

ITEM 6A

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes April 10, 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 12:11 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 Joseph DeConinck
Mayor Nancy Ross
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Councilmember Dirk Voss
Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Amber Duff
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Mayor Ron deHarte (*left at item 7B*)
Mayor Ted Weill
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (*left at item 7B*)

Agency

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
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
Director Anthony Bianco
Director JB Hamby
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Linda Evans led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

A. Supervisor V Manuel Perez's Advocacy on Dust Issues at the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Leadership Meeting in Palm Desert

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez commented on the ongoing dust issues in the Coachella Valley and provided an update on the coordination with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, including plans for a dust summit.

Supervisor Perez introduced Sarah Reese, Deputy Executive Officer with SCAQMD, who addressed the Committee regarding air quality issues.

Mayor Evans announced that the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation will be hosting a health summit in September and encouraged Supervisor Perez and SCAQMD to join the list of presenters.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025, meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR WEILL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Aye
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Absent
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	Absent

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

None

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update on Proposed Amendments to South Coast Air Quality Management 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 provided a PowerPoint present to the committee on the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan and proposed amendments to district rules.

Robust member discussion ensued. Committee members identified several key concerns, including the potential for increased financial burdens on low-income households and homeowners (including potential electrical panel upgrade costs), the adequacy of existing electrical infrastructure to support increased demand, and the need for more detailed research and data supporting the claimed health benefits of the proposed rules.

No vote was taken on this item. The consensus among the Energy & Sustainability Committee members was to direct staff to draft a letter of concern that could be signed by the CVAG Chair and the Energy & Sustainability Committee Chair.

B. I-REN Energy Fellowship Program

Program Manager Jacob Alvarez presented the staff report and introduced I-REN fellow Geena Vescial, who provided the Committee with an overview and projects worked on during her time with CVAG.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. I-REN Business Plan Update

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, May 8, 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, April 28, 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 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst