

# **COACHELLA VALLEY POWER AGENCY MEETING AGENDA**

**December 1, 2025  
3:00 p.m.**

**Coachella Valley Water District  
Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room  
75515 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the Coachella Valley Power Agency's Board of Directors when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89850512386?pwd=hNvLMjuzKO36TB9tsaZVTHIGE6vI82.1>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128 US  
Webinar ID: 898 5051 2386  
Password: 590306**

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION,  
PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127.**

Members of the public are encouraged to submit comment in connection with the Coachella Valley Power Agency meeting by email to: [cvag@cvag.org](mailto:cvag@cvag.org) by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the Board meeting. Members of the public joining the meeting by Zoom can provide comment by using the “raise hand” feature or hitting \*9 on the phone keypad.

As a convenience to the public, CVPA provides a call-in and internet-based option for members of the public to virtually observe and provide public comments at its meetings. Please note that, in the event of a technical issue disrupting the call-in or internet-based options, the meeting will continue unless otherwise required by law.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.  
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Waymond Fermon, Councilmember, City of Indio

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. **Member Roster**

**P4**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (IF ANY)**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the first of two opportunities to address the Board. Any person wishing to address the Coachella Valley Power Agency 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.

6. **BOARD MEMBER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the minutes from the meeting of September 29, 2025**

**P5**

B. **Affirm the adoption of Resolution No. 2025-02 to authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to support implementation of Imperial Irrigation District’s Regulation 24 related establishing up to a 20 percent contribution towards eligible energy infrastructure projects**

**P8**

7.1 **ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

8. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- A. **Presentation: IID Electrical Infrastructure Projects in the Coachella Valley –** **P12**  
Cameron Bucher, IID's Outside Counsel on infrastructure matters

**Recommendation:** Information

- B. **Verbal Update on Coordinating Planning Efforts with Member Jurisdictions –**  
Emmanuel Martinez

9. **INFORMATION**

- a) Board Attendance Record **P16**

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

This is the second of two opportunities to address the Board. Any person wishing to address the Board 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.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The January meeting of the CVPA is being canceled. The next meeting of the CVPA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

# **COACHELLA VALLEY POWER AGENCY BOARD MEMBER ROSTER**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Seat on Board</b>	<b>Representative</b>
City of Indio	Chair	<b>Waymond Fermon</b> Councilmember
City of La Quinta	Vice Chair	<b>Linda Evans</b> Mayor
County of Riverside	Director	<b>V. Manuel Perez</b> Supervisor
<b>Staff Support</b>		
Tom Kirk <i>CVAG Executive Director</i>		
Emmanuel Martinez <i>CVAG Assistant Director – Energy &amp; External Affairs</i>		

## **ITEM 7A**

### **Coachella Valley Power Agency Meeting Minutes September 29, 2025**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Coachella Valley Power Agency (CVPA) was called to order by Chair Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 3:34 p.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

##### **Members Present**

Councilmember Waymond Fermon, *Chair*

Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*

Palm Springs Councilmember Grace Garner (*alternate*)

##### **Member Jurisdiction**

City of Indio

City of La Quinta

County of Riverside

#### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Fermon led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **4. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (IF ANY)**

Executive Director Tom Kirk noted that Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez was serving in jury duty, and announced the County's alternate representative was Palm Springs Councilmember Grace Garner.

Mr. Kirk stated that staff was now recommending pulling Agenda Item 8B from consideration and that CVPA staff would work with Imperial Irrigation District (IID) on a potential future agenda item.

Mr. Kirk also noted there were updates to the proposed resolution for Agenda Item 8A for the Board's consideration.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Donald Zeigler, a resident of Palm Desert, addressed Agenda Item 8A and encouraged CVPA to work with IID to find new and reliable forms of energy for a sustainable future.

Krystal Otworth, policy advocate with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, addressed Agenda Item 8B, expressing the need for infrastructure investments that address both growth and resilience and encouraged bilingual public engagement.

Deputy Executive Director Erica Felci noted a letter submitted by Imperial Irrigation District (IID) General Manager Jamie Asbury, which expressed reservations on Agenda Items 8A

and 8B and provided IID's own recommendations for them. A copy of the letter was provided to the Board.

## **6. BOARD MEMBER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Mr. Kirk expressed thanks to the Coachella Valley Water District, including General Manager Jim Barrett, for providing the meeting space. Mr. Kirk also noted some meeting room logistics such as microphones in the ceiling.

Chair Fermon reinforced the importance of hearing from the community, stressing that Board members could be contacted in between meetings to receive feedback.

## **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER TO**

- A. Approve the minutes from the meeting of July 28, 2025**
- B. Authorize the Board Chair and/or Executive Director to execute an engagement letter with Best Best & Krieger LLP to continue providing legal services to CVPA**
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-01, affirming approval of CVPA's 2025-26 Fiscal Year Budget**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.**

<b>Councilmember Fermon</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Evans</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Garner</b>	<b>Aye</b>

## **7.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

None

## **8. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

### **A. IID Funding for Coachella Valley's Electrical Infrastructure Needs**

Emmanuel Martinez, Assistant Director for Energy & External Affairs, provided the staff report. He detailed the proposed changes to Resolution 2025-02, which were based on IID's feedback, and noted this would be to support IID's commitment to contribute "up to 20 percent" towards eligible Coachella Valley energy infrastructure projects.

The Board then heard from Jamie Asbury, IID General Manager, who clarified the efforts discussions by IID and how a contribution could be applied based on the type of project. She also stressed that this was related to Regulation 24 as it pertains to substations, not a separate IID policy.

Member discussion ensued, with CVPA staff and Ms. Asbury answering questions related to IID's next steps and how such a regulatory decision would be implemented.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02 AS AMENDED BY STAFF AND PROVIDE THE ABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO WORK WITH IID PRIOR TO EXECUTION TO MODIFY THE VERBAGE IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE WORDING SO IT WAS CONSISTENT WITH IID'S REGULATION**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.**

**Councilmember Fermon  
Mayor Evans  
Councilmember Garner**

**Aye  
Aye  
Aye**

**B. Funding CVPA's Electrical Infrastructure Needs**

This item, which related to a proposed nexus study for a development impact fee, was pulled from the agenda.

**9. INFORMATION**

- a) Board Attendance Record
- b) New location of CVPA's public meetings

These items were included in the agenda packet for members' information.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Philip Bettencourt, a resident of La Quinta, addressed CVPA's governance and expressed hope that the City of Coachella would participate and that CVPA partnerships would be made with Tribal Nations.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the CVPA Board of Directors will be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025, at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

Chair Fermon also thanked CVWD for the room and those who attended the meeting for the participation.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director*

## **ITEM 7B**

### **Coachella Valley Power Agency December 1, 2025**

#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** IID Funding for Coachella Valley's Electrical Infrastructure Needs

**Contact:** Emmanuel Martinez, Assistant Director – Energy & External Affairs  
([emartinez@cvag.org](mailto:emartinez@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation:** Affirm the adoption of Resolution No. 2025-02 to authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to support implementation of Imperial Irrigation District's Regulation 24 related establishing up to a 20 percent contribution towards eligible energy infrastructure projects

**Background:** At the meeting of September 29, staff presented Resolution No. 2025-02 related to the Coachella Valley Power Agency's support for Imperial Irrigation District's efforts to address the energy infrastructure needs in the Coachella Valley. The resolution prompted feedback from IID and from the Board, in large part because it did not specifically reference Regulation 24, which would establish parameters for determining IID's financial contribution towards eligible energy infrastructure projects. At that meeting, the CVPA Board approved a modified resolution and directed staff to work with IID to address technical clean-up language in the resolution to ensure consistency with regulation.

Attached is the final Resolution No. 2025-02, which incorporates IID's changes. The revisions included making changes to reflect a regulation versus a policy. Also, the first "whereas" recital was modified to establish consistency with the CVPA JPA agreement language regarding CVPA's purpose. Additional changes were made to the fourth bullet related to Indio Electric Financing Authority to clarify that future IEFA led projects may benefit from Regulation 24 as currently funded IEFA projects are under a bi-lateral joint powers agreement between IEFA and IID.

As was noted in the previous staff report, IID has initiated actions to address the energy infrastructure needs in the Coachella Valley. Currently, IID is working with the County of Riverside, the City of La Quinta and the City of Indio on their respective energy infrastructure. At the IID meeting of November 18, the IID approved cost-share agreements for substation projects in Thousand Palms and the City of La Quinta (additional details are being presented as a separate agenda item). CVPA staff would note that the proactive approach by IID on negotiating the project-by-project agreements demonstrates IID's commitment towards ensuring the availability of distribution energy capacity to facilitate growth in the Coachella Valley.

Because several changes were made, staff is now recommending the Board affirm the adoption of Resolution 2025-02 and incorporate the edits that have been reviewed and agreed upon by CVPA and IID staff.



**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no direct fiscal impact to CVPA associated with this action. However, supporting an up to 20% contribution policy may result in reduced infrastructure costs for CVPA member agencies and improved cost-sharing across the region.

**Attachment:** Resolution No. 2025-02

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COACHELLA VALLEY POWER AGENCY SUPPORTING IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S REGULATION NO. 24 ESTABLISHING UP TO A 20 PERCENT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ELIGIBLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COACHELLA VALLEY POWER AGENCY DOES HEREBY FIND, RESOLVE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

**WHEREAS**, the Coachella Valley Power Agency (CVPA) was established to address the unique energy infrastructure needs of CVPA, subgroups of its Members and each of its Members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coachella Valley is experiencing rapid growth, resulting in increased demand for expanded electrical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) is the retail electric service provider for the eastern Coachella Valley and plays a critical role in supporting infrastructure development to meet regional electrical energy needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the CVPA recognizes the importance of a formal and transparent funding framework to support electrical distribution substation projects that benefit the region's growth and economic development goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the IID is developing a new regulation, Regulation No. 24, related to cost-share mechanisms for new distribution substations driven by development, with IID contributing up to 20% of the cost where justified based on technical assessments which demonstrate such substation will benefit the overall IID electric system; and

**WHEREAS**, the CVPA supports the establishment of a formal regulation (Regulation No. 24) by IID to contribute up to 20 percent of the qualifying cost of a distribution substation within the IID's Service Area which are demonstrated to benefit the overall IID electric system; and

**WHEREAS**, such a regulation would:

- Apply to eligible distribution substations which are demonstrated, by technical assessment performed by IID, to provide a benefit to the overall IID electric system;
- Reduce financial barriers for cities and developers undertaking new distribution substation projects;
- Promote transparency and consistency in substation project funding;
- Potentially be complementary to future efforts led by the CVPA and the Indio Electric Financing Authority (IEFA) to address their respective energy distribution needs.

#### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. CVPA Supports the establishment of a regulation providing for an up-to 20% contribution by IID for eligible distribution substation projects that are demonstrated to provide overall benefits to the IID electric system;
2. CVPA encourages IID to develop, adopt and implement this regulation in coordination with all local agencies and stakeholders;
3. CVPA commits to continued collaboration with IID to ensure distribution substations and related infrastructure keep pace with regional growth and demand; and
4. Directs CVPA staff to communicate this resolution to the IID Board of Directors and offer

assistance in advancing this initiative.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Coachella Valley Power Agency held on this September 29, 2025 and then affirmed at a meeting on December 1, 2025.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

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Waymond Fermon, Chair  
Coachella Valley Power Agency

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Tom Kirk, Secretary  
Coachella Valley Power Agency

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

## **ITEM 8A**

### **Coachella Valley Power Agency December 1, 2025**

#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** IID Electrical Infrastructure Projects in the Coachella Valley

**Contact:** Emmanuel Martinez, Assistant Director – Energy & External Affairs  
([emartinez@cvag.org](mailto:emartinez@cvag.org))

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#### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** The Coachella Valley continues to experience growth and associated increased demand for electrical distribution infrastructure capacity. The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) has initiated actions to address the energy infrastructure needs in the Coachella Valley. As was reported to the Board in the summer, IID has been working with the County of Riverside, the City of Rancho Mirage, the City of Palm Desert, the City of La Quinta, and the City of Indio, as well as private entities, on meeting their respective energy infrastructure needs. A CVPA resolution supporting some of these efforts was approved by the Board in September and is detailed in a separate agenda item.

IID reached a milestone in their efforts on November 18, when the IID Board of Directors approved cost-share agreements to construct two new electrical substations in the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms and the City of La Quinta. These two projects address growing energy demand driven by rapid residential and commercial development in the mid- and eastern Coachella Valley.

The La Quinta substation will serve the eastern Coachella Valley to accommodate new growth and development in the area. The estimated cost to expand the Avenue 58 substation with an additional bank is \$23.2 million and is funded by private developers, with the City of La Quinta and the County of Riverside serving as backstop support for any shortfalls that may occur due to lack of full private subscription of available new capacity. IID expects that all new available capacity that is created by this project will be fully subscribed and allocated to private developers. This project will enhance IID's Avenue 58 substation by adding a new transformer and associated improvements, which are estimated to serve approximately 4,000 new customers. This project is structured by two agreements: an Engineering and Procurement Agreement and a Funding and Reservation of Capacity agreement. The former is between the City and the IID for \$5.3 million, advancing city funds for long lead items with reimbursement provisions to the City through the Funding and Reservation Capacity Agreement. Construction is estimated to begin early 2027 and completion is anticipated by Summer 2028.

The Cook Street substation in Thousand Palms will serve growing electrical and capacity needs for new growth development in the County of Riverside unincorporated area of Thousand Palms, and the Cities of Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage. This project will be a new substation with an estimated cost of \$39.6 million and is funded through a Funding and Reservation of Capacity Agreement, among the County of Riverside, the cities of Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage, the Berger Foundation and private developers. The proposed site for this substation is

west of Cook Street and north of Interstate 10, on land owned by the Berger Foundation. The new proposed substation will include up to three transformers with opportunities for future expansion and will serve about 8,000 customers. Construction starts early 2027 and will be completed by summer 2028.

Funding and construction of both substations include IID's financial participation of up to 20 percent of total costs based on an engineering assessment. Additionally, the agreements include provisions related directly to capacity reservation and assignments to provide flexibility given the time necessary for development projects to build out. The new proposed substation improvements will also help extend the useful life of nearby by surrounding infrastructure by decreasing the load and use of existing equipment.

IID's approval of the agreements was the first step to moving these projects forward. Project participants are expected to consider and execute the agreement next. The agreement between Riverside County and IID will go before the County Board of Supervisors on December 9.

Cameron Bucher, IID's Outside Counsel on infrastructure matters in the Coachella Valley, will provide an update on these two projects when the CVPA Board meets in December.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no direct fiscal impact to CVPA associated with this action.

**Attachment:** Joint news release by Riverside County and IID



FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR  
**V. MANUEL  
PEREZ**  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 19, 2025

**CONTACT:**

Darin Schemmer, Office of Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, (760) 863-8211

## **Riverside County and Imperial Irrigation District Announce Joint Advancement of Key Electricity Infrastructure Projects in Thousand Palms and La Quinta**

THOUSAND PALMS – Riverside County and the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) announce significant progress on two major electricity infrastructure projects that will support long-term economic growth, job creation, and increased reliability for communities in Thousand Palms, La Quinta, and the unincorporated areas near Avenue 58.

At its meeting yesterday, the IID Board of Directors approved efforts to build and expand two critical substations. These projects, which Supervisor V. Manuel Perez has championed and worked toward over the past two to three years, represent a significant milestone in the region's broader infrastructure and economic development planning.

An agreement between Riverside County and IID will go before the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for approval on December 9. Supervisor Perez encourages community members to participate and express support as the projects move forward.

“This infrastructure will unleash growth for the mid-valley, Thousand Palms, Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage, and the eastern Coachella Valley, and is part of making sure the Coachella Valley remains a premier place to live, work and invest,” said Supervisor Perez. “Thanks to IID, there's a path to build and expand these substations over the next few years. We appreciate the collaboration with IID, our county team, local cities and the economic development community to bring about new capacity to support the economic potential of our Coachella Valley.”

*more*

IID emphasized the strong partnership behind the efforts.

“The leadership to move these key projects forward is the result of IID’s commitment to serve our growing Coachella Valley service area,” said IID Board Chairwoman Gina Dockstader. “We are very pleased with the success that’s being achieved through everyone’s positive, proactive collaboration, which has led to creating innovative solutions with Riverside County stakeholders that meet growing energy needs.”

Supervisor Perez will hold a press conference in the coming weeks to share additional details and highlight the collaborative work among IID, Riverside County, and regional partners.

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*Supervisor V. Manuel Perez represents the Fourth Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. The largest district in the county by geography, the 4<sup>th</sup> District covers eastern Riverside County, from Whitewater, stretching across the entire Coachella Valley south to the Salton Sea, up Highway 74 to Idyllwild and the mountain communities, and heading east of the Coachella Valley to Blythe and the Colorado River.*

*Supervisor Perez’s office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.*

**ITEM 9a**

**CVPA ATTENDANCE ROSTER JUNE 2025- JULY 2026**

CVPA JURISDICTION	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Indio	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-						-	
La Quinta	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-						-	
Riverside County	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-						-	

Absent	
No Meeting	-
Present	✓