

Energy and Environmental Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021



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 12:01 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Governor Newsom’s executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Councilmember Nancy Ross
Councilmember Neftali Galarza
Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, Vice Chair
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
President Nancy Wright
Chairman Jeff Grubbe

Agency

City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella, *arrived during Item 3*
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, *left during Item 6C*
Riverside County – District 4, *arrived during Item 3*
Mission Springs Water District
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Ex-Officio Members Present

Supervisor Jeff Hewitt

Riverside County – District 5

Others Present

Tom Kirk	CVAG
Katie Barrows	CVAG
Benjamin Druyon	CVAG
Erica Felci	CVAG
Joanna Stueckle	CVAG
Peter Satin	CVAG
Oscar Vizcarra	CVAG
Valdemar Galeana	CVAG
Benjamin Druyon	CVAG
Mike Gladish	CVAG
Tory Brewster	CivicSpark Fellow
Margaret Park	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Chuck Parker	Salton Sea Coalition
Emmanuel Martinez	Imperial Irrigation District
JB Hamby	Imperial Irrigation District
John Knobel	Assemblyman Chad Mayes’ Office
Pat Cooper	Riverside County District 4
Patrick O’Dowd	Salton Sea Authority
Sara Toyoda	City of Indio

Liz Hernandez
Sylvia Montenegro
Trish Rhay
Kerry Morrison
Judith Graham
Feliz Nunez
Tom Sephton
Susan St. Louis

PSDS/DVD
Coachella Housing Coalition
Indio Water Authority
EcoMedia Compass

Three other individuals joined the meeting but did not provide their fullnames.

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director Alex Cardenas
Board Member Patricia Oygur

Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Desert Water Agency

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

A comment submitted by Joy Silver was read on Item 6A regarding the Salton Sea and any plans to control dust and water pollution to enable new housing.

Chuck Parker, of the Salton Sea Coalition, commented on Item 6A and asked questions for the Salton Sea Authority and noted the recently-passed resolutions from desert cities supporting importation of ocean water to the Salton Sea.

Feliz Nunez also commented on Item 6A, specifically asking what plans there are to address concerns about the health of residents near the Salton Sea given issues with dust, odor, and wastewater.

Sylvia Montenegro commented on Item 6A and the need to establish a scientific partnership with Mexico to bring water from the Sea of Cortez to the Salton Sea.

Susan St. Louis commented on Item 6A and expressed the need for ocean water importation as a solution to saving the Salton Sea.

Tom Sephton commented on Item 6A, noting the resolutions showing that Coachella Valley cities are supporting ocean water import as a potential long-term solution for the Salton Sea.

Kerry Morrison, of EcoMedia Compass, echoed the previous comments on Item 6A, including concerns that more study and focus was needed on water importation.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Katie Barrows shared that she will be retiring from CVAG in the fall and expressed her appreciation to the committee for the work they have done together. Members of the Committee thanked Ms. Barrows for her service.

Councilmember Ortiz gave an update from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), including information on the updated CalEnviroScreen and Southern California Edison's battery storage and public safety power shutoffs.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETTS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND TO:

- A. Approve May 13, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes, as revised to include the Goals and Objectives and correct the spelling of JB Hamby's name**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck	Aye
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Aye
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Chairman Jeff Grubbe	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update on the Salton Sea Authority

Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority (SSA), gave an update on the recent activity of the SSA including its mission and priorities. Member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken as this was an informational item.

B. Report on CivicSpark Fellowship Program activities for CVAG

Ms. Barrows introduced CivicSpark Fellow Tory Brewster. Ms. Brewster updated the Committee on the projects she has been working on for CVAG over the past year, including an urban greening guidebook and a climate action story map. Member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken as this was an informational item.

C. Creation of an East Valley Electricity Task Force

Ms. Barrows presented the staff report and the staff recommendation for an East Valley Electricity Task Force. Chair Evans facilitated a discussion between the members of the committee and JB Hamby, Vice President of the IID Board of Directors, about the staff recommendation and IID's own plans for a Coachella Valley Energy Commission. The Committee modified the staff recommendation to authorize the CVAG Executive Director to establish a task force but narrow the focus of the group to reflect IID's plans.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CREATE AN EAST VALLEY ELECTRICITY TASK FORCE, HAVE MEETINGS TO REVIEW IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S COACHELLA VALLEY ENERGY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT BACK TO THE CVAG ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE WITH NOTES AND INFORMATION ON THE COMMISSION, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IID IS FAVORABLE TO THE CVAG TASK FORCE INVOLVEMENT.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck	Aye
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Aye
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	Absent
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Absent
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Chairman Jeff Grubbe	Aye

7. INFORMATION – The following item was provided in the agenda for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. Member Survey on CVAG Meetings in Post-COVID environment

C. Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2021/2022

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

- The next meeting of the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at noon either via Zoom webinar or in-person.
- The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021, with closed session at 4 p.m. and regular session at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.
- The next meeting of the General Assembly will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURN – Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull