

ITEM 6A

**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2024**



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 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 Pro Tem Nancy Ross*
Director Anthony Bianco
Councilmember Russell Betts*
Director Karin Eugenio
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Amber Duff
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Mayor Pro Tem Ron deHarte
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Tribal Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez*

Agency

City of Blythe (*via Zoom*)
City of Cathedral City
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 Pro Tem Stephanie Virgen
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

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

**arrived at item 6.1*

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

Chair Ortiz provided an update from his recent attendance to the State of the Business Community for Indio, held by the Chamber of Commerce.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve the minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting
- B. Authorize the Executive Director to advocate and take steps that ensure that CVAG’s jurisdictions’ underserved communities receive their fair share of SoCal Equitable Building Decarbonization Coalition’s deployment of the California Energy Commission’s Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program utilizing the Inland Regional Energy Network
- C. Adopt CVAG’s Legislative Platform for the next two-year legislative cycle

IT WAS MOVED BY VICE CHAIR EVANS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Ross	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	Absent
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Betts	Absent
Director Eugenio	Aye
Councilmember Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem deHarte	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Vice Chair Mirelez	Aye

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Item 6B was approved during the consent vote, but a recap with update of the item was requested by Chair Ortiz after approval of the consent calendar. Program Manager Jacob Alvarez presented an update and next steps by I-REN. Member discussion ensued.

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation: Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the City of Blythe

Blythe Interim City Manager Mallory Crecelius joined the Committee meeting via Zoom and introduced WattEV Director of Grants and Government Affairs Michael Ganny, who also joined via Zoom, and presented an update regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Station project plans in the City of Blythe.

Lengthy member discussion ensued with Mr. Ganny answering questions from the Committee about site layout, capacity and benefits to drivers.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Model Home Energy Efficiency Reach Code for CVAG Region

Program Manager David Freedman presented the staff report and introduced I-REN fellow Juliette Agtang from the City of Palm Springs, who provided more information on the proposed Palm Springs Reach Code. Additional information was provided by Palm Springs' Sustainability Director Lindsey-Paige McCloy.

Brief member discussion ensued.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

C. Urban and Community Forestry Program- Shade Trees for Southern California's Deserts

Program Manager Emmanuel Martinez presented the staff report and details of the grant.

Robust member discussion ensued, including discussion of how the trees would be distributed across the two counties. .

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO PARTNER WITH IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT THE SHADE TREES FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DESERTS PROGRAM, INCLUDING PLANTING 6,000 TREES IN IMPERIAL AND RIVERSIDE COUNTIES OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD, PENDING FINAL AUTHORIZATION BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Ross	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	Absent
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Eugenio	Aye
Councilmember Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem deHarte	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Vice Chair Mirelez	Aye

D. Update on Coachella Valley Energy Commission and Ongoing Analysis of Regional Alternative Governance

Mr. Martinez presented the staff report and update on the discussions of a new joint powers authority.

Brief member discussion ensued

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. Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant TA6 Annual Report

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Russell Betts announced that today was the 30th Anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act and noted that Joan Taylor of the Sierra Club was the recipient of the Minerva Hoyt California Desert Conservation Award.

Councilmember Betts also announced that after 17 years of service, he will not be returning for another term on council and thanked CVAG and the committee members.

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, January 9, 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, December 2, 2024, 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 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst