

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.



Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 18, 2020), this meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

**THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021
12:00 p.m.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86384998169?pwd=ZTFRC01LbIR6SWlzc2pDS0ZwdUptZz09>

Passcode: 354058

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,86384998169#

Dial In #: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 863 8499 8169

Passcode: 354058

This will provide listening access and ability to address the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee when called upon.

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 & Environmental Resources 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.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, Chair

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. **Member Roster**

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3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Anyone wishing to address the Energy & Environmental Resources 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.

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve May 13, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes**

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6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. **Update from the Salton Sea Authority** – Patrick O’Dowd, Salton Sea Authority

[P10](#)

Recommendation: Information

B. **Report on CivicSpark Fellowship Program activities for CVAG** – Tory Brewster, CivicSpark Fellow

[P11](#)

Recommendation: Information

C. **Creation of an East Valley Electricity Task Force** – Katie Barrows

[P12](#)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chairs of the Executive and Energy and Environmental Resources Committees, to establish an East Valley Electricity Task Force to address the sunset of the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Water District and issues related to electricity service.

7. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

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

[P17](#)

C. **Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2021/2022**

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8. 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.

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

Item 2A

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
Member Roster
2020 – 2021**



VOTING MEMBERS	
City of Blythe	Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck <i>Alternate: Councilmember Joseph Halby III</i>
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Nancy Ross <i>Alternate: Councilmember Rita Lamb</i>
City of Coachella	Councilmember Neftali Galarza <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez</i>
City of Desert Hot Springs	Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts <i>Alternate: Councilmember Gary Gardner</i>
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Donna Griffith <i>Alternate: Mayor Richard Balocco</i>
City of Indio	Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, Vice Chair <i>Alternate: Mayor Elaine Holmes</i>
City of La Quinta	Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Gina Nestande
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Dennis Woods <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Middleton</i>
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend <i>Alternate: Councilmember Richard W. Kite</i>
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Coachella Valley Water District	Board Member Anthony Bianco
Imperial Irrigation District	Director Alex Cardenas
Mission Springs Water District	President Nancy Wright <i>Alternate: Vice President Randy Duncan</i>
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Chairman Jeff Grubbe
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Unassigned
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Riverside County – District 5	Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Desert Water Agency	Board Member Patricia Oyar

Staff
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Katie Barrows, Director of Energy & Environmental Resources
Benjamin Druyon, Management Analyst
Trisha Stull, Program Assistant II

ITEM 5A

Energy and Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes May 13, 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 12:00 p.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

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
Director Alex Cardenas
President Nancy Wright
Chairman Jeff Grubbe

Agency

City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio, *joined during Item 6A*
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert, *left during 6A*
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4
Imperial Irrigation District, *arrived during Item 6A*
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
Trisha Stull	CVAG
Erica Felci	CVAG
Joanna Stueckle	CVAG
Peter Satin	CVAG
Oscar Vizcarra	CVAG
Valdemar Galeana	CVAG
Kathleen Brundige	CVAG
Tory Brewster	CivicSpark Fellow
Margaret Park	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Chuck Parker	Salton Sea Coalition
Deborah McGarrey	Southern California Gas Co.
Jennifer Cusack	Southern California Edison
Emmanuel Martinez	Imperial Irrigation District
Shant Nahapetian	Southern California Edison
Frank Oswalt	Imperial Irrigation District

John Knobel
Pat Cooper
Art Gertz
Brandee Keith
Joy Silver
Brandon Ebeck
JB Hembly
Jasmyn Phillips

Assemblyman Chad Mayes' Office
Riverside County District 4
West Shores

One individual joined the meeting but did not provide a full name; Three individuals joined by phone

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

Board Member Anthony Bianco
Board Member Patricia Oygar

Coachella Valley Water District
Desert Water Agency

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chuck Parker, of the Salton Sea Coalition, commented on Item 6D regarding the wording of the Committee's goals and objectives and asked CVAG to monitor lithium extraction in the Salton Sea area.

Art Gertz, Vice-Mayor of West Shores, commented on Item 6D that the Salton Sea provides increases rainfall through evaporation.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Katie Barrows shared that Patrick O'Dowd of the Salton Sea Authority will give an update on the Salton Sea at the Committee's June meeting.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

A. Approve April 8, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes

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	Absent
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. Electrifying the Coachella Valley: Incentives & Rebates for EVs

Shant Nahapetian of Southern California Edison, and Emmanuel Martinez of Imperial Irrigation District described the electric vehicle programs and rebates offered by both agencies. Member discussion ensued.

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

B. IID, CVWD and the 1934 Agreement of Compromise for providing electric service in the Coachella Valley

Frank Oswalt of Imperial Irrigation District shared the history of the agreement between IID and CVWD, and weighed in on recent discussions about how the Coachella Valley is represented on the IID Board. John Knobel of Assemblymember Chad Mayes' office shared the Assemblymember's concerns regarding the Coachella Valley's lack of representation and discussed legislative efforts to change that. Member discussion ensued.

Due to the complexity of the issues, and a need for more conversation, the Committee, at the recommendation of Chair Evans, continue the discussion to a future meeting.

C. Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee

Peter Satin introduced the staff report, and noted CVAG's policy to review SCAG committee assignments every two years. Councilmember Ortiz expressed his desire to continue as the representative to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETTS AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO APPOINT COUNCILMEMBER ORTIZ AS THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SCAG'S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

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	Absent
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Nancy Wright	Aye
Chairman Jeff Grubbe	Aye

D. Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Katie Barrows introduced the goals and objectives, which had been updated based on feedback at the April committee meeting. Members discussed final changes and additional language as it pertained to the Salton Sea.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETTS TO ADOPT THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES, 1 ABSTENTION 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	Absent
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Abstain
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. Meeting Reimbursements for Elected Committee Members

C. Desert Cities Energy Partnership Final Report

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next scheduled meeting via Zoom:

- Energy & Environmental Resources Committee – June 10, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
- Executive Committee – June 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURN – Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull

ITEM 6A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee June 10, 2021



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update from the Salton Sea Authority

Contact: Katie Barrows, Director of Environmental Resources (kbarrows@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The future of the Salton Sea figured prominently among the items discussed during review of the goals and objectives for the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. At the June meeting, Salton Sea Authority Executive Director/General Manager Patrick O'Dowd will present an update on activities and initiatives of the Authority.

The Salton Sea Authority is a joint powers authority (JPA) empowered to revitalize the Salton Sea in consultation and cooperation with state and federal governments. Board members represent Riverside County, Imperial County, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla. The Authority's current board president is Energy & Environmental Resource Committee member Alex Cardenas, Division 1 Director of Imperial Irrigation District, and the Authority's current vice president is Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, who represents the County's Fourth District.

The Authority's mission as stated on its website is "to protect human health, revitalize the environment and economy of the Sea. The Salton Sea Authority recognizes this requires an integrated approach to recognizing old problems as potential new solutions, and to delivering multiple benefits with thoughtful strategies that integrate economic opportunity and environmental stability. The Salton Sea Authority is pursuing funding and partnerships for projects."

Mr. O'Dowd will provide information on current efforts of the Salton Sea Authority to secure a healthy and prosperous Salton Sea. He has been apprised of the goals and objectives regarding the Salton Sea that were recently adopted by the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee. Following his presentation, he will be available to answer questions from committee members.

Information about the Salton Sea Authority is available at their website: [Salton Sea Authority website](http://saltonseaauthority.org)

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this informational item.

ITEM 6B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee June 10, 2021



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Report on CivicSpark Fellowship Program activities for CVAG

Contact: Katie Barrows, Director of Environmental Resources (kbarrows@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Victoria Brewster will be completing her activities as CivicSpark Fellow for CVAG and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) at the end of July 2021. CivicSpark is an AmeriCorps program that assists local public agencies with capacity building to address community resilience issues. It is administered by the Local Government Commission in partnership with the State of California through the Office of Planning and Research, and California Volunteers. Each year, CivicSpark hires 90 Fellows to implement targeted projects to support local governments throughout California. Fellows work on capacity building initiatives to help public agencies better respond to climate, water, resilience, housing and mobility needs. The CivicSpark program emphasizes career training opportunities. These projects involve extensive coordination with local cities, local non-profits, other local, state, and federal agencies.

Ms. Brewster has been working with CVCC/CVAG staff since September 2020. Her initial focus was on a CVCC project to establish a training program for volunteers to track land management issues on conservation lands. More recently, Ms. Brewster has been working on CVAG projects developing tools to help cities track progress on adopted climate action plans, creating a Coachella Valley sustainability scorecard, identifying measures to promote climate resilience; and preparing a Valley-wide urban greening guidebook and a 1,000 trees initiative. She has reached out to knowledgeable individuals to get their input on tree planting and maintenance including landscape architects, nurseries, arborists, as well as experts from University of California Riverside (UCR) Extension and The Living Desert. These individuals have provided suggestions for trees that do well in the Coachella Valley and resources they may have that can be shared. As part of the Urban Greening guidebook, Ms. Brewster has developed a tree palette based on input from these experts. The research she has done on other urban greening projects in the region and elsewhere in the state will be available to member agencies as part of the guidebook. It will also help in potential grant applications for urban greening projects in the future. CVAG appreciates the work that Ms. Brewster to coordinate with community partners to develop materials and gather resources.

Before she concludes her time with CVCC and CVAG, Ms. Brewster will submit a final report on her CivicSpark projects. She will provide a brief update on her CVAG projects at the June meeting since her time with CVAG and CVCC will conclude before the Committee's next meeting in September.

Fiscal Analysis: A Services Agreement between CVCC, CVAG and the Local Government Commission was signed on August 27, 2020, for a total of \$26,000. CVCC has provided \$16,546 (64%) of the funding for the Fellowship under the Executive Director's signature authority. The other \$9,454 (36%) of the Fellow's time was funded by CVAG.

ITEM 6C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

June 10, 2021



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Creation of an East Valley Electricity Task Force

Contact: Katie Barrows, Director of Environmental Resources (kbarrows@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chairs of the Executive and Energy and Environmental Resources Committees, to establish an East Valley Electricity Task Force to address the sunset of the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Water District and issues related to electricity service.

Description: At the May 13 meeting, the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee received an update on the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) for providing electricity service in the Coachella Valley. A presentation on the history of the agreement was made by IID general counsel Frank Oswalt. Additional information was provided by John Knobel of the Office of Assemblymember Chad Mayes, whose legislation, AB 1021, relates to Riverside County representation on the IID Board of Director. The looming end date of the Agreement of Compromise has, in recent years, led to a conversation among stakeholders about how the power rights should be determined in the future. These conversations are not about water rights, which are further complicated by other agreements. These conversations are focused on how electricity is delivered in the eastern Coachella Valley and ensuring a continuity of electric service for ratepayers.

The history of the relationship between IID and CVWD with respect to electricity service began in February 1934 when the Agreement of Compromise was signed, outlining rights to water and power on and from the Colorado River and All-American Canal. Under the agreement, IID was given first rights to water delivered through the All-American Canal and a 99-year lease on any power rights CVWD had on the canal. The deal also meant IID agreed to pay CVWD a percentage of the net proceeds from its power system and CVWD in turn authorized IID to provide power service to the Coachella Valley. This agreement sunsets on January 1, 2033.

In May 2019, the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee discussed these issues and the possibility of establishing a working group of eastern Coachella Valley stakeholders, but no action was taken. At the June 2019 Energy & Environmental Resources Committee meeting, Chair Linda Evans suggested that the lines of communication be established with stakeholders concerning the looming January 1, 2033 expiration of the 1934 Compromise Agreement between CVWD and IID. The issue was further discussed at the September 2019 Energy and Environmental Resources Committee meeting, at which point Executive Director Tom Kirk suggested that CVAG could serve as a neutral party that brings the stakeholders together to discuss options. In a staff report, it was noted that “the potential termination of the 1934 Agreement could have snowballing impacts on service levels, investments, and other aspects of

power provision in the eastern Coachella Valley.” At Committee’s May 2021 meeting, members further commented about the need to continue this conversation.

CVAG staff is recommending that the CVAG Executive Director establish the East Valley Electricity Task Force, which would lead the regional conversation on options with time to identify solutions before the Agreement of Compromise sunsets in 2033. The working group would include representatives of the Cities of Indio, Coachella, and La Quinta – who receive electric service from IID – as well as IID, CVWD, Riverside County, and other stakeholders. The membership will need to consider compliance with the Brown Act such that less than a quorum of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee is involved. CVAG staff will provide support to the task force in meeting coordination and facilitation as needed.

CVAG’s recommendation was developed in part as a follow up to the Committee’s May meeting, as well as previous Committee conversations. However, since then, the IID Board of Directors has announced that they took a related action at their June 1, 2021 meeting, when the IID Board adopted a resolution that calls for the formation of a Coachella Valley Energy Commission composed of IID Directors and Coachella Valley representatives. The Commission would be charged with addressing local energy issues and a plan for continued energy service to the Coachella Valley after the sunset of the 1934 Agreement of Compromise in 2033. The press release, which is attached, outlines the IID concept for its Commission. While similar in concept, CVAG staff is providing its recommended task force for the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee’s consideration, as conversations around the Agreement and the future of electric rights might be best handled by a third-party who is not a direct stakeholder.

Fiscal Impact: If approved, CVAG would use existing staff resources for the task force.

Attachment: Press release on IID’s Coachella Valley Energy Commission



News & Resources

IID Board Takes Action to Protect Water Rights and Address Coachella Valley Concerns

On Tuesday, the Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors adopted a resolution to better serve IID's Coachella Valley energy customers and better protect Imperial Valley's water rights.

Post Date: 06/02/2021

On Tuesday, the Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors adopted a resolution to better serve IID's Coachella Valley energy customers and better protect Imperial Valley's water rights.

The Board's resolution seeks to provide a local alternative to AB 1021 by Assemblyman Chad Mayes (I-Yucca Valley) that would create a number of adverse consequences for the region, if passed into law, including giving Coachella Valley energy ratepayers a say over IID's water rights and policy in Imperial Valley.

The Board's resolution calls for the formation of a Coachella Valley Energy Commission composed of IID Directors and Coachella Valley representatives to address local energy issues and plan for continued energy service to the Coachella Valley after 2033 as a locally driven alternative to AB 1021.

The resolution also provides that in the event IID's alternative fails to result in removal of the bill from the Legislature, IID management and staff are directed to immediately prepare a Coachella Valley Exit Plan and legal action as defensive measures to protect the district and Imperial Valley's water rights if enacted as law.

"The board's action is a breakthrough on a local challenge fifty years in the making," said JB Hamby, Vice President of the IID Board. "It's a milestone commitment by the IID to offer this local solution to this local issue that makes state-imposed action unnecessary — while leaving all options on the table to protect the IID and Imperial Valley's water rights."

The IID Board of Directors manages the single largest water right on the Colorado River for the benefit of IID's Imperial Valley service area. During Tuesday's presentation on the item, Hamby explained that the IID Board's most critical role is its trustee responsibility over Imperial Valley's water rights.

"Allowing a member installed from outside the water service area to play any kind of governing role over Imperial Valley's water undermines the trust obligation of the IID Board and poses serious risks to IID's water rights and

our users' right to service as affirmed multiple times by the United States Supreme Court.”

Hamby continued, “That is why this local alternative is required. The Board’s action will ensure our Coachella Valley customers are better served and Imperial Valley’s water rights are better protected.”

The Coachella Valley Energy Commission would be composed of IID Directors and a diverse array of Coachella Valley representatives appointed from the city of Coachella, city of Indio, city of La Quinta, Cove Communities Services Commission, Salton Community Services District, a Coachella Valley tribal reservation, unincorporated Riverside County, and two at-large members.

The Commission would deliberate on and represent the needs and concerns of IID’s Coachella Valley customers on local energy issues in the near-term and develop a long-term strategic plan for continued energy service to IID’s Coachella Valley energy service area after the expiration of IID’s 99-year power lease in 2033. That plan would analyze issues of separate representation by and for ratepayers and determine costs and potential impacts to residential ratepayers and low-income households.

IID Board President James C. Hanks said of the Coachella Valley Energy Commission, “This is the preferred alternative for the IID and our Coachella Valley customers. We can’t wait until the 99-year power lease expires in 2033 to plan the future. We have to come together, sit down, and find common ground.” He continued, “In doing so, we’ll develop a win-win for both areas and the region’s ratepayers overall.”

At the Capitol in Sacramento, Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella) spoke of the IID Board’s resolution passed just hours earlier. Speaking from the Assembly floor, Garcia said he was optimistic that parties will come together and come up with a reasonable and amicable solution. “Locally there are preferred pathways that both the Imperial Irrigation District and local stakeholders would rather take to solve this problem,” he said.

IID will develop a set of bylaws and MOU throughout the month of June in consultation with its Coachella Valley stakeholders. The Board will consider the draft bylaws and MOU as information at its July 6 Board meeting in El Centro and for action in the Coachella Valley at its July 13 La Quinta Board meeting.

“I’m looking forward to working with our Coachella Valley stakeholders on the Commission and with Assemblymen Mayes and Garcia to ensure that the bill is promptly pulled from the Legislature,” said Hamby.

Attached: [IID Board Resolution No. 25-2021](#)

[Return to full list >>](#)

ITEM 7A

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2020-2021

<i>VOTING MEMBERS</i>	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
City of Blythe	-	-		-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	
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	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	
Riverside County - District 4	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	
Coachella Valley Water District	-	-		-	-	-		-	-			
Imperial Irrigation District	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	
Mission Springs Water District	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians											✓	
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians												
<i>EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS</i>												
Riverside County - District 5	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	
Desert Water Agency	-	-		-	-	-		-	-			

Absent/Vacant
No Meeting *

Scheduled Dark Month -

ITEM 7b

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee June 10, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: Member Survey on CVAG Meetings in Post-COVID environment

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director, (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: CVAG's committees have been meeting via video/teleconferencing since March 2020, when Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order to address public meeting procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has proven to be an efficient way to conduct business for CVAG, which covers an expansive geographic area across eastern Riverside County. Committee meetings have been well attended, leading to thoughtful and robust conversations on CVAG's policies, projects and programs. The 2020 General Assembly – which was held via Zoom – had a record-setting attendance among elected officials. The use of both videoconference and telephone access has also fostered public engagement, as people can join the meetings from a convenient location instead of driving to CVAG's Palm Desert conference room.

State officials recently announced that – as of June 15, 2021 – California will officially reopen and will no longer require social distancing. This will be in line with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new mask guidelines, which state it is safe for fully vaccinated people to skip face coverings and social distancing in nearly all situations, except for crowded indoor locations such as airplanes or public transit.

It remains unclear how the state's new guidance will impact the way public meetings are held. There are certainly benefits to meeting in person, particularly the personal connections and discourse that can occur when everyone is sitting around the same table. However, CVAG has 19 member jurisdictions, so it has a much larger committee membership than most agencies. Its meeting room is relatively small, especially when put in comparison to a city council chamber. CVAG's meeting room is also not set up for the hybrid format that some cities have initiated, with Council members meeting in person and general public participating via telecast or videoconference. Continued use of video conferencing also allows CVAG to help reduce vehicle miles traveled to its meetings, a practice that has demonstrated air quality and other environmental impacts in the last year.

CVAG staff anticipates that the June 2021 meetings will continue to be held virtually, which are the last meetings held before the standing committees go dark for the summer. CVAG staff will, in coming weeks, be seeking feedback from members on meeting formats that could be implemented this fall. CVAG staff will be circulating a survey to gather this input, including exploring the options of continuing with at least some form of videoconferencing, and plans to provide a summary report in September 2021.

Fiscal Analysis: CVAG does not anticipate any costs for the survey.

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022



CVAG STANDING COMMITTEES	DAY	TIME	JULY (Dark)	AUG (Dark)	SEPT	OCT (Dark)	NOV	DEC (Dark)	JAN	FEB	MAR (Dark)	APR	MAY	JUN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Last Monday	4:30 p.m.	-	-	27	-	H Dec 6	-	31	28	-	25	H June 6	27
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	1 st Monday	10:00 a.m.	12	-	H Aug 30	-	1	-	3	7	-	4	2	6
COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2 nd Thursday	10:30 a.m.	-	-	9	-	H Nov18	-	13	10	-	14	12	9
DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY	3 rd Monday	2:30 p.m.	19	16	20	18	15	-	H Jan 10	H Feb14	21	18	16	20
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE	2 nd Thursday	12:00 p.m.	-	-	9	-	H Nov18	-	13	10	-	14	12	9
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE	2 nd Monday	9:00 a.m.	-	-	13	-	8	-	10	14	-	-	9	13
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE	3 rd Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	-	-	15	-	17	-	19	16	-	20	18	15
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Last Monday in June	6:00 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27

H = Holiday * = Special Meeting

AGENDAS CAN BE FOUND AT: www.cvag.org.

UPDATED: June 1, 2021

PLEASE NOTE: When it becomes necessary to have a special meeting or to change the date of a meeting, committee members will be alerted and the change will be noted on the CVAG website calendar.