

ITEM 6A

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes November 10, 2022



The audio file for this committee can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 10:32 a.m. via Zoom, pursuant to the guidelines of Assembly Bill 361.
- 2. ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner
Director Alex Cardenas
Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith
Councilmember Elaine Holmes
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Vice President Nancy Wright
Councilmember Kathleen Kelly
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Councilmember Steve Downs
Councilmember Glenn Miller
Mayor Jan Harnik
Director Russ Martin

Agency

City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District
City of Indian Wells (*left at item 7D*)
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs (*arrived at item 7C*)
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 1
Riverside County – District 3
Riverside County – District 5

Members Not Present

Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Supervisor Karen Spiegel
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District
City of Palm Springs
Riverside County – District 2
Riverside County – District 4

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (IF ANY)

None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Tom Kirk announced that the January 12, 2023 meeting would be an in-person field trip to see construction of the fence in La Quinta and other conservation properties. Members were asked to block time out on their calendars for a tour that is likely start at 9 a.m. and run through lunchtime.

Mr. Kirk provided an update on construction of the fence, which is underway. He also highlighted fact sheets, requested by the Commissioners, that were included as information items in the agenda packet.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve September 15, 2022 CVCC Meeting Minutes**
- B. Reaffirm that findings still exist, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, and authorize continuation of remote teleconference/virtual meetings of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and its committees**
- C. Adopt the CVCC's 2023 State and Federal Legislative Platform**
- D. Authorize an amendment with the University of California Riverside's Center for Conservation Biology (UCR CCB), conditional on execution of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Local Assistance Grant (LAG) Agreement, to add \$20,000 to the 2022-2023 Biological Monitoring Contract**

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLMES AND SECONDED BY MAYOR HARNIK TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 6 MEMBERS ABSENT.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb | Absent |
| Mayor Steven Hernandez | Absent |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco | Absent |
| Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner | Aye |
| Director Alex Cardenas | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith | Aye |
| Councilmember Elaine Holmes | Aye |
| Mayor Linda Evans | Aye |
| Vice President Nancy Wright | Aye |
| Councilmember Kathleen Kelly | Aye |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods | Absent |
| Councilmember Steve Downs | Aye |
| Councilmember Glenn Miller | Aye |
| Supervisor Spiegel | Absent |
| Mayor Jan Harnik | Aye |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez | Absent |
| Director Russ Martin | Aye |

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

- A. Update on Bureau of Land Management Programs in the Coachella Valley – Tim Gilloon, BLM Field Manager**

Mr. Kirk introduced Tim Gilloon, a regional Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He provided an update on programs and efforts that overlap with the CVCC's conservation mission, including consistent trails signage and addressing off-highway vehicle use. Brief member discussion ensued.

No action was taken on this informational item.

B. Acquisition of five parcels in the Thousand Palms and West Deception Canyon Conservation Areas – Jim Karpiak

Jim Karpiak of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy provided the staff report.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM GARNER AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM GRIFFITH TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-09 FOR ACQUISITION OF FIVE PARCELS CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 140.45+/- ACRES IN THE THOUSAND PALMS AND WEST DECEPTION CANYON CONSERVATION AREAS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$549,665, PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 6 MEMBERS ABSENT.

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb | Absent |
| Mayor Steven Hernandez | Absent |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco | Absent |
| Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner | Aye |
| Director Alex Cardenas | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith | Aye |
| Councilmember Elaine Holmes | Aye |
| Mayor Linda Evans | Aye |
| Vice President Nancy Wright | Aye |
| Councilmember Kathleen Kelly | Aye |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods | Absent |
| Councilmember Steve Downs | Aye |
| Councilmember Glenn Miller | Aye |
| Supervisor Spiegel | Absent |
| Mayor Jan Harnik | Aye |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez | Absent |
| Director Russ Martin | Aye |

C. Maintenance Contract with Desert Recreation District – Tony Quiroz

Conservation Management Analyst Tony Quiroz provided the staff report and noted the work done to date. Member discussion ensued. Staff addressed questions about budgeting for maintenance needs of new acquisitions and the reasons for a contract extension.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM GARNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLMES TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT NO. 2 OF THE

SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DESERT RECREATION DISTRICT, ADDING AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000 THROUGH FEBRUARY 9, 2023 TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND CLEANUP SERVICES ON CONSERVATION PROPERTIES, INCLUDING FENCES, GATES, BOULDERS AND SIGNS; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/ OR LEGAL COUNSEL TO MAKE MINOR MODIFICATIONS PRIOR TO CONTRACT EXECUTION

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 5 MEMBERS ABSENT.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb | Absent |
| Mayor Steven Hernandez | Absent |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco | Absent |
| Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner | Aye |
| Director Alex Cardenas | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith | Aye |
| Councilmember Elaine Holmes | Aye |
| Mayor Linda Evans | Aye |
| Vice President Nancy Wright | Aye |
| Councilmember Kathleen Kelly | Aye |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods | Aye |
| Councilmember Steve Downs | Aye |
| Councilmember Glenn Miller | Aye |
| Supervisor Spiegel | Absent |
| Mayor Jan Harnik | Aye |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez | Absent |
| Director Russ Martin | Aye |

D. Closure of the Coachella Valley In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program – Peter Satin

Regional Planner Peter Satin provided the staff report. Member discussion ensued

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KELLY AND SECONDED BY VICE PRESENT WRIGHT TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO INITIATE CLOSURE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY IN-LIEU FEE MITIGATION PROGRAM, AND TO COORDINATE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RIVERSIDE-CORONA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE INLAND EMPIRE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN DRAFTING A JOINT NOTICE OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGARDING FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF THE IN-LIEU FEE PROGRAM

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 6 MEMBERS ABSENT.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb | Absent |
| Mayor Steven Hernandez | Absent |
| Board Member Anthony Bianco | Absent |
| Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner | Aye |
| Director Alex Cardenas | Aye |
| Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith | Absent |
| Councilmember Elaine Holmes | Aye |
| Mayor Linda Evans | Aye |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Vice President Nancy Wright | Aye |
| Councilmember Kathleen Kelly | Aye |
| Councilmember Dennis Woods | Aye |
| Councilmember Steve Downs | Aye |
| Councilmember Glenn Miller | Aye |
| Supervisor Spiegel | Absent |
| Mayor Jan Harnik | Aye |
| Supervisor V. Manuel Perez | Absent |
| Director Russ Martin | Aye |

Chair Evans acknowledged that, given the council elections, this would be Councilmember Woods' last meeting on the CVCC. Councilmember Woods provided some departing remarks and noted opportunities for collaboration with other agencies.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. CVCC's Unaudited Investment Report through September 30, 2022

C. CVCC's Unaudited Financial Reports through September 30, 2022

D. Contracts under \$25,000

E. CVCC Fact Sheet as Requested by Commissioners

F. CVCC Fact Sheet on Construction of Fencing to Prevent Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Access in La Quinta

G. Update to Research on Proposed Chuckwalla National Monument Designation

In response to a member's question, CVCC staff noted additional information on the Chuckwalla National Monument would be presented at the CVCC's next meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair noted that, in order to have time for the tour, the next meeting of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

11. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned by Chair Evans at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director