

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2021



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 10:31 a.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Gov. 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**

Councilmember Rita Lamb  
Councilmember Gary Gardner  
Councilmember Donna Griffith  
Mayor Elaine Holmes  
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair  
Mayor Kathleen Kelly  
Councilmember Dennis Woods  
Councilmember Richard W. Kite  
Councilmember Glenn Miller  
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick  
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt  
Director Alex Cardenas  
President Nancy Wright

**Agency**

City of Cathedral City  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio, *from Item 6A-6D*  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
Riverside County – District 1  
Riverside County – District 2  
Riverside County – District 3  
Riverside County – District 4  
Riverside County – District 5, *arrived during Item 6C*  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Mission Springs Water District

**Members Not Present**

Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair  
Board Member Anthony Bianco

**Agency**

City of Coachella  
Coachella Valley Water District

**Others Present**

Tom Kirk	CVAG
Katie Barrows	CVAG
Kathleen Brundige	CVAG
Peter Satin	CVAG
Trisha Stull	CVAG
Erica Felci	CVAG
Joanna Stueckle	CVAG
Oscar Vizcarra	CVAG
Jim Karpiak	CVMC
Steve Sanchez	City of La Quinta
Jennifer Cusack	Southern California Edison
Emmanuel Martinez	Imperial Irrigation District
Aaron Thomas	
Two individuals joined by phone	

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**4. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS –**

Executive Director Tom Kirk gave an update on the bond measure being authored by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, and stated that the current version includes funding for the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and the Salton Sea. Mr. Kirk states the CVCC is tracking this bond and providing information to Assemblymember Garcia’s office.

Chair Evans shared that Assemblymember Garcia would be speaking at the upcoming WELL 2021 Virtual Conference on Thursday, May 27.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve April 8, 2021 CVCC Meeting Minutes**

**B. Adopt CVCC Policy #21-01, which renames CVCC’s Per Diem Policy to be a Stipend Policy and sets the stipend amount for meeting attendance at \$100 for CVCC members and their elected alternates**

**IT WAS MOVED BY DIRECTOR CARDENAS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.**

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Absent
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Absent
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

**6. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Technical Assistance Agreement for Desert Tortoise Monitoring and Genetic Analysis**

Kathleen Brundige provided the staff report, highlighting the need for tortoise monitoring and describing the study area and research techniques used. Member discussion ensued.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO IMPLEMENT DESERT TORTOISE MONITORING AND GENETIC ANALYSIS FOR THE PERIOD FROM MAY 13, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2023 FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$137,822.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Kathleen Kelly</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Glenn Miller</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Jeff Hewitt</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Director Alex Cardenas</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>President Nancy Wright</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**B. Acquisition of four parcels in the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon, Highway 111/I-10, and Mecca Hills Orocofia Mountains Conservation Areas**

Jim Karpiak of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy provided an overview of the purchase, including the property locations and conservation value of the four parcels recommended for acquisition.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GRIFFITH TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-004 FOR ACQUISITION OF FOUR PARCELS CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 99.03+/- ACRES IN THE UPPER MISSION CREEK/BIG MORONGO CANYON, HIGHWAY 111/I-10, AND MECCA HILLS OROCOPIA MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION AREAS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$130,300, PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Absent
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

### **C. Progress on the La Quinta Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Fence**

Katie Barrows gave an update on the La Quinta Peninsular bighorn sheep fence and the negotiations with PGA West. Ms. Barrows also shared what the fence will look like as well as an expected timeline for the project. Member discussion ensued.

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH PGA WEST FOR USE OF THEIR LANDS FOR COMPLETION OF THE LA QUINTA BIGHORN SHEEP FENCE PROJECT; AND ISSUE A NOTICE TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 15 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Mayor Steven Hernandez	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Aye
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye

**D. CVAG/CVCC Agreement for Administration of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan**

Katie Barrows explained the partnership between the CVCC and Coachella Valley Association of Governments, noting the success and described the need to increase the contract amount. Member discussion ensued.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM HARNIK TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT #3 TO THE CVAG/CVCC AGREEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN, INCREASING THE ANNUAL MAXIMUM AMOUNT TO \$850,000.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

<b>Councilmember Rita Lamb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Steven Hernandez</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Gary Gardner</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Elaine Holmes</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mayor Linda Evans</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Kathleen Kelly</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Richard W. Kite</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Glenn Miller</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnik</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Jeff Hewitt</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Director Alex Cardenas</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>President Nancy Wright</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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

**A. Attendance Record**

**B. Annual Inflation Adjustment to the Local Development Mitigation Fee**

**C. CVCC's Quarterly Unaudited Financial Statement as of March 31, 2021**

**D. CVCC's Investment Report as of March 31, 2021**

**E. Contracts Under \$25,000**

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming meetings via Zoom:

- Coachella Valley Conservation Commission: June 10, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

## **10. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Trisha Stull*