Energy and Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes May 12, 2022



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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 12:02 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to AB 361 and the guidelines for governing how public meetings are held virtually.
- 2. ROLL CALL Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Nancy Ross Councilmember Neftali Galarza Councilmember Russell Betts

Director JB Hamby

Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz

Mayor Linda Evans

Vice President Nancy Wright

Councilmember Gina Nestande Councilmember Dennis Woods

Mayor Charles Townsend

Riverside County – District 4

Agency

City of Cathedral City City of Coachella

City of Desert Hot Springs Imperial Irrigation District

City of Indian Wells (Arrived during Item 4)

City of Indio City of La Quinta

Mission Springs Water District

City of Palm Desert

City of Palm Springs (Arrived during Item 4)

City of Rancho Mirage

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (Arrived during Item 4)

Others Present

Tom Kirk **CVAG** Erica Felci **CVAG** Peter Satin **CVAG** Joanna Stueckle **CVAG** Jennifer Nelson **CVAG CVAG** Emmanuel Martinez David Freedman **CVAG** Liz Paige **CVAG** Liz Barnwell **CVAG** Allen McMillen

Margaret Park Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Pat Cooper Riverside County
Paul Vallandigham Riverside County

Liz Hernandez Palm Springs Disposal Service

Andy Ramirez City of Palm Desert

Bryan Montgomery
Jacob Alvarez
Chuck Parker

City of Indio
City of Coachella
Salton Sea Coalition

Miguel Hernandez California Natural Resources Agency

Patrick O'Dowd Salton Sea Authority
Vivien Maisonneuve Dept. of Water Resources

Chris Clarke

One other individual by Zoom

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Sec./Treasurer Vincent Gonzales III
Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Board Member Patricia Oygar
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Councilmember Betts made mention of graffiti issues on the interstate overpasses and requested staff collaborate with Caltrans to expedite the clean-up efforts and possibly place on a future agenda for further discussion.

Councilmember Ross voiced her concerns regarding the Salton Sea and the lack of action being taken.

Update from three city meeting to address future electrical infrastructure needs in Imperial Irrigation District

Chair Evans gave an update on coordination between cities and with Imperial Irrigation District as it pertains to future electrical infrastructure needs. A robust member discussion followed. Staff noted they will continue to monitor the issue.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

B. Approve April 14, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WOODS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM, NOTING THAT ITEM 5B SHOULD HAVE BEEN LISTED AS ITEM 5A

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck Absent **Secretary/Treasurer Vincent Gonzales III Absent Councilmember Nancy Ross** Ave **Mayor Stephen Hernandez** Ave **Board Member Anthony Bianco** Absent **Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner** Aye **Director JB Hamby** Ave **Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith** Aye Councilmember Elaine Holmes Aye

Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Vice President Nancy Wright	Aye
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Mayor Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Revitalizing Salton Sea: Update from the State and Regional Efforts – Emmanuel Martinez

- **1.** Presentation by Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer for the California Natural Resources Agency
- 2. Presentation by Patrick O' Dowd, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority

Emmanuel Martinez gave a detailed introduction and turned it over to Miguel Hernandez and Vivien Maisonneuve, who provided an update on the state-led efforts to address the Salton Sea, including pilot projects. They also responded to committee members' questions and comments.

Chair Evans asked for public comments after this presentation. There was one comment given by Chuck Parker with the Salton Sea Coalition, who expressed his concerns about greenhouse gases coming from the sea.

Executive Director O'Dowd presented a presentation on what is being done by the Authority to revitalize the Salton Sea. A robust discussion ensued, with the committee members requesting copies of a recent report pertaining to water importation.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

- **7. INFORMATION** The following items were provided in the agenda for information only:
 - A. Attendance
 - B. Inland Regional Energy Network Updates
 - C. CVAG Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2022/23
 - D. Update on Middle-Mile Broadband Efforts
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at noon via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

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

10. ADJOURN – Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson, Clerk