included climate resilience, emission reductions, extreme heat and nature-based solutions. AB 1567 was held in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and SB 867 was held in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources. Despite these bills not moving forward in 2023, it is anticipated that discussion and negotiations will continue between the Legislature, the Governor and stakeholder in 2024.

With the adoption of the 2023-24 Federal and State Legislative Platform, CVAG anticipates the issues mentioned to continue into 2024. The Legislature will reconvene on January 3, 2024. Because 2024 will be the second year of the biennial legislative session, January 12, 2024, is the deadline for fiscal bills to heard and January 19 is the deadline for non-fiscal bills to be heard and reported to the floor. Thereafter, January 31, 2024, is the deadline for each house to pass bills introduced in that house. CVAG staff and lobbying team will continue to monitor the 2024 budget process, to ensure that viable funding opportunities are identified. Additionally, the advocacy team will continue to monitor policies and regulations that may impact the operations and goals of CVAG.

Fiscal Analysis: There are no additional costs to CVAG for adopting the 2023-24 Federal and State Legislative Platform. Advocacy efforts are covered under an existing contract with the Politico Group in Sacramento.

Attachment: 2023-24 Federal and State Legislative Platform

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

2023-24 Federal and
State Legislative
Platform



Coachella Valley Association of Governments

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) is a council of governments in the Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County that funds and delivers transportation projects, operates regional programs and coordinates government services in order to improve and address issues of regional significance. CVAG's activities include, but are not limited to, improving the regional transportation system, providing services to the chronically homeless and promoting the use of green energy and sustainability. CVAG's membership includes 10 cities, the County of Riverside and four Indian tribes. As an organization committed to addressing issues of common interest and concern of its member agencies, CVAG strives to implement regional programs and policies that advance a better quality of life and balanced growth for residents, businesses and tourists of Central and Eastern Riverside County.

The legislative platform will guide the tracking and analysis of priority legislative, budget, regulatory, and administrative issues at the federal and state levels. It will assist in providing staff and lobbyists guidance on policy-related matters that may impact the operation and implementation of the various programs and services offered by CVAG. This document will facilitate the development of a federal and state strategy and focused action plan to address the needs and priorities of CVAG and its member jurisdictions.

**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla
Indians**

City of Blythe

Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians

City of Cathedral City

City of Coachella

City of Desert Hot Springs

City of Indian Wells

City of Indio

City of La Quinta

City of Palm Desert

City of Palm Springs

City of Rancho Mirage

County of Riverside

**Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla
Indians**

**Twenty-Nine Palms Band of
Mission Indians**

CVAG

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Key Categories



TRANSPORTATION

Reliable, sustainable and safe multimodal transportation infrastructure is a top priority for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments as it strives to support the transportation needs of current and future residents and visitors.



ENERGY

Supporting and securing funding for clean energy and energy efficiency initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, improve air quality, and increase climate resiliency for our member agencies and our residents.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Conservation of the Coachella Valley's natural resources and maintaining and growing our rich and abundant wildlife is a focus of CVAG and our members.



BROADBAND

Deployment of middle-mile infrastructure that can facilitate a high-speed last-mile broadband network for beneficial use among CVAG's residents, businesses, and members is key to the success and vitality of CVAG and the communities it serves.



HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Addressing the dual challenges of homelessness and development of affordable housing through regional solutions is critical to ensuring a high quality of life in the Coachella Valley.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Maintaining a safe and secure community, free of crime, while ensuring clean and engaging public spaces, is essential to maintaining vibrant and growing business and residential communities.

FEDERAL

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

- Support regional efforts for the Coachella Valley-San Geronimo Pass Rail Corridor Service (CV Rail), including funding opportunities to advance the preferred alternative, to support alternate transportation modes and better connect desert communities and attractions with Los Angeles, Orange County and the Inland Empire.
- Support actions by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Federal Railroad Administration and the California Department of Transportation that advance CV Rail.
- Support advocacy efforts by the Facilitate Equitable Deals Task Force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Support outside funding for CVAG's priority projects as outlined in the Transportation Project Prioritization Study (TPPS), including interchanges along the Interstate 10 corridor and State Highway Route 86, in order to reduce the burden on regional and local funds.
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts that increase funding for the expansion and improvement of regional arterial projects that improve public safety, encourage economic development, ease traffic congestion, and reduce air quality and environmental impacts.
- Support efforts by Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to reduce congestion and increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.
- Support Congressionally directed spending requests for transportation projects in the Coachella Valley and in eastern Riverside County.
- Support increased funding for Tribal nations in the Coachella Valley for implementation of regional transportation projects.
- Support efforts that expand public transportation opportunities in the City of Blythe, including increased transit.
- Support National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reform to expedite and streamline environmental review and project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support efforts that dedicate funding for goods movements projects, including grade separation projects, in eastern Riverside County.
- Oppose efforts that decrease local control and decision-making regarding local revenue sources, including, but not limited to, Measure A sales tax revenue and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF).
- Oppose efforts that would divert revenue derived from transportation sources to non-transportation related projects or activities.

- Oppose efforts to eliminate or decrease use of state and local transportation funds for capacity enhancement projects and monitor one-size-fits-all approaches regarding their use.
- Monitor implementation of programs in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021 Infrastructure Bill) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA 2022), such as the Bridge Investment Program, and support funding for existing programs such as the Highway Bridge Program and the Transportation Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program.
- Monitor regulatory and legislative changes to the Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program and oppose efforts that impose additional requirements on, or decrease funding for, CVAG or its member agencies.
- Monitor efforts that would make changes to the Clean Air Act and associated transportation programs to meet nonattainment or maintenance requirements.
- Monitor potential replacement mechanisms for the federal gasoline excise tax.

Active Transportation

- Support policies and programs that provide funds for regional projects identified in CVAG's Active Transportation Plan.
- Advocate for increased federal funding to the state's Active Transportation Program, including opportunities to augment the program through the Reconnecting Communities and the Neighborhood Access and Equity grant programs.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory activity related to new mobility devices, such as scooters and automated vehicles, to ensure adequate safety compatibility with active transportation systems.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Identify and pursue funding opportunities that support, expand or leverage intelligent transportation systems, including CVAG's synchronization (CV Sync) traffic signal program.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory changes to funding sources for intelligent transportation systems, including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program, and oppose efforts to decrease funding for non-attainment areas.

Energy and Environment

- Support legislation and programs that invest in projects that achieve environmental benefits, including improved air and water quality, water and energy conservation, and urban greening initiatives in the region.
- Support programs that fund implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and that support habitat restoration in the Coachella Valley.
- Support Salton Sea Authority efforts related to Salton Sea projects and legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support legislation that facilitates environmentally sensitive renewable energy development at the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area, including lithium extraction.
- Support legislation that provides funding for electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives for early adoption of electric vehicles.
- Monitor federal legislative, regulatory, and administrative activities that may impact the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions that may impact Property Assessed Clean Energy programs.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization and green building programs.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities for wildlife crossing structures to increase habitat connectivity and decrease wildlife-vehicle collisions in areas where populations are fragmented by highways and interstates.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

Broadband

- Support and advocate for funding for open access middle-mile infrastructure to facilitate last-mile connections and leverage existing networks and construction projects to build networks, when possible.
- Support efforts and funding that prioritize connectivity to unserved and underserved communities and community anchor institutions.
- Support and identify programs that support middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure and that leverage dig-once opportunities such as CVAG's CV Sync project.
- Monitor actions by the Federal Communications Commission related to broadband and implementation of the broadband investments as authorized in the 2021 infrastructure Bill.

Homeless and Affordable Housing

- Identify and advocate for opportunities for CVAG's member agencies to secure funding that assists in building affordable housing and increasing housing opportunities for low-, moderate-, and workforce housing.
- Monitor and support programs and funding for CVAG's CV Housing First program and regional solutions to addressing homelessness.

Public Safety

- Identify, monitor and support legislation that provides funding for operations, maintenance, and updates to early earthquake warning systems.
- Identify funding opportunities for member jurisdictions to mitigate and reduce the incidents of green waste fires.
- Monitor legislation and administrative actions related to race, diversity and inclusion policies as it pertains to law enforcement.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities that will assist in the reduction of the spread of COVID-19 and other public health and safety concerns, to assist public entities in their response.

STATE

Fighting for Fairness and Funding

- Support legislative efforts that improve funding opportunities for the Coachella Valley in the state's Cap-and-Trade program and oppose policies that disproportionately disadvantage the CVAG region to compete for funding.
- Support policies that allow for a diverse set of social equity metric measuring tools to qualify and compete for Cap-and-Trade funded programs including, but not limited to, household income and the AB 1550 low-income definition and oppose efforts that would limit use to, or increase reliance on, the CalEnviroScreen in grant programs.
- Support legislative and regulatory changes to the Transformative Climate Communities program to allow eligible and qualifying planning grant recipients to also be eligible and qualify to apply for implementation grants.
- Support policy changes to funding programs that use the CalEnviroScreen tool that would broaden eligible competitive areas and that better reflect the diversity in the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose legislative and regulatory actions that utilize CalEnviroScreen and high-housing density criteria, which favor large urban centers, to determine allocation of state grant funds and would decrease funding competitiveness for areas such as the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose program guidelines that use transit oriented development standards, such as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, that disproportionately favor large urban centers and do not reflect the reality of growth and development in the Coachella Valley, therefore decreasing funding opportunities for the CVAG region.
- Advocate for policy changes that allow for regional variances related to transit quality, transit frequency and density related to housing oriented development, to allow the CVAG region better compete for funding in the state's Cap-and-Trade program.

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

- Support regional efforts to increase passenger rail service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley, including funding opportunities and actions by the Facilitate Equitable Deals task force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Support legislation that increases funding opportunities for bridges, interchanges and regional arterials in the Coachella Valley.
- Support efforts by the California Department of Transportation, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to implement congestion projects identified in the Inland Empire

Multimodal Corridor Plan that increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.

- Support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform to expedite and streamline project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support and advocate for actions that increase transportation resources in the City of Blythe and local Tribal Nations, to address historic underinvestment and improve mobility, economic development opportunities and quality of life.
- Monitor the state's road charge pilot program and other potential replacement mechanisms for the state gasoline excise tax.
- Monitor legislative changes to Senate Bill 1 (Statutes 2017); oppose efforts to divert funding to non-transportation related uses, such as housing, or otherwise qualifying eligibility of SB 1 funds on non-transportation related goals and objectives.
- Monitor implementation of the California Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) and opposed policies that decrease funding opportunities for the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose legislative changes that create or strengthen a nexus between the availability of transportation funding and local jurisdictions' ability to meet their requirements under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers.
- Oppose legislative or regulatory policies that decrease local decision-making authority regarding use of local funds for priority transportation projects.
- Monitor legislation that would increase voter approval thresholds for the creation, extension, or increase of local transportation tax measures and support efforts to establish a sub-regional funding mechanisms to advance local priority projects.

Active Transportation

- Support increased funding for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) to address the backlog of applications and increase the program's funding capacity.
- Support increased investment in active transportation infrastructure as a component of other state-funded transportation programs that increase access and opportunities for walking, biking, and complete streets that connect the multimodal transportation system.
- Support policies and programs that promote increased use of active transportation infrastructure and systems.
- Support efforts that streamline project delivery, build local capacity such as additional technical assistance, and provide increased flexibility to innovate and strategically invest funds to meet local needs.

- Oppose legislative, regulatory, and administrative efforts to score ATP applications on non-transportation related criteria, such as housing-related policies, CalEnviroScreen and policies which would hinder low density areas like the Coachella Valley and the City of Blythe.
- Oppose changes to the ATP that would decrease CVAG's competitiveness, such as the elimination of leveraged funding and other categories that are advantageous to CVAG and its members jurisdictions.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Support programs that leverage technology to improve mobility, increase goods movement efficiency, reduce emissions and help to mitigate environmental impacts.
- Identify state programs and funding that supplement CVAG's CV Sync project.
- Monitor legislation that incorporates innovative technologies into the state transportation system, such as zero or near-zero emission vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and small electric mobility devices that improve transportation accessibility, efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.

Energy and Environment

- Support legislative and regulatory efforts to increase the flexibility of funding programs from the California Air Resources Board's Cap-and-Trade Program to ensure the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys get their fair share, including taking into account regional variances related to growth, housing, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies.
- Support increased investments of the state GHG reduction funds toward transportation projects to reduce transportation related GHG emissions.
- Support investments in Cap-and-Trade funded programs, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, Single-Family Energy Efficiency, and Low-income Weatherization programs.
- Advocate for changes in the CalEnviroScreen mapping tool that reflect the socio-economic realities of the diverse communities in the Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valleys, or the use of alternative tools such as household income.
- Support policies that ensure criteria for defining disadvantaged communities and environmental justice areas accurately represent eastern Riverside County, including those that mirror AB 1550 community mapping, in order to ensure the region can compete for funding opportunities.
- Support policies, programs, and funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and increased use of electric vehicles in the region.
- Support efforts that provide necessary resources for implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan as well as resources for desert communities to

prepare and adapt to changing climate and natural disasters, such as the Climate Resiliency programs.

- Support funding for programs that support local planning and response measures to extreme heat events, including nature-based solutions, to protect critical infrastructure, habitat and public health and safety.
- Support legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea to limit regional impacts to air quality, wildlife habitat, and health of communities, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support efforts at the Salton Sea that facilitate economic development, such as lithium extraction.
- Monitor actions related to the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between Imperial Irrigation District and the Coachella Valley Water District and support Coachella Valley Energy Commission efforts to achieve a permanent service option and governance structure between Coachella Valley stakeholders and IID post-2033.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization, and green building programs.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts related to vehicle electrification and building decarbonization that would add new requirements to local governments, including Title 24 building standards.
- Monitor implementation of the state's climate resiliency efforts and efforts related to environmental justice communities and AB 617 (Statutes of 2017) emission reduction funding programs.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

Broadband

- Support funding and implementation of the Coachella Valley's middle-mile broadband project and the programs to assist with last-mile connections that bridge the digital divide in the Coachella Valley.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions related to SB 156 (Statutes of 2021) and related actions by the California Department of Technology and the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy.
- Monitor the California Middle-Mile Advisory Committee and its recommendations regarding implementation of middle-mile infrastructure.

- Monitor the California Public Utilities Commissions proceedings related to broadband infrastructure implementation, such as Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001 and Rulemaking proceeding, R.20-08-021.

Homelessness and Affordable Housing

- Support increased investment in, and creation of, programs that assist local governments, counties and regional collaborations to address the challenges associated with homelessness.
- Support legislative efforts that allow for sustainable financing options, as outlined in CVAG's Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) and member jurisdictions' Local Early Action Plans (LEAP), in order to address housing shortages and provide affordable housing options.
- Support efforts by Lift to Rise to establish the Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund to increase housing production in the Coachella Valley and create homeownership opportunities for low- and very-low income families, permanent supportive housing for the homeless and address unpermitted mobilehome park issues.
- Support CEQA reform to streamline the delivery of housing projects.
- Monitor the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and advocate for increased flexibility and changes that ensure a greater share of funding is available to areas that don't have Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) and thereby more accurately account for unique community characteristics and growth patterns in the Coachella Valley.
- Support the extension of state-funded solutions, including Project RoomKey and Project HomeKey, with an emphasis on ensuring those investments are used in the Coachella Valley.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that require unsheltered individuals to accept housing solutions and treatment solutions.
- Support efforts to establish homeless courts that can help local jurisdictions provide additional solutions and services for homeless individuals.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that increase the available housing units and/or require unsheltered individuals to accept housing solutions and treatment solutions so long as there are adequate housing units available.

Public Safety

- Support programs and policies that provide funding for the CVAG region to obtain, enhance, operate, maintain and update early earthquake warning systems.

- Monitor legislation and executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health and safety emergencies and support programs that provide assistance to negatively impacted communities in the Coachella Valley.
- Monitor legislation impacting race, diversity, and inclusion policies as it pertains to local law enforcement.

