

ITEM 6A

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025



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 Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, at 12:03 p.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert. Zoom videoconferencing was available from the City of Blythe and Imperial Irrigation District's office in El Centro.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Mayor Nancy Ross*
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Director Anthony Bianco
Councilmember Dirk Voss
Director JB Hamby
Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed**
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Amber Duff
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Mayor Ron deHarte
Mayor Ted Weill
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez*
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District (*via Zoom*)
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Blythe
Riverside County – District 5

**arrived at Item 5*

***left after Item 7C vote*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Tom Kirk introduced CVAG's new Director of Sustainability, Lisa McNeilly, to the Committee members.

Mr. Kirk noted the uncertainty with respect to federal funding, including a halt on funding for a tree planning program, and added that CVAG will continue to monitor it closely and provide any updates.

At the request of Chair Ortiz, Imperial Irrigation Director JB Hamby provided updates regarding IID's rates.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez announced the opening ceremony for the Riverside County Date Festival is Thursday, February 13 at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Reed notified the committee he will need to leave the meeting at 1 p.m. to attend a city meeting.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024, meeting**
- B. Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary action to receive \$53,765 in grant funding for the used oil recycling program, including executing the necessary agreements with California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)**

IT WAS MOVED BY VICE CHAIR EVANS AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR BIANCO TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

None

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Proposed Amendments to South Coast Air Quality District’s Rules 1111 & 1121 Phasing Out Gas Water Heaters & Furnaces and \$21M Go Zero Pilot Program Supports Residents & Small Businesses Transitioning to Zero-NOx Appliances

South Coast Air Quality Management District’s Planning and Rules Manager Heather Farr joined via Zoom and presented to the committee on proposed amendments.

Lengthy member discussion ensued with members questioning the potential costs associated with the proposed rules as well as the timing of the implementation. Members encouraged additional outreach be done. Ms. Farr noted that revisions were being made and would be unveiled at a public meeting later in the day.

No action was taken as this was an informational item. Committee members requested that the item come back for additional consideration.

B. Future opportunities for the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN)

Program Manager Jacob Alvarez presented the staff report and the interest in including residential programs in the next Business Plan.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL CHAIRMAN MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS TO AUTHORIZE THE ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND CVAG’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ADVOCATE FOR EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS IN THE 2028 I-REN APPLICATION AND BUSINESS PLAN, INCLUDING THE INCLUSION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT RESIDENTIAL HOMES AS WELL AS SMALL AND MEDIUM COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

C. Cool Streets for Affordable Housing Neighborhoods Program

Program Manager Julie Mignogna presented the staff report.

Member discussion ensued, with staff noting how this program would complement other efforts.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL CHAIRMAN MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR DEHARTE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT \$748,500 FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF LAND USE AND CLIMATE INNOVATION'S EXTREME HEAT AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM TO LAUNCH THE COOL STREETS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

D. Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci presented the staff report and announced the City of Coachella Councilmember Stephanie Virgen's interest in remaining the representative on the SCAG Energy & Environment Committee. Ms. Felci reported no other nominations were received.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL CHAIRMAN MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NESTANDE TO NOMINATE AND APPOINT COUNCILMEMBER VIRGEN TO REPRESENT CVAG ON SCAG'S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye

Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Absent
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

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

A. Attendance Record

B. 2024 Annual Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Report

C. Coachella Valley Power Agency Joint Powers Agreement

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Donald Zeigler, resident of Palm Desert, requested a Citizen's Advisory Committee to work with staff to define and develop policies and procedures for the Coachella Valley Energy Commission and the Coachella Valley Power Agency. Mr. Zeigler also requests that cities not in the current area covering CVEC be allowed to join and requests a plan be devised to address the increasingly hot climate.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at noon at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

11. ADJOURN – Chair Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst