

**CVAG**

**ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024  
12:00 p.m.**

**CVAG Conference Room  
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104  
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**Members of the Committee and the public may attend and participate by  
video at the following remote location:**

**Blythe City Hall  
235 N Broadway, Room A  
Blythe, CA 92225**

**Imperial Irrigation District  
1284 Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the  
Energy & Sustainability Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82844046653?pwd=83p5VafRqpbly5YETNKSIBAerQPjcu.1>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128  
Webinar ID: 828 4404 6653  
Password: 629057**

**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 & Sustainability Committee prior to the meeting at [cvag@cvag.org](mailto:cvag@cvag.org) by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Members of the public joining the meeting by Zoom can also provide comment by using the “raise hand” feature or hitting \*9 on the phone keypad.

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

**UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, Chair

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. Member Roster

P4

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the first of two opportunities for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Energy & Sustainability Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approve the minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting

P5

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

P10

C. Adopt CVAG’s Legislative Platform for the next two-year legislative cycle

P12

6.1 **ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- A. **Presentation: Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the City of Blythe –** **P28**  
Interim City Manager Mallory Crecelius and WattEV Director of Grants and  
Governmental Affairs Michael Ganny

**Recommendation:** Information

- B. **Model Home Energy Efficiency Reach Code for CVAG Region –** David Freedman **P29**

**Recommendation:** Information

- C. **Urban and Community Forestry Program – Shade Trees for Southern California’s** **P51**  
**Deserts –** Emmanuel Martinez

**Recommendation:** 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

- D. **Update on Coachella Valley Energy Commission and Ongoing Analysis of Regional** **P53**  
**Alternative Governance –** Emmanuel Martinez

**Recommendation:** Information

8. **INFORMATION**

- A. Attendance Record **P56**

- B. Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant TA6 Annual Report **P57**

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

This is the second opportunity for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Energy & Sustainability Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this Committee may do so at this time. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**

**ITEM 2A**

**Energy & Sustainability Committee  
Member Roster  
2024 – 2025**



<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	<b>Tribal Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson</b>
City of Blythe	<b>Mayor Joseph DeConinck</b>
City of Cathedral City	<b>Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Ross</b>
City of Coachella	<b>Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Virgen</b>
Coachella Valley Water District	<b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>
City of Desert Hot Springs	<b>Councilmember Russell Betts</b>
Imperial Irrigation District	<b>Director JB Hamby</b>
City of Indian Wells	<b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b>
City of Indio	<b>Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, <i>Chair</i></b>
City of La Quinta	<b>Mayor Linda Evans, <i>Vice Chair</i></b>
Mission Springs Water District	<b>Director Amber Duff</b>
City of Palm Desert	<b>Councilmember Gina Nestande</b>
City of Palm Springs	<b>Mayor Pro Tem Ron deHarte</b>
City of Rancho Mirage	<b>Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill</b>
Riverside County – District 4	<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	<b>Secretary Altrena Santillanes</b>
<b>Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members</b>	
Riverside County – District 5	<b>Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez</b>

## **ITEM 6A**

### **Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes September 12, 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 JB Hamby  
Councilmember Dana Reed (*alternate*)  
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*  
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*  
Director Amber Duff  
Mayor Pro Tem Harnik (*alternate*)\*  
Mayor Pro Tem Ron deHarte  
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill  
Supervisor V Manuel Perez  
Tribal Secretary Altrena Santillanes

#### **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 (*left at Item 7D*)  
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

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

Chair Ortiz led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chuck Parker, resident of Palm Desert, commented on Item 7B. Mr. Parker highlighted an August vote by the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) board that makes reductions in water deliveries from the Colorado River to the Salton Sea, and described it as a devastating effect on the Salton Sea and the already worsening air quality.

Donald Zeigler, resident of Palm Desert, addressed the Committee regarding Items 7C and 8C and the delivery of electricity to the Coachella Valley. Mr. Zeigler advocated for an administrative body that will be assigned to design an electricity infrastructure that maximizes local resources and uses microgrid technology.

Alejandro Espinoza, Chief of Community Engagement with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (DHCD), joined via Zoom to provide comment on Item 7C. Mr. Espinoza reports the DHCD held a meeting with key stakeholders in May 2024 to address possible ways of mitigating the health impacts and is launching a request for proposals. He also highlighted a summit on September 20-21 in Rancho Mirage focusing on the environment.

Kerry Berman, resident of Palm Desert, commented on Item 7B and how the Salton Sea dust, diesel trucks, and fires all contribute to the region's poor air quality conditions.

Fritz Barkley, resident of La Quinta, commented on Item 7B and expressed his concerns with PM10 levels.

## **5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

IID Director JB Hamby reports IID, in partnership with the State of California and the Bureau of Reclamation, were able to materialize \$250 million dollars to be able to fund the State of California's Species Conservation Habitat Project at the Salton Sea.

Desert Hot Springs Councilmember Russell Betts announced there will be a Salton Sea summit on October 18-19 at the UCR Palm Desert campus and encourages all to register and attend.

Chair Ortiz reports he recently met with SunLine to discuss their hydrogen demand needs as they are looking to expand their facilities. Chair Ortiz also said he met with Lancaster, who has some projects in the works for hydrogen, and asked staff to add a presentation to a future agenda.

Executive Director Tom Kirk reports CVAG has been unsuccessful in setting up a tour for lithium valley as the companies are not open to public facility tours.

Mr. Kirk announced a nearly \$500 million, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant that South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has secured to address climate pollution reduction.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **A. Approve the minutes from the June 13, 2024 meeting**

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

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 14 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.**

<b>Vice Chair Patencio Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mayor DeConinck</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Ross</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Virgen</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Director Bianco</b>	<b>Aye</b>

<b>Councilmember Betts</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Hamby</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Reed</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Ortiz</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Evans</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Duff</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Harnik</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem deHarte</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Weill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Tribal Secretary Santillanes</b>	<b>Aye</b>

## **7. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

### **A. Imperial Irrigation District’s Coachella Valley Resiliency Initiative**

IID Deputy Energy Manager Paul Rodriguez provided a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the efforts to obtain funding for rural substations in the East Valley.

Brief member discussion ensued with Mr. Rodriguez answering questions from the committee.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

### **B. Update from South Coast Air Quality Management District on continued concerns related to poor air quality**

Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, an SCAQMD Board member, provided an overview of the air quality concerns the valley has been facing before introducing SCAQMD Executive Officer Wayne Nastri. Mr. Nastri who introduced his staff present at the meeting, including Deputy Executive Officer for Rule Development and Implementation, Dr. Sarah Rees. Dr. Rees then provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee regarding PM10 levels in the Coachella Valley.

Lengthy member discussion ensued with staff from both SCAQMD and CVAG addressing questions from members.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

### **C. Update on Coachella Valley Energy Commission and Ongoing Analysis of Regional Alternative Governance**

In the interest of time, it was requested that a written summary of the status be sent to the Committee and a report be presented to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

### **D. Election of Energy & Sustainability Committee Officers**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER REED AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE TO RE-ELECT COUNCILMEBER ORTIZ AS CHAIR AND MAYOR**

**EVANS AS VICE CHAIR OF THE ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2024/2025 FISCAL YEAR**

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

<b>Vice Chair Patencio Anderson</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mayor DeConinck</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Ross</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Virgen</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Director Bianco</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councilmember Betts</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Hamby</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Reed</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilmember Ortiz</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Evans</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Director Duff</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Harnik</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem deHarte</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Weill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Perez</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Tribal Secretary Santillanes</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Virtual participation in CVAG’s meetings**
- C. Update on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application and the Region’s Comprehensive Climate Action Report**
- D. Used Oil Recycling Annual Report**
- E. Potential tour of Lithium Valley**

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

None

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, 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, September 30, 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 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst*

## **ITEM 6B**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Sustainability Committee  
November 14, 2024



### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** California Energy Commission Equitable Building Decarbonization and I-REN Executive Committee Meeting Update

**Contact:** Jacob Alvarez, Program Manager ([jalvarez@cvag.org](mailto:jalvarez@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation:** Authorize the Executive Director to advocate and take steps to 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

**Background:** CVAG is collaborating with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) on a joint Regional Energy Network (REN) for the Inland Empire, known as Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN). I-REN is governed by an Executive Committee, with CVAG's votes represented by the Energy & Sustainability Committee Chair, or Vice Chair as needed. Based on previous CVAG committee direction, CVAG's Energy & Sustainability Committee reviews the items being presented to the I-REN Executive Committee and provides direction to the Chair on how to vote for the region.

#### *California Energy Commission Equitable Building Decarbonization Program*

In 2024, the California Energy Commission (CEC) awarded \$329 million to the Southern California Equitable Building Decarbonization Coalition (SoCal EBD Coalition), as the regional administrator for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program, Southern Region. Under the leadership of Los Angeles County, the SoCal EBD Coalition comprises a diverse and experienced group of CBOs, councils of government (COGs), community choice aggregators (CCAs), regional energy networks (RENs), and program implementation experts. I-REN is a partner of the SoCal EBD Coalition to support implementation and outreach efforts in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

This program seeks to expedite the decarbonization of residential buildings in Southern California, with a particular focus on historically underserved communities. The SoCal EBD Coalition will implement the Program across Southern California, including San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. This initiative will directly benefit low-income households residing in single-family, multi-family, and manufactured homes (built pre-2000) within under-resourced communities by installing energy-efficient electric appliances, energy efficiency measures, and related upgrades.

The CEC, SoCal EBD Coalition, and stakeholders will pre-launch program activities later this year, with residential installations starting mid-2025. CEC fund approval is anticipated at the November or December 2024 Business Meeting, followed by contract execution two weeks later.

To support outreach in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, WRCOG staff, on behalf of I-REN, will release an Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify CBOs with experience in culturally appropriate outreach, education, and support for participating households and communities with geographical presence and familiarity in the Inland Empire (including Coachella Valley, high desert, low desert, San Bernardino mountain region(s), San Gorgonio Pass, and San Jacinto Valley) to support marketing, education, and outreach for the EBD DI Program.

The RFQ will be released in November and a recommendation will be brought to the I-REN Executive Committee in January 2025 with the proposed CBOs. In the interim, WRCOG will enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Los Angeles County with a funding amount to be determined which will primarily fund CBOs for their marketing, education, and outreach to the historically underserved communities.

Of the three I-REN agencies, CVAG staff has shown the most interest in decarbonization programs that can directly benefit local residential properties instead of governmental buildings. The recommended action would authorize the Executive Director to advocate and seek out any opportunities to lead programmatic investments to make sure as much funding as possible is directly benefitting local residents.

### *Recap of recent actions*

The I-REN Executive Committee last met on October 15. Among the actions approved:

- I-REN established a bench of on-call consultants to represent I-REN at events, provide education and outreach, and support programs like the Energy Fellowship. Two Coachella Valley based firms – Burke Rix Communications and CV Strategies – were among the five selected consultants.
- As part of I-REN's workforce development efforts, the Executive Committee approved a memorandum of understanding to partner with the Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO), which will allow for shared resources and data to bolster energy sector workforce initiatives through 2027.
- The Executive Committee authorized WRCOG's Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Public Health Institute (PHI) to operate the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program. This CivicSpark program was previously hosted under CivicWell, but is now under PHI.

In addition to the October meeting, CVAG staff has been working closely with the I-REN Technical Assistance consultants and with member jurisdictions to identify and prioritize energy efficiency projects at public buildings and tribal facilities. This process involves requesting energy data, identifying eligible facilities, and validating the information with jurisdictional staff. This will result in Energy Resiliency Roadmaps for each jurisdiction that highlight buildings with the highest energy costs and usage.

Following the development of these roadmaps, the I-REN team will conduct energy audits on recommended facilities, or on specific facilities at the request of the jurisdiction. If an audit identifies a potential 10% or greater reduction in kilowatt-hour usage at the meter, an engineering consultant will perform a facility walkthrough audit to catalog energy-consuming equipment. A list of prioritized projects is anticipated to be presented in the new year.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no additional cost to CVAG for these items. Staff time dedicated to I-REN and the costs of the services of consultants are covered through the I-REN budget.

## **ITEM 6C**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Sustainability Committee  
November 14, 2024



### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Review of CVAG's State and Federal Legislative Platform

**Contact:** Emmanuel Martinez, External Affairs Program Manager ([emartinez@cvag.org](mailto:emartinez@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation:** Adopt CVAG's Legislative Platform for the next two-year legislative cycle

**Transportation Committee:** Concurred (Meeting of November 4)

**Background:** CVAG's state and federal legislative platform serves as a key tool to advocate on issues pertinent to CVAG and its member jurisdictions. The platform provides a framework that guides CVAG's advocacy engagement on policy and funding issues of importance in Sacramento and Washington D.C. As part of this engagement strategy, the legislative platform is essential to direct and guide staff and the lobbying team to advocate positions on legislative and regulatory matters as established in the platform. Also, with adoption of a platform, CVAG can expeditiously engage and meet associated legislative committee deadlines, helping to overcome the challenge associated with CVAG's committee meeting schedule.

CVAG's first platform was adopted in 2022. In 2023, the platform was brought back to the Executive Committee with minor updates and was approved as a two-year platform intended to cover the State Legislature's biennial legislative cycle. In preparation for the next two-year legislative session, the platform has been reviewed by CVAG advocacy team, The Politico Group, and by CVAG staff to ensure it captures the most pertinent and relevant issues to CVAG and its members.

This update of the legislative platform includes minor non-substantive updates that are highlighted for ease of reference. It is important to note that the issues currently tracked in the platform are anticipated to continue into the next legislative cycle. The more substantive updates include:

- In the federal advocacy section, language was inserted related to supporting funding for transportation infrastructure at-risk of climate threats. This was specifically to support programs such as the federal Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) program which provided formula funds to the state that facilitated funding for the Addressing Climate Change, Emergencies and Sand Storms (ACCESS) Indian Canyon Drive Project.
- In the section related to fighting for fairness in funding distribution, language was inserted regarding monitoring the reauthorization of the state's Cap-and-Trade Program, which directly millions of dollars for climate related investments. The program is set to expire in

2030, but it is widely anticipated that there will be significant interest by legislators to reauthorize the program during the upcoming legislative cycle.

- In the state advocacy section, language related to advocating for Cap and Trade funds to support investment of GHG reduction funding towards transportation projects, including electric vehicle infrastructure was moved from the Energy and Environment section and moved under the Transportation section.
- Additional language was inserted regarding supporting efforts that ensure that future funding tools to convert or supplement the gas tax continue to support existing multimodal state funding programs.
- Language was added that is specific to increasing representation on electrical matters for communities served by the Imperial Irrigation District.
- As it relates to broadband, language was added in reference to supporting digital equity funding and programs in the Coachella Valley, as outlined in the state's Digital Equity Plan. The state's Digital Equity Plan outlines a framework to improve access, affordable and digital literacy for eight target populations that include veterans, households with incomes at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level, and minorities groups and people with disabilities to name a few.

The draft platform continues to include positions on issues that are important to the region. At a high level, these include increased funding for the Active Transportation Program, which would address the oversubscription to the program; supporting funding for bridges and arterials; and opposing efforts that erode local control over funding and planning decisions.

As part of a legislative strategy for transportation projects, CVAG staff and lobbyists will continue to focus on opportunities to secure outside funding for priority projects. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act have been key to providing new funding opportunities. These include opportunities related to climate adaptation and resilience, including urban greening, public transportation infrastructure, broadband and housing to name a few. CVAG staff will continue to monitor the promulgation of rules related to key funding programs to ensure a fair share of funding for the region. This includes monitoring and engaging on items such as the Cap and Trade and ensuring that programs use scoring evaluation and metric tools that provide favorable and competitive opportunities for the Coachella Valley and the region. Also, opposing the use of CalEnviroScreen and supporting policies that use income-based measures of need will increase opportunities for the Coachella Valley and the region. Additionally, CVAG staff will continue to monitor and engage on policies that aim to restrict local control and decision-making over local resources.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There are no costs to update the legislative platform. The advocacy efforts of the Politico Group are covered by a separate agreement specifically for state advocacy services.

# COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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Federal and State  
Legislative Platform

Updated December 2, 2024

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# Coachella Valley Association of Governments

**The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)** is a council of governments in the Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County that funds and delivers transportation projects, operates regional programs and coordinates government services in order to improve and address issues of regional significance. CVAG's activities include, but are not limited to, improving the regional transportation system, providing services to the chronically homeless and promoting the use of green energy and sustainability. CVAG's membership includes 10 cities, the County of Riverside and four Indian tribes. As an organization committed to addressing issues of common interest and concern of its member agencies, CVAG strives to implement regional programs and policies that advance a better quality of life and balanced growth for residents, businesses and tourists of Central and Eastern Riverside County.

The legislative platform will guide the tracking and analysis of priority legislative, budget, regulatory, and administrative issues at the federal and state levels. It will assist in providing staff and lobbyists guidance on policy-related matters that may impact the operation and implementation of the various programs and services offered by CVAG. This document will facilitate the development of a federal and state strategy and focused action plan to address the needs and priorities of CVAG and its member jurisdictions.

**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla  
Indians**

**City of Blythe**

**Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians**

**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**

**County of Riverside**

**Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla  
Indians**

**Twenty-Nine Palms Band of  
Mission Indians**

**CVAG**

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# Key Categories



Reliable, sustainable and safe multimodal transportation infrastructure is a top priority for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments as it strives to support the transportation needs of current and future residents and visitors.



Supporting and securing funding for clean energy and energy efficiency initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, improve air quality, and increase climate resiliency for our member agencies and our residents.



Conservation of the Coachella Valley's natural resources and maintaining and growing our rich and abundant wildlife is a focus of CVAG and our members.



Deployment of middle-mile infrastructure that can facilitate a high-speed last-mile broadband network for beneficial use among CVAG's residents, businesses, and members is key to the success and vitality of CVAG and the communities it serves.



Addressing the dual challenges of homelessness and development of affordable housing through regional solutions is critical to ensuring a high quality of life in the Coachella Valley.



Maintaining a safe and secure community, free of crime, while ensuring clean and engaging public spaces, is essential to maintaining vibrant and growing business and residential communities.

# FEDERAL

## Transportation

### *Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access*

- Support regional efforts for the Coachella Valley-San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service (CV Rail), including funding opportunities to advance the preferred alternative, to support alternate transportation modes and better connect desert communities and attractions with Los Angeles, Orange County and the Inland Empire.
- Support actions by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Federal Railroad Administration and the California Department of Transportation that advance CV Rail.
- Support advocacy efforts by the Facilitate Equitable Deals Task Force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Support outside funding for CVAG's priority projects as outlined in the Transportation Project Prioritization Study (TPPS), including interchanges along the Interstate 10 corridor and State Highway Route 86, to reduce the burden on regional and local funds.
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts that increase funding for the expansion and improvement of regional arterial projects that improve public safety, encourage economic development, ease traffic congestion, address climate threats and reduce air quality and environmental impacts.
- Support efforts by Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to reduce congestion and increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.
- Support Congressionally directed spending requests for transportation projects in the Coachella Valley and in eastern Riverside County.
- Support increased funding for Tribal nations in the Coachella Valley for implementation of regional transportation projects.
- Support efforts that expand public transportation opportunities in the City of Blythe, including increased transit.
- Support National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reform to expedite and streamline environmental review and project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support efforts that dedicate funding for goods movements projects, including grade separation projects, in eastern Riverside County.
- Oppose efforts that decrease local control and decision-making regarding local revenue sources, including, but not limited to, Measure A sales tax revenue and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF).

- Oppose efforts that would divert revenue derived from transportation sources to non-transportation related projects or activities.
- Oppose efforts to eliminate or decrease use of state and local transportation funds for capacity enhancement projects and monitor one-size-fits-all approaches regarding their use.
- Monitor implementation of programs in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021 Infrastructure Bill) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA 2022), such as the Bridge Investment Program, and support funding for existing programs such as the Highway Bridge Program and the Transportation Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program.
- Monitor regulatory and legislative changes to the Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program and oppose efforts that impose additional requirements on, or decrease funding for, CVAG or its member agencies.
- Monitor efforts that would make changes to the Clean Air Act and associated transportation programs to meet nonattainment or maintenance requirements.
- Monitor potential replacement mechanisms for the federal gasoline excise tax.

#### *Active Transportation*

- Support policies and programs that provide funds for regional projects identified in CVAG's Active Transportation Plan.
- Advocate for increased federal funding to the state's Active Transportation Program, including opportunities to augment the program through the Reconnecting Communities and the Neighborhood Access and Equity grant programs.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory activity related to new mobility devices, such as scooters and automated vehicles, to ensure adequate safety compatibility with active transportation systems.

#### *Intelligent Transportation Systems*

- Identify and pursue funding opportunities that support, expand or leverage intelligent transportation systems, including CVAG's synchronization (CV Sync) traffic signal program.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory changes to funding sources for intelligent transportation systems, including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program, and oppose efforts to decrease funding for non-attainment areas.

## **Energy and Environment**

- Support legislation and programs that invest in projects that achieve environmental benefits, including improved air and water quality, water and energy conservation, and urban greening initiatives in the region.
- Support programs that fund implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and that support habitat restoration in the Coachella Valley.
- Support Salton Sea Authority efforts related to Salton Sea projects and legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support legislation that facilitates environmentally sensitive renewable energy development at the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area, including lithium extraction.
- Support legislation that provides funding for electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives for early adoption of electric vehicles.
- Monitor federal legislative, regulatory, and administrative activities that may impact the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions that may impact Property Assessed Clean Energy programs.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization and green building programs.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities for wildlife crossing structures to increase habitat connectivity and decrease wildlife-vehicle collisions in areas where populations are fragmented by highways and interstates.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

## **Broadband**

- Support and advocate for funding for open access middle-mile infrastructure to facilitate last-mile connections and leverage existing networks and construction projects to build networks, when possible.
- Support efforts and funding that prioritize connectivity to unserved and underserved communities and community anchor institutions.
- Support and identify programs that support middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure and that leverage dig-once opportunities such as CVAG's CV Sync project.

- Monitor actions by the Federal Communications Commission related to broadband and implementation of the broadband investments as authorized in the 2021 infrastructure Bill.

### **Homeless and Affordable Housing**

- Identify and advocate for opportunities for CVAG's member agencies to secure funding that assists in building affordable housing and increasing housing opportunities for low-, moderate-, and workforce housing.
- Monitor and support programs and funding for CVAG's CV Housing First program and regional solutions to addressing homelessness.

### **Public Safety**

- Identify, monitor and support legislation that provides funding for operations, maintenance, and updates to early earthquake warning systems.
- Identify funding opportunities for member jurisdictions to mitigate and reduce the incidents of green waste fires.
- Monitor legislation and administrative actions related to race, diversity and inclusion policies as it pertains to law enforcement.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities that will assist in the reduction of the spread of COVID-19 and other public health and safety concerns, to assist public entities in their response.

# STATE

## Fighting for Fairness and Funding

- Support legislative efforts that improve funding opportunities for the Coachella Valley in the state's Cap-and-Trade program and oppose policies that disproportionately disadvantage the CVAG region to compete for funding.
- Support policies that allow for a diverse set of social equity metric measuring tools to qualify and compete for Cap-and-Trade funded programs including, but not limited to, household income and the AB 1550 low-income definition and oppose efforts that would limit use to, or increase reliance on, the CalEnviroScreen in grant programs.
- Support legislative and regulatory changes to the Transformative Climate Communities program to allow eligible and qualifying planning grant recipients to also be eligible and qualify to apply for implementation grants.
- Support policy changes to funding programs that use the CalEnviroScreen tool that would broaden eligible competitive areas and that better reflect the diversity in the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose legislative and regulatory actions that utilize CalEnviroScreen and high-housing density criteria, which favor large urban centers, to determine allocation of state grant funds and would decrease funding competitiveness for areas such as the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose program guidelines that use transit oriented development standards, such as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, that disproportionately favor large urban centers and do not reflect the reality of growth and development in the Coachella Valley, therefore decreasing funding opportunities for the CVAG region.
- Advocate for policy changes that allow for regional variances related to transit quality, transit frequency and density related to housing oriented development, to allow the CVAG region better compete for funding in the state's Cap-and-Trade program.
- Monitor legislative reauthorization of the state's Cap-and-Trade program, which is set to expire in 2030.

## Transportation

### *Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access*

- Support regional efforts to increase passenger rail service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley, including funding opportunities and actions by the Facilitate Equitable Deals task force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Support legislation that increases funding opportunities for bridges, interchanges and regional arterials in the Coachella Valley.

- Support increased investments of the state GHG reduction funds toward transportation projects to reduce transportation related GHG emissions.
- Support policies, programs, and funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and increased use of electric vehicles in the region.
- Support efforts by the California Department of Transportation, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to implement congestion projects identified in the Inland Empire Multimodal Corridor Plan that increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.
- Support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform to expedite and streamline project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support and advocate for actions that increase transportation resources in the City of Blythe and local Tribal Nations, to address historic underinvestment and improve mobility, economic development opportunities and quality of life.
- Monitor the state’s road charge pilot program and other potential replacement mechanisms for the state gasoline excise tax, and support efforts to ensure that future funding tools that convert or supplement the gas tax continue to support existing multimodal state funding programs, including SB 1 competitive grant programs, and existing eligible uses.
- Monitor legislative changes to Senate Bill 1 (Statutes 2017); oppose efforts to divert funding to non-transportation related uses, such as housing, or otherwise qualifying eligibility of SB 1 funds on non-transportation related goals and objectives.
- Monitor implementation of the Californai Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) and opposed policies that decrease funding opportunities for the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose legislative changes that create or strengthen a nexus between the availability of transportation funding and local jurisdictions’ ability to meet their requirements under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers.
- Oppose legislative or regulatory policies that decrease local decision-making authority regarding use of local funds for priority transportation projects.
- Monitor legislation that would increase voter approval thresholds for the creation, extension, or increase of local transportation tax measures and support efforts to establish a sub-regional funding mechanisms to advance local priority projects.

### *Active Transportation*

- Support increased funding for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) to address the backlog of applications and increase the program’s funding capacity.

- Support increased investment in active transportation infrastructure as a component of other state-funded transportation programs that increase access and opportunities for walking, biking, and complete streets that connect the multimodal transportation system.
- Support policies and programs that promote increased use of active transportation infrastructure and systems.
- Support efforts that streamline project delivery, build local capacity such as additional technical assistance, and provide increased flexibility to innovate and strategically invest funds to meet local needs.
- Oppose legislative, regulatory, and administrative efforts to score ATP applications on non-transportation related criteria, such as housing-related policies, CalEnviroScreen and policies which would hinder low density areas like the Coachella Valley and the City of Blythe.
- Oppose changes to the ATP that would decrease CVAG's competitiveness, such as the elimination of leveraged funding and other categories that are advantageous to CVAG and its members jurisdictions.

#### *Intelligent Transportation Systems*

- Support programs that leverage technology to improve mobility, increase goods movement efficiency, reduce emissions and help to mitigate environmental impacts.
- Identify state programs and funding that supplement CVAG's CV Sync project.
- Monitor legislation that incorporates innovative technologies into the state transportation system, such as zero or near-zero emission vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and small electric mobility devices that improve transportation accessibility, efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.

#### **Energy and Environment**

- Support legislative and regulatory efforts to increase the flexibility of funding programs from the California Air Resources Board's Cap-and-Trade Program to ensure the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys get their fair share, including taking into account regional variances related to growth, housing, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies.
- Support investments in Cap-and-Trade funded programs, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, Single-Family Energy Efficiency, and Low-income Weatherization programs.
- Advocate for changes in the CalEnviroScreen mapping tool that reflect the socio-economic realities of the diverse communities in the Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valleys, or the use of alternative tools such as household income.

- Support policies that ensure criteria for defining disadvantaged communities and environmental justice areas accurately represent eastern Riverside County, including those that mirror AB 1550 community mapping, to ensure the region can compete for funding opportunities.
- Support efforts that provide necessary resources for implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan as well as resources for desert communities to prepare and adapt to changing climate and natural disasters, such as the Climate Resiliency programs.
- Support funding for programs that support local planning and response measures to extreme heat events, including nature-based solutions, to protect critical infrastructure, habitat and public health and safety.
- Support legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea to limit regional impacts to air quality, wildlife habitat, and health of communities, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support efforts at the Salton Sea that facilitate economic development, such as lithium extraction.
- Support policies related to increasing representation on electrical service matters for the communities served by the Imperial Irrigation District, including but not limited to, the creation of a joint powers authority.
- Monitor actions related to the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between Imperial Irrigation District and the Coachella Valley Water District and support Coachella Valley Energy Commission efforts to achieve a permanent service option and governance structure between Coachella Valley stakeholders and IID post-2033.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization, and green building programs.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts related to vehicle electrification and building decarbonization that would add new requirements to local governments, including Title 24 building standards.
- Monitor implementation of the state's climate resiliency efforts and efforts related to environmental justice communities and AB 617 (Statutes of 2017) emission reduction funding programs.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

## **Broadband**

- Support funding and implementation of the Coachella Valley’s middle-mile broadband project and the programs to assist with last-mile connections that bridge the digital divide in the Coachella Valley.
- Support and identify programs that support digital equity in the Coachella Valley, such as the state’s Digital Equity Plan.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions related to SB 156 (Statutes of 2021) and related actions by the California Department of Technology and the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy.
- Monitor the California Middle-Mile Advisory Committee and its recommendations regarding implementation of middle-mile infrastructure.
- Monitor the California Public Utilities Commissions proceedings related to broadband infrastructure implementation, such as Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001 and Rulemaking proceeding, R.20-08-021.

## **Homelessness and Affordable Housing**

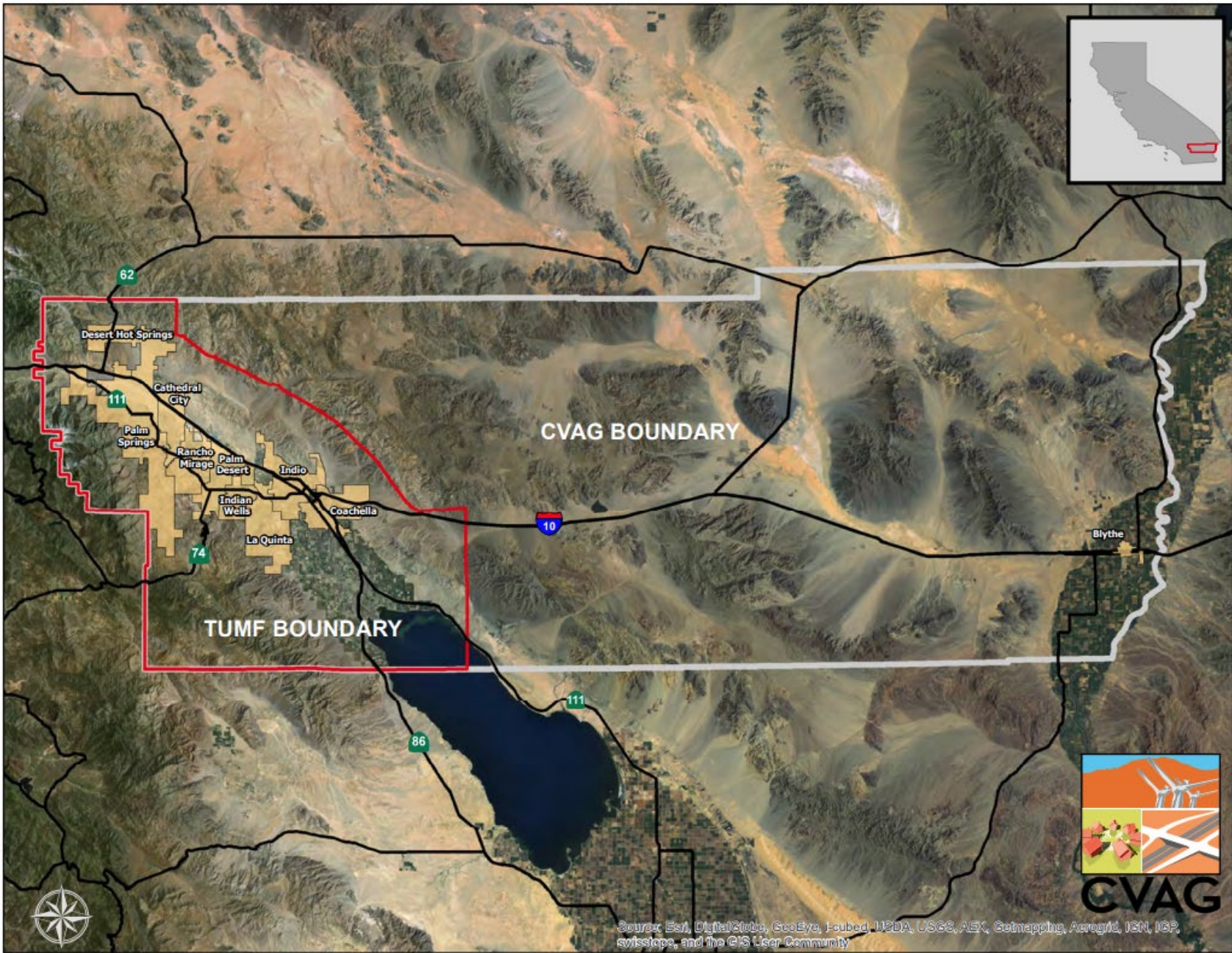
- Support increased investment in, and creation of, programs that assist local governments, counties and regional collaborations to address the challenges associated with homelessness.
- Support legislative efforts that allow for sustainable financing options, as outlined in CVAG’s Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) and member jurisdictions’ Local Early Action Plans (LEAP), in order to address housing shortages and provide affordable housing options.
- Support efforts by Lift to Rise to establish the Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund to increase housing production in the Coachella Valley and create homeownership opportunities for low- and very-low income families, permanent supportive housing for the homeless and address unpermitted mobilehome park issues.
- Support CEQA reform to streamline the delivery of housing projects.
- Monitor the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and advocate for increased flexibility and changes that ensure a greater share of funding is available to areas that don’t have Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) and thereby more accurately account for unique community characteristics and growth patterns in the Coachella Valley.
- Support the extension of state-funded solutions, including Project RoomKey and Project HomeKey, with an emphasis on ensuring those investments are used in the Coachella Valley.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that require unsheltered individuals to accept housing and treatment solutions.

- Support efforts to establish homeless courts that can help local jurisdictions provide additional solutions and services for homeless individuals.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that increase the available housing units and/or require unsheltered individuals to accept housing solutions and treatment solutions so long as there are adequate housing units available.

### **Public Safety**

- Support programs and policies that provide funding for the CVAG region to obtain, enhance, operate, maintain and update early earthquake warning systems.
- Monitor legislation and executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health and safety emergencies and support programs that provide assistance to negatively impacted communities in the Coachella Valley.
- Monitor legislation impacting race, diversity, and inclusion policies as it pertains to local law enforcement.

DRAFT



TUMF BOUNDARY

CVAG BOUNDARY



CVAG

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar, USDA, USGS, AEX, Geomatics, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

**ITEM 7A**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Sustainability Committee  
November 14, 2024**



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Presentation: Electric Vehicle Charging Station in the City of Blythe

**Contact:** Emily Langenbahn, Management Analyst ([elangenbahn@cvag.org](mailto:elangenbahn@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Members of CVAG’s Energy & Sustainability Committee have repeatedly expressed interest in efforts to improve the infrastructure for electric vehicles. At the November meeting, the Committee will receive a presentation from Michael Ganny, WattEV Director of Grants and Governmental Affairs, and Mallory Crecelius, City of Blythe’s Interim City Manager, who will provide an overview of the City’s efforts to provide electric vehicle charging for trucks along Interstate 10 (I-10).

Earlier this year, the City of Blythe was awarded a \$19.6 million grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant program. This grant funds the installation of the WattEV Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station project in Blythe to establish a publicly accessible, multi-class electric vehicle charging facility on a 127-acre parcel of land along the I-10. By introducing this electric truck charging facility along the I-10 freight corridor, WattEV and the City of Blythe are aiming to contribute to the broader shift toward sustainable transportation for the western United States, aligning with nationwide environmental efforts and supporting the growing interstate electric truck commerce, as well as working to reduce emissions.

At full capacity, the Blythe station will enable charging for more than 46,000 trucks annually with 30 CCS chargers, and more than 38,000 trucks annually with six MCS chargers. The site will also feature 5.2 MW of renewable energy capacity from an onsite photovoltaic field and a 2.75 MW battery energy storage system. With a charging station along this key corridor, WattEV aims to allow for faster recharging for semi-trucks in just 20 minutes for 300 miles of range. The goal is to fundamentally shift the way truck drivers view the viability of electric vehicles and trucks for increasingly longer freight runs.

The WattEV project was one of 47 projects funded in the first round of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Program, which focuses on the strategic deployment of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure. The second round of the grant awards were issued in August, and the program has funded \$1.144 billion in projects to date.

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

## **ITEM 7B**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Sustainability Committee  
November 14, 2024**



### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Model Home Energy Efficiency Reach Code for CVAG Region

**Contact:** David Freedman, Program Manager ([dfreedman@cvag.org](mailto:dfreedman@cvag.org))

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#### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** CVAG staff, through the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN)'s Codes & Standards Program, has been providing technical assistance to the City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability on a draft ordinance that would require older single-family homes that are undergoing additions, alterations, or remodels to make certain targeted upgrades, where applicable and feasible, to bring them closer to the provisions of the 2022 California Energy Code. The ordinance is also tailored to the requirements of the 2025 California Energy Code. This ordinance, which is still under consideration by the City of Palm Springs, could ultimately serve as a model for the entire region.

The Warren-Alquist Act authorizes the California Energy Commission (CEC) to adopt rules and regulations, as necessary, to reduce the inefficient consumption of energy and water in newly constructed buildings and certain additions and alterations to existing buildings. One of the ways the CEC satisfies this requirement is through the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards, also known as the California Energy Code. The Energy Code includes all the energy efficiency requirements applicable to newly constructed buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings.

As a portion of the California Building Code (Title 24), the Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6) is maintained and updated every three years by the CEC and the Building Standards Commission (BSC). The CEC is required to adopt or revise standards that shall be cost-effective when taken in their entirety and when amortized over the economic life of the structure compared with historic practice. The 2022 California Energy Code went into effect on January 1, 2023. The CEC adopted the 2025 California Energy Code on September 11, 2024, and the BSC is expected to formally approve it in December 2024 or January 2025, to be effective on January 1, 2026.

Homes in CVAG's region have been built over the years to meet the applicable Energy Codes, which were first put in place in 1978. Since then, new homes have gotten healthier and more efficient while some existing homes, particularly those built before 2011, have been left behind. The work underway by CVAG staff and the City of Palm Springs aims to address this dichotomy.

The Palm Springs City Council and Sustainability Commission directed City staff to investigate such an ordinance as part of the City's 2021 Climate Action Roadmap. This ordinance will be a "reach code" for the City, essentially a local building energy code that "reaches" beyond the state minimum requirements for energy use in building design and construction. In addition to the triennial Energy Code updates, the CEC encourages local governments to adopt energy efficiency standards exceeding the Energy Code. The CEC considers that these jurisdictions are living laboratories for a clean energy future, reduce state greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and lead from the grassroots.

Local governments are required to apply to the CEC for approval of a reach code. Under Section 10-106 of the Energy Code, local governments adopting reach codes must demonstrate that the requirements of the proposed ordinance are cost-effective, and the application must include the basis of the local government's determination that its standards are cost-effective. The CEC must find that the local standards will require buildings to be designed to consume no more energy than permitted by the Energy Code. CEC staff reviews the application to confirm these criteria are met and makes a recommendation for CEC approval based on the findings. The CEC has recently approved existing home energy efficiency reach codes for Marin County, the City of San Luis Obispo and the Town of Corte Madera. Following approval from the CEC, the ordinance must be filed with the BSC to be legally enforceable.

In addition to state legal requirements, in line with a 2023 decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the California Restaurant Association v. Berkeley case, a reach code must not be preempted under the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Under this Act, a reach code may not require the use of appliances that exceed Federal standards.

Enacting a reach code that requires upgrades at the point of renovation or alteration is one of the few ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon output of existing buildings. As a result of the upgrades, these homes can expect lower energy bills, a more comfortable house that is better adapted to extreme heat, and a lower carbon footprint. Community-wide GHG emissions and energy consumption would also be reduced.

#### *Palm Springs' Proposed Ordinance Requirements*

Because newer homes have already been built to meet more recent Energy Codes, the proposed Palm Springs ordinance covers single-family homes and duplexes built in Palm Springs before 2011 that are doing additions, alterations or remodels that trigger the need for a building permit. Potential examples of what projects would need to comply are:

- Adding square footage;
- Adding windows and doors;
- Moving interior walls;
- Reroofing;
- Electric panel upgrades;
- Kitchen, bath or laundry room remodels;
- Modification or replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning; and
- Solar PV (photovoltaics) or thermal installation

Other projects, including repairs to existing equipment, accessory dwelling units and projects in mobile or manufactured homes, would not trigger this requirement. Residents who receive income-based discounted rates for electricity would be exempt from the ordinance's requirements.

Based on the type and value of the building permit and year in which the home was built, different energy saving measures would be required. LED lighting and photosensors would be required (if not already installed) regardless of permit value. Qualifying projects having a permit value of at least \$10,000 would also be required to install the water heating package, consisting of hot water pipe insulation and shower and sink fitting upgrades. In addition to those required measures, residents will have flexibility of which additional measures they want to combine.

Measures fall roughly into two categories: energy efficiency and reduction in fossil fuel use. Efficiency and fossil fuel reduction measures will improve thermal comfort in the buildings, improve indoor air quality, and save money over time. Cost-effectiveness is based on the 2022 Cost-effectiveness Study: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades prepared for the California Codes and Standards Reach Codes program

of the state's three investor-owned utilities. Data specific for Climate Zone 15, which covers all of CVAG's region, are derived from the program's online Cost-Effectiveness Explorer and are attached to this staff report.

The Cost-Effectiveness Explorer produces a target metric that represents a user-defined fraction of the total site energy savings for all cost-effective retrofit measures – the Target Score. The Explorer also produces a table of all available measures, including those that are not cost-effective, that are weighted using the same site energy metric. Using these values, specific to each home vintage, an applicant may install any combination of efficiency, solar and electrification measures that meet or exceed the target value. The study supports separate Target Scores for three different vintages, all of which are pre-2011.

### *Next Steps*

The proposed ordinance is still being evaluated by the Palm Springs Sustainability Commission, with the item expected to go to City Council early next year. Following that adoption, Palm Springs will begin the steps necessary for CEC approval.

The CEC generally approves reach code ordinances within 60 days of receiving a complete filing package from the adopting jurisdiction. Once the CEC has approved the Palm Springs ordinance, CVAG staff will return to the Energy & Sustainability Committee with an update and consideration of a model ordinance for CVAG's region.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no cost to CVAG for this informational update. Staff time dedicated to I-REN is covered through the I-REN budget.

### **Attachments:**

1. Palm Springs Ordinance Framework Summary
2. Cost-Effectiveness Results Summary – Palm Springs / Climate Zone 15

## **Possible Palm Springs Existing Home Energy Efficiency Ordinance – Or, “Energy Efficient Renovations”**

**Overview:** An ordinance of the City of Palm Springs, California, adding section 8.04.066 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code to require single family buildings built before 2011 undergoing additions, alterations or remodels to make certain targeted energy efficiency upgrades. This ordinance will be a reach code - a local building energy code that “reaches” beyond the state minimum requirements for energy use in building design and construction.

**Main concept:** The permit amount of an alteration to a home will require or “trigger” Energy Efficient (EE) measures.

**Background:** From our 2020 GHG Inventory, residential buildings make up 22.6% of our GHG emissions. This was a suggested action in our 2021 Climate Action Plan. In the 2016 Sustainability Plan, established a vision that Palm Springs is resilient and carbon neutral and set the following goals:

- reduce GHG emission by 80% from our 1990 levels
- encourage one million sq feet of green buildings
- reduce energy and carbon use from new homes and buildings
- supply 50% of energy from renewable sources by 2030
- help PS become more climate resilient - efficient homes are better able to withstand extreme temperatures and use less energy

Additionally, the California Air Resources Board is required to ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by December 31, 2030, and 85% below 1990 levels by 2045 through AB 1279.

As every city is unique in terms of the climatic, geologic, and topographical conditions, amending the California Energy Code to fit local needs would be reasonable. Enacting a reach code of this type is one of the few ways (other than bans on connections, sale of appliances, etc.) to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon output of existing buildings.

**Key Provisions and Implications:** A section will define a Covered Single-Family Project as a project that was constructed before 2011 has been permitted for any of the following:

- Any additions, or any change, rearrangement or addition, other than a repair, of the structural elements of an existing building including foundations, footing, sub-floors, lintels, beams, columns, girders, slabs, roof trusses, staircases, load bearing walls, door frames, window frames, or any other part of the building that resists force or moment.
- Change or rearrangement of the plan configuration of walls and full-height partitions of an existing building.

- Modification of the electrical system, heating or cooling equipment or gas plumbing

The exceptions include the following:

- Specific house conditions like historic preservation design guidelines
- HOA covenant/deed restrictions on the property
- Mobile Homes, Manufactured Housing, or Factory-built Housing
- Individuals who receive CARE/FERA via the utilities
- building vintage reclassification
- medically necessary improvements or solely of seismic safety improvements, etc.

Based on the permit value, you have to do the mandatory measures plus a combo of additional measures as long it totals the minimum points. It will give flexibility to residents of which additional measures they want to combine.

Additional measures include Air Sealing, R-49 Attic Insulation, Duct Sealing, New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing, New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing, Windows, Wall Insulation, Cool Roof, Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Gas, High Efficiency Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Gas, Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Electric, High Efficiency Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Electric, Heat Pump Space Conditioning System, High Efficiency Heat Pump Space Conditioning System, etc. These measures will have different value points based on cost-effectiveness and GHG emission reduction.

<b>Table 150.0-I Target Score</b>			
	<b>Building Vintage</b>		
	<b>Pre-1978</b>	<b>1978 - 1991</b>	<b>1992 - 2010</b>
<b>Permit Value</b>	<b>Target Score</b>		
All Projects	LED + Photosensors	LED + Photosensors	LED + Photosensors
\$10,000 - \$24,999	+ Water Heating	+ Water Heating	+ Water Heating
\$25,000 - \$49,999	+ Water Heating & 16 points	+ Water Heating & 12 points	+ Water Heating & 6 points
\$50,000 - \$99,999	+ Water Heating & 32 points	+ Water Heating & 25 points	+ Water Heating & 12 points
\$100,000 +	+ Water Heating & 48 points	+ Water Heating & 37 points	+ Water Heating & 17 points

**Table – Proposed Measure Scores**

<b>Table 150.0-J: Measure Menu</b>				
		<b>Building Vintage</b>		
<b>Table 150.0-K ID</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Pre-1978</b>	<b>1978 - 1991</b>	<b>1992 - 2010</b>
E1	Lighting Measures	Mandatory		
E2	Water Heating Package	Mandatory for all projects with a permit value of \$10,000 or more		
E3	Air Sealing	1	1	--
E4.A	R-38 Attic Insulation	7	3	1
E4.B	R-49 Attic Insulation	8	4	1
E5	Duct Sealing	9	10	1
E6.A	New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing	17	13	5
E6.B	New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing	18	14	5
E7	Windows	12	10	3
E8	Wall Insulation	5	--	--
E9	Reserved for future use	--	--	--
E10.A	R-19 Raised floor insulation	4	4	--
E10.B	R-30 Raised floor insulation	4	4	--

E11	Cool Roof	2	2	1
E12	Radiant Barrier Under Roof	4	3	1
FS1	Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Gas	11	11	11
FS2	High Eff. Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Gas	11	11	11
FS3	Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Electric	4	4	4
FS4	High Eff. Heat Pump Water Heater Replacing Electric	4	4	4
FS5	Heat Pump Space Conditioning System	2	1	1
FS6	High Eff. Heat Pump Space Conditioning System	5	3	1
FS7	Dual Fuel Heat Pump Space Conditioning System	2	1	1
FS8	Heat Pump Clothes Dryer	1	1	1
FS9	Induction Cooktop	1	1	1
PV	Solar PV	17	17	17

ER1	Electric-Readiness – Service Upgrade	Mandatory (see Note 2 below)
ER2	Electric-Readiness – End Uses	Mandatory (see Note 3 below)

Note 1: Cool Roof (Measure E11) and Radiant Barrier (Measure E12) required when replacing 50% or more of an existing roof.

Note 2: Electric Readiness Service Upgrade (Measure ER1) required to claim Solar PV credit.

Note 3: Electric Readiness – End Uses (Measure ER2) required for the following project scopes:

If the service panel is being upgraded or to claim the Solar PV credit, satisfy any [one / two] of the electric-readiness measures from ER2 in Table 150.0-K.

If the kitchen is being remodeled, make the range electric ready as specified in ER2, Item D in Table 150.0-K and upgrade the panel board as specified under ER1 in Table 150.0-K. Exception: If an electrical permit is not otherwise required for the project other than compliance with this Item.

If the laundry room is being remodeled, make the dryer electric ready as specified in ER2, Item C in Table 150.0-K and upgrade the panel board as specified under ER1 in Table 150.0-K. Exception: If an electrical permit is not otherwise required for the project other than compliance with this Item.



Cost Effectiveness  
Explorer

EXPLORER.LOCALENERGYCODES.COM



## Cost-Effectiveness Results Summary

# City of Palm Springs

## Climate Zone 15

Generated October 03, 2024 from the Cost-Effectiveness Explorer

[https://explorer.localenergycodes.com/jurisdiction/palm-springs-city/study-results/15-SCE?only\\_study\\_type=existing-buildings](https://explorer.localenergycodes.com/jurisdiction/palm-springs-city/study-results/15-SCE?only_study_type=existing-buildings)

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# Single Family | Built before 1978 (12,598 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022

Table 1 of 2

Measure	Benefit/Cost Ratios			Per Home Results		
	On-Bill (2022 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	On-Bill (2025 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	2022 TDV ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	LSC ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	Incremental Cost	Annual Bill Savings (on-bill)
Heat Pump Space Conditioner	--	0.1	--	0.4	\$1,324	\$8
Dual fuel heat pump space conditioner	--	0.3	--	0.7	\$1,906	\$14
R-19 Raised Floor Insulation	2.5	2.8	--	2.0	\$3,633	\$335
R-30 Raised Floor Insulation	2.5	2.8	--	2.0	\$4,113	\$377
R-13 Wall Insulation	3.8	4.2	--	2.7	\$2,950	\$413
R-38 Attic insulation	2.6	2.8	--	1.7	\$6,762	\$625
R-49 Attic insulation	2.6	2.8	--	1.7	\$7,446	\$697
Windows	2.9	3.1	--	1.7	\$11,463	\$1,170
Radiant Barrier Under Roof (when re-roofing)	11.2	12.0	--	6.5	\$893	\$358
Cool roof .20 Solar Reflectance	6.0	6.4	--	3.3	\$893	\$255

# Single Family | Built before 1978 (12,598 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022 (Continued)

Table 1 of 2

Measure	Benefit/Cost Ratios			Per Home Results		
	On-Bill (2022 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	On-Bill (2025 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	2022 TDV ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	LSC ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	Incremental Cost	Annual Bill Savings (on-bill)
New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing	10.0	10.7	--	6.1	\$4,808	\$1,715
New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing	7.8	8.3	--	4.7	\$6,311	\$1,749
Duct sealing	9.0	9.6	--	5.4	\$2,590	\$832
Heat Pump Water Heater	1.7	2.3	--	1.7	\$4,332	\$510
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater	1.5	2.0	--	1.5	\$5,193	\$541
High Eff Heat Pump Space Conditioner	0.7	0.9	--	0.8	\$4,346	\$222
Solar PV	3.0	3.2	--	1.7	\$9,608	\$1,249
Air sealing	0.6	0.6	--	0.4	\$4,684	\$99
Heat pump water heater with Elec Base	3.3	3.5	--	1.1	\$3,829	\$732
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater (repl electric)	2.8	3.0	--	1.0	\$4,690	\$764

## Single Family | Built before 1978 (12,598 units)

Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022 (Continued)

Table 1 of 2

Measure	Benefit/Cost Ratios				Per Home Results	
	On-Bill (2022 Esc) <small>≥ 1.0 is cost effective</small>	On-Bill (2025 Esc) <small>≥ 1.0 is cost effective</small>	2022 TDV <small>≥ 1.0 is cost effective</small>	LSC <small>≥ 1.0 is cost effective</small>	Incremental Cost	Annual Bill Savings <small>(on-bill)</small>
Water Heating Package	1.4	--	--	--	\$229	\$0

# Single Family | Built before 1978 (12,598 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022

Table 2 of 2

Measure	Per Home Results	City-Wide Estimates		
	Flexible Score annual energy savings	Affected Units (lifecycle)	Emissions Reductions (lifecycle MTCOe)	Lifecycle Savings (on-bill)
Heat Pump Space Conditioner	2	1,575	4,684	\$238,292
Dual fuel heat pump space conditioner	2	1,575	4,494	\$385,583
R-19 Raised Floor Insulation	4	1,575	3,127	\$9,414,409
R-30 Raised Floor Insulation	4	1,575	3,525	\$10,607,745
R-13 Wall Insulation	5	1,575	3,962	\$11,618,140
R-38 Attic insulation	7	1,575	5,269	\$17,603,584
R-49 Attic insulation	8	1,575	5,817	\$19,603,735
Windows	12	1,575	7,770	\$32,919,002
Radiant Barrier Under Roof (when re-roofing)	4	1,575	2,612	\$10,071,119
Cool roof .20 Solar Reflectance	2	1,575	1,166	\$7,190,038
New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing	17	1,575	11,494	\$48,274,761

# Single Family | Built before 1978 (12,598 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022 (Continued)

Table 2 of 2

Measure	Per Home Results	City-Wide Estimates		
	Flexible Score <small>annual energy savings</small>	Affected Units <small>(lifecycle)</small>	Emissions Reductions <small>(lifecycle MTCOe)</small>	Lifecycle Savings <small>(on-bill)</small>
New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing	18	1,575	11,845	\$49,234,496
Duct sealing	9	1,575	5,772	\$23,417,345
Heat Pump Water Heater	11	1,575	18,360	\$14,348,178
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater	11	1,575	18,610	\$15,230,046
High Eff Heat Pump Space Conditioner	5	1,575	6,255	\$6,250,004
Solar PV	17	1,575	10,616	\$35,149,002
Air sealing	1	1,575	1,000	\$2,777,884
Heat pump water heater with Elec Base	4	1,575	2,219	\$20,609,440
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater (repl electric)	4	1,575	2,469	\$21,492,246
Water Heating Package	1	1,575	1,336	\$0

# Single Family | Built from 1978 to 1991 (6,245 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022

Table 1 of 2

Measure	Benefit/Cost Ratios			Per Home Results		
	On-Bill (2022 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	On-Bill (2025 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	2022 TDV ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	LSC ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	Incremental Cost	Annual Bill Savings (on-bill)
Heat Pump Space Conditioner	--	--	--	0.2	\$1,324	-\$75
Dual fuel heat pump space conditioner	--	--	--	0.4	\$1,906	-\$72
R-19 Raised Floor Insulation	2.5	2.7	--	1.9	\$3,633	\$324
R-30 Raised Floor Insulation	2.5	2.7	--	1.9	\$4,113	\$370
R-38 Attic insulation	2.9	3.2	--	1.8	\$2,555	\$269
R-49 Attic insulation	2.6	2.8	--	1.6	\$3,612	\$332
Windows	2.3	2.5	--	1.3	\$11,463	\$937
Radiant Barrier Under Roof (when re-roofing)	7.8	8.3	--	4.3	\$893	\$248
Cool roof .20 Solar Reflectance	4.6	4.8	--	2.5	\$893	\$193
New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing	7.6	8.1	--	4.6	\$4,808	\$1,305

# Single Family | Built from 1978 to 1991 (6,245 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022 (Continued)

Table 1 of 2

Measure	Benefit/Cost Ratios			Per Home Results		
	On-Bill (2022 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	On-Bill (2025 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	2022 TDV ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	LSC ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	Incremental Cost	Annual Bill Savings (on-bill)
New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing	6.0	6.4	--	3.6	\$6,311	\$1,338
Duct sealing	10.9	11.6	--	6.7	\$2,590	\$1,004
Heat Pump Water Heater	1.0	1.6	--	1.7	\$4,332	\$344
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater	0.9	1.4	--	1.5	\$5,193	\$375
High Eff Heat Pump Space Conditioner	0.3	0.4	--	0.6	\$4,346	\$99
Solar PV	2.6	2.8	--	1.7	\$9,608	\$1,079
Air sealing	0.4	0.5	--	0.3	\$4,684	\$71
Heat pump water heater with Elec Base	2.5	2.7	--	1.1	\$3,829	\$566
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater (repl electric)	2.2	2.3	--	1.0	\$4,690	\$597
Water Heating Package	1.4	--	--	--	\$229	\$0

# Single Family | Built from 1978 to 1991 (6,245 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022

Table 2 of 2

Measure	Per Home Results	City-Wide Estimates		
	Flexible Score annual energy savings	Affected Units (lifecycle)	Emissions Reductions (lifecycle MTCOe)	Lifecycle Savings (on-bill)
Heat Pump Space Conditioner	1	781	1,256	-\$1,047,309
Dual fuel heat pump space conditioner	1	781	1,216	-\$1,007,314
R-19 Raised Floor Insulation	4	781	1,447	\$4,516,637
R-30 Raised Floor Insulation	4	781	1,657	\$5,161,206
R-38 Attic insulation	3	781	1,073	\$3,746,967
R-49 Attic insulation	4	781	1,322	\$4,633,366
Windows	10	781	3,138	\$13,075,552
Radiant Barrier Under Roof (when re-roofing)	3	781	892	\$3,462,817
Cool roof .20 Solar Reflectance	2	781	450	\$2,694,542
New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing	13	781	4,179	\$18,208,855
New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing	14	781	4,352	\$18,673,448

# Single Family | Built from 1978 to 1991 (6,245 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022 (Continued)

Table 2 of 2

Measure	Per Home Results	City-Wide Estimates		
	Flexible Score <small>annual energy savings</small>	Affected Units <small>(lifecycle)</small>	Emissions Reductions <small>(lifecycle MTCOe)</small>	Lifecycle Savings <small>(on-bill)</small>
Duct sealing	10	781	3,146	\$14,007,527
Heat Pump Water Heater	11	781	9,106	\$4,796,136
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater	11	781	9,229	\$5,234,685
High Eff Heat Pump Space Conditioner	3	781	1,889	\$1,379,360
Solar PV	17	781	5,263	\$15,050,186
Air sealing	1	781	349	\$992,432
Heat pump water heater with Elec Base	4	781	1,103	\$7,892,953
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater (repl electric)	4	781	1,227	\$8,331,967
Water Heating Package	1	781	662	\$0

# Single Family | Built from 1992 to 2005 (2,318 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022

Table 1 of 2

Measure	Benefit/Cost Ratios			Per Home Results		
	On-Bill (2022 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	On-Bill (2025 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	2022 TDV ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	LSC ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	Incremental Cost	Annual Bill Savings (on-bill)
Heat Pump Space Conditioner	--	--	--	0.1	\$1,324	-\$157
Dual fuel heat pump space conditioner	--	--	--	0.2	\$1,906	-\$155
R-38 Attic insulation	1.0	1.1	--	0.6	\$1,781	\$63
R-49 Attic insulation	1.7	1.9	--	1.1	\$1,827	\$113
Windows	0.7	0.7	--	0.4	\$11,463	\$271
Radiant Barrier Under Roof (when re-roofing)	3.5	3.7	--	1.9	\$893	\$111
Cool roof .20 Solar Reflectance	2.3	2.4	--	1.3	\$893	\$96
New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing	2.8	3.0	--	1.8	\$4,808	\$484
New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing	2.3	2.4	--	1.5	\$6,311	\$509
Duct sealing	2.2	2.3	--	1.4	\$1,400	\$109

## Single Family | Built from 1992 to 2005 (2,318 units)

Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022 (Continued)

Table 1 of 2

Measure	Benefit/Cost Ratios				Per Home Results	
	On-Bill (2022 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	On-Bill (2025 Esc) ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	2022 TDV ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	LSC ≥ 1.0 is cost effective	Incremental Cost	Annual Bill Savings (on-bill)
Heat Pump Water Heater	--	0.3	--	1.7	\$4,332	\$65
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater	--	0.4	--	1.5	\$5,193	\$97
High Eff Heat Pump Space Conditioner	--	--	--	0.4	\$4,346	-\$24
Solar PV	1.9	2.0	--	1.6	\$9,608	\$763
Air sealing	0.2	0.2	--	0.2	\$4,684	\$37
Heat pump water heater with Elec Base	1.3	1.3	--	1.1	\$3,829	\$279
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater (repl electric)	1.1	1.2	--	1.0	\$4,690	\$311
Water Heating Package	1.4	--	--	--	\$229	\$0

# Single Family | Built from 1992 to 2005 (2,318 units)

 Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022

Table 2 of 2

Measure	Per Home Results	City-Wide Estimates		
	Flexible Score annual energy savings	Affected Units (lifecycle)	Emissions Reductions (lifecycle MTCOe)	Lifecycle Savings (on-bill)
Heat Pump Space Conditioner	1	290	318	-\$811,825
Dual fuel heat pump space conditioner	1	290	300	-\$801,468
R-38 Attic insulation	1	290	94.7	\$324,523
R-49 Attic insulation	1	290	174	\$584,659
Windows	3	290	411	\$1,403,562
Radiant Barrier Under Roof (when re-roofing)	1	290	149	\$576,891
Cool roof .20 Solar Reflectance	1	290	84.6	\$496,451
New Ducts, R-6 Insulation + Duct Sealing	5	290	577	\$2,504,177
New Ducts, R-8 Insulation + Duct Sealing	5	290	605	\$2,634,332
Duct sealing	1	290	121	\$562,219
Heat Pump Water Heater	11	290	3,381	\$334,017

# Single Family | Built from 1992 to 2005 (2,318 units)

Study Source: Existing Single Family Building Upgrades<sup>1</sup> | Release Date: 05/23/2024 | Newest Version | Code Cycle: 2022 (Continued)

Table 2 of 2

Measure	Per Home Results	City-Wide Estimates		
	Flexible Score annual energy savings	Affected Units (lifecycle)	Emissions Reductions (lifecycle MTCOe)	Lifecycle Savings (on-bill)
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater	11	290	3,427	\$499,903
High Eff Heat Pump Space Conditioner	2	290	497	-\$123,595
Solar PV	17	290	1,953	\$3,950,031
Air sealing	--	290	66.9	\$193,851
Heat pump water heater with Elec Base	4	290	410	\$1,446,198
High Eff Heat Pump Water Heater (repl electric)	4	290	457	\$1,612,085
Water Heating Package	1	290	246	\$0

## **ITEM 7C**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Sustainability Committee  
November 14, 2024**



### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Urban and Community Forestry Program – Shade Trees for Southern California’s Deserts

**Contact:** Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs ([emartinez@cvaq.org](mailto:emartinez@cvaq.org))

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**Recommendation:** 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

**Background:** A top priority of the Energy and Sustainability Committee has been addressing climate change and mitigating increasingly extreme heat temperatures via urban greening. As part of this priority, and to help ensure effective urban greening strategies are implemented, CVAG has invested in developing an Urban Greening Guide, to meet the needs of the Coachella Valley by identifying native drought tolerant plant species that cool surrounding areas and provide reprieve from the heat for residents and visitors. To continue to build on these efforts, in May 2024, CVAG partnered with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to develop and submit a grant proposal to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (Cal Fire) Urban and Community Forestry Program. This summer, IID and CVAG were notified of Cal Fire’s intent to award IID and CVAG \$2.9 million for the Shade Trees for Southern California’s Deserts program, to plant 6,000 trees across eastern Riverside and Imperial Counties, pending final review and approval from CalFire.

In 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) allocated \$1.5 billion in new funding for the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program. The goals of the program are to increase equitable access to urban tree canopy and associated health, environmental and economic benefits, with a focus on disadvantaged communities; broaden community engagement in urban forest planning; and increase resilience to climate change and extreme heat. In 2023, CVAG and IID staffs partnered to submit an urban greening grant to the USDA’s UCF discretionary grant program. Although the grant application was not funded, the effort helped to develop a plan that can be leveraged for future urban greening grant opportunities.

As part of the same IRA funding, the State of California received a state allocation through the formula component of the IRA UCF, of which \$30.8 million was made available for grant projects at a community, regional, or statewide scale. Leveraging the past work, as well as IID’s Tree for All Program – which is a popular and oversubscribed program – CVAG and IID staffs partnered again to submit grant to Cal Fire’s UCF program. The Cal Fire UCF program identified six grant types, each of which have specific requirements. CVAG and IID applied under the Urban Forestry Regional or Statewide Impact, which provided funding for projects implemented

throughout a large geographic area. This category also provided for the largest maximum funding amount, which is \$3 million (all other categories' maximum grant request was capped at \$1.5 million).

In September 2024, CVAG and IID were notified by Cal Fire of their intent to award funds to the Shade Trees for Southern California's Deserts program. However, Cal Fire's notification letter stated that the award is conditioned upon final review of the project scope and budget, which may require revisions or adjustments. At the time of writing this staff report, CVAG and IID are still awaiting final approval from Cal Fire before any grant agreements are executed.

The Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts will significantly boost urban greening efforts in Imperial and Riverside County. The grant proposal is a three-year, 6,000 tree planting project, of which half will go to the Coachella Valley and the other half to Imperial County communities served by IID. The proposed project would be led by IID with support from CVAG. It will focus on planting 15-gallon trees in disadvantaged communities and under-represented demographic groups with environmental, social, and economically identified needs. Using a two-pronged approach, half of the trees will be planted in residential properties, and half will be planted in public spaces.

This program will leverage the planning, organization and management tools and experience of IID under their Tree for All Program. In 2021, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) created the Tree for All program, which is a public benefits program with the vision to make Urban Forestry accessible to their entire region. Since its inception, more than 1,400 15-gallon trees have been planted in and around the Imperial and Riverside communities. With increased interest in their efforts, the IID and CVAG now aims to expand their original Urban Forestry vision through new partners and an ambitious tree-planting goal, extending Urban Forestry into the underrepresented region of the Southern California desert.

Staff is now recommending that the Executive Director be authorized to execute any agreements with IID, Cal Fire and other partners to implement the program. When the grant agreement is finalized, the project deliverables include urban forestry planning, planting and maintenance; widespread urban forest education and stewardship; local economic stimulation; and community engagement. Through the dual-immersive approach of planting trees on both public and private properties, this program will reach a larger percentage of the underserved community. Through mass planting of 6,000 trees, the program will protect, enhance, and expand equitable urban tree canopy cover to maximize community access to socio-economic benefits in disadvantaged areas and nature deprived communities experiencing low tree canopy, extreme heat, and poor access to parks and nature.

**Fiscal Analysis:** IID and CVAG submitted a \$2,975,163 grant request to Cal Fire's UCF program. However, as noted in the staff report, IID and CVAG staff are awaiting final review by Cal Fire. If Cal Fire determines a different award amount, this may have an impact on the scope of work or the grant award amount, which may impact the program's proposed budget and associated cost-share.

Although matching funds are not required given that all benefits must accrue to disadvantaged communities, IID and CVAG provided a match to increase the application's competitiveness. If fully funded, the cost share or match proposed is \$500,000. Of that amount, CVAG is committing \$20,000 in staff time to support outreach, education and coordination efforts in the Coachella Valley over the three-year grant period, which comes to about \$6,666 per year. The remaining matching funds are allocated by IID.

## **ITEM 7D**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Sustainability Committee  
November 14, 2024**



### **STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Update on Coachella Valley Energy Commission and Ongoing Analysis of Regional Alternative Governance

**Contact:** Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs ([emartinez@cvaq.org](mailto:emartinez@cvaq.org))

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### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** At its September meeting, the Energy & Sustainability Committee had this item on the agenda but, due to time constraints, it was not discussed. However, the Committee gave staff direction to move the item forward to the Executive Committee and provide the update at its next regular meeting. The Executive Committee met on September 30 and authorized the Executive Director to continue support of Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) Coachella Valley Energy Commission (CVEC) and their process for investing in and planning for electrical service in Coachella Valley. This includes having the Executive Director work with partners to develop a new joint powers authority and creating a potential staffing agreement with CVAG.

At the November meeting, CVAG staff will provide an update on CVEC's efforts and its ongoing discussions related to establishing a joint powers authority.

As stated in past reports on this matter, addressing representation concerns on energy related matters for the Coachella Valley jurisdictions served by IID and ensuring electricity infrastructure is adequate to meet growing demand is a top priority. Over the last three years, IID's Coachella Valley Energy Commission has served to convene key stakeholders to address these issues. CVAG has been contracted to provide staffing support to these efforts. In January, CVAG entered into an agreement with Leading Resources Incorporated (LRI) in order to assist in facilitating a strategic planning process to arrive at a regional solution. This agreement was entered into at the request of CVEC and was vetted through the CVEC Governance Committee. Since that time, LRI has conducted three strategic planning sessions to help analyze governance options and develop a strategic plan with actionable steps.

Through the CVEC strategic planning sessions, it has been acknowledged that service by IID has many benefits, including low rates and reliable powers. However, members continue to express concerns about IID's ability to get new electric capacity installed in a timely manner and the lack of local representation on key electrical infrastructure and program decisions. Through these discussions at the strategic planning sessions, three alternative approaches have been identified as potential solutions to the concerns:

- *Maintaining a "plus" version of the status quo:* IID would continue to provide electrical service to Coachella Valley, but each jurisdiction would have the flexibility to make separate arrangements with IID to accommodate growth or other needs.

- *Creation of a new Coachella Valley-based Joint Powers Authority (JPA):* Riverside County, the cities and Tribal Nations served by IID and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) would form a JPA focused on investing in and planning for electrical service in Coachella Valley.
- *Creation of a new Coachella Valley public utility district:* A new public agency, separate from IID, would be formed to provide electrical service to Coachella Valley, with a publicly elected Board.

Through further discussion regarding the above options, CVEC members acknowledged that there were tradeoffs: For example, a new public utility district would provide the highest level of local control, but it would also be the costliest.

LRI has facilitated a series of meetings and interviewed individual CVEC members. The following themes emerged:

- Every member of CVEC wants local representation on energy issues.
- IID wants Coachella Valley to have the independence it wants.
- While some members ultimately want to have a standalone public agency, no one saw that as the next stage.
- As solution for the at least the immediate future, most CVEC members favored a JPA, with a small team of engineers and executives working with IID to address Coachella Valley's energy needs.

Over the summer, LRI facilitated discussions with an ad hoc committee formed by CVEC representatives, largely to discuss and provide technical analysis on formation of the JPA. The ad hoc committee is composed of the city managers of the City of La Quinta, City of Indio, and City of Coachella; a representative of Riverside County's executive office; a representative of the Tribal Nations; and the general manager of the Coachella Valley Water District. At the direction of the CVEC, the ad hoc committee has specifically been tasked with working on a draft JPA agreement, which would create the JPA's governance structure, define its authority and scope.

To help facilitate this process, CVAG's Executive Director this summer took the lead to draft the initial JPA agreement in coordination and collaboration with members of the ad hoc committee. The proposed agreement to establish the Coachella Valley Power Agency JPA would allow for any of the following members to join the CVPA before or after its effective date:

- Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians
- City of Coachella
- Coachella Valley Water District
- City of Indio
- City of Indian Wells
- City of La Quinta
- City of Palm Desert
- City of Rancho Mirage
- County of Riverside
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Twenty-Nine Palms of Mission Indians

Any other city or party may request to join by submitting a resolution adopted by its governing board. However, such a request shall be subject to approval by two-thirds of the CVPA Board.

Additionally, funding for CVPA operations, programs, and projects may be derived from multiple sources including but not limited to Member assessments, borrowing and/or issuance of debt, grants, surcharges on retail electric rates in affected jurisdictions, development impact fees, or other sources which may be available to the CVPA now or in the future. The proposed JPA also includes a weighted voting mechanism, which addresses the inequity of one-agency one-vote.

The draft JPA agreement has been discussed worked on diligently by the ad hoc committee and is scheduled to go before CVEC on November 15. Once approved by CVEC, the JPA agreement will be distributed for consideration for adoption and approval by the potential members listed above. Given the JPA agreement work is nearly complete, the ad hoc committee will shift focus on a draft agreement between IID and the JPA, defining the responsibilities of each entity.

Additionally, the ad hoc committee is having ongoing discussions regarding creating a uniform funding mechanism for the JPA to assist with funding future electrical infrastructure to meet the electricity demands of the eastern Coachella Valley. In addition to funding infrastructure, the JPA would also be empowered to guide or even operate programs related to a public benefits charge, which include low-income subsidies, energy efficiency and demand response programs.

There is also interest among CVEC members in having CVAG staff be the administrator of the JPA. This is a staffing arrangement that CVAG already has for two other JPAs: the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) and Desert Community Energy (DCE). Those staffing agreements allow CVAG to be reimbursed for staff time, administrative costs and overhead related to the specific agency. It has proven to be a successful model, as it also eliminates the need for each JPA to have its own administrative staff.

As stated, CVEC is expected to make decisions on the JPA creation this month. It is anticipated that all necessary agreements could be finalized by the end of this year and operations would commence during the first quarter of 2025. Any staffing agreement with the new JPA would return to CVAG's committees for approval at a later date.

**Fiscal Analysis:** CVAG staff time related to this work is covered under the existing MOU with IID, which is billed on a time and materials basis. The strategic planning costs related to LRI's work is covered by an agreement between CVWD and IID.

The costs associated with a staffing agreement would be further analyzed and presented when the agreement comes back to CVAG's committees for approval.



**ITEM 8B**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Sustainability Committee  
November 14, 2024



**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant TA6 Annual Report

**Contact:** Emily Langenbahn, Management Analyst ([elangenbahn@cvag.org](mailto:elangenbahn@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** CVAG, in partnership with its member jurisdictions and Southern California Mountains Foundation, has long maintained successful recycling programs for waste tires and for used oil. Funded through the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant is a state-funded initiative aimed at promoting the proper collection and recycling of tires. The grant supports event coordination and staff services to host events that reduce environmental contamination from improper disposal and increase public awareness. These events provide community members with an accessible option for the proper disposal of tires, directly contributing to the reduction of illegally disposed tires in the Coachella Valley.

During the TA6 grant cycle, 1,350 tires were successfully collected and recycled through designated events coordinated and staffed by Southern California Mountains Foundation. The team held two events in the City of Coachella; two in the City of Indio; and one each in the cities of Blythe, La Quinta and Rancho Mirage. All the events included bilingual outreach.

At the end of each funding cycle, the Annual Report for the Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant is due. The Annual Report for 2024 was submitted to the State on October 22, 2024. The report includes detailed accounts of program activities, the total number of tires collected, financial expenditures, achievements over the past year, and recommendations for future initiatives.

Staff and the project partners recognize the benefits that additional funding would have to enhance outreach and coordination efforts. For the next grant funding cycle (TA7), Southern California Mountains Foundation is collaborating with the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District in Indio. This partnership aims to educate the community about the risks associated with standing water in discarded tires, which can contribute to increased mosquito activity.

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

**Attachment:** Annual Report

## Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program Payment Request Checklist and Final Report

This is a “dual-purpose” form:

- Checklist (page 1) – providing payment request guidance
- Final Report (page 2) – required for **final** payment request

Instructions: Upload completed form to the GMS “Reports Tab”.

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### Final Payment Request Checklist

**Date:**

**Grantee Name:**

**Grant Number Assigned by CalRecycle:**

**Notice to Proceed date:** (costs incurred prior to this date are ineligible)

**Grant Payment Request** (General Grant Forms - [CalRecycle 87](#))

- Box 6 check “Final.”
- Box 7 is the total amount of expenditures being claimed.
- Box 14 contains e-signature (digital) of person authorized in Resolution or Letter of Designation.

**Expenditure Itemization Summary** (Tire Amnesty Grant Forms - [CalRecycle 755](#))

itemize all expenses since the last payment request.

- Contains sufficient detail to match each entry to an invoice.
- The form should reflect the same line-items on the ‘Budget’ form.

**Supporting Documentation** Use highlighting and/or notes to indicate applicable information on each document for clarity.

- Personnel Expenditure Summary, (General Grant Forms - [CalRecycle 165](#) or similar) if personnel hours claimed.
- Cost and Payment Documentation is needed for all expenditures; reference the “Procedures and Requirements resource document for details. Each line-item listed on the [CalRecycle 755](#) will require documentation showing the cost and “proof” that the item has been paid. (Invoices, Receipts or Copies of paid checks are common examples)
- Copies of all public education/advertising artwork (not previously submitted for approval) funded by the Grant.
- Waste Tire manifests, if applicable.

**Reliable Contractor Form** (General Grant Forms - [CalRecycle 168](#))

- Reliable Contractor Declaration – Ensure this form has been completed for all contractors and submitted in GMS – Reports tab.

## Final Report

Grantee agrees with the following disclaimer:

*"The statements and conclusions of this report are those of the Grantee and not necessarily those of the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, its employees, or the State of California. The State makes no warranty, express or implied, and assumes no liability for the information contained in the succeeding text."*

This form should reflect work since receipt of the Notice to Proceed to the end of the grant term.

Total number of tires or passenger tire equivalent" (PTE) collected during the grant term:

**1,350**

Provide information regarding the success of the grant program in reducing the number of illegally disposed waste tires.

2 events in the City of Coachella coordinated and staffed by Southern California Mountains Foundation

2 events in the City of Indio coordinated and staffed by Southern California Mountains Foundation

1 event in the City of La Quinta coordinated and staffed by Southern California Mountains Foundation

1 event in the City of Rancho Mirage/Thousand Palms coordinated and staffed by Southern California Mountains Foundation

1 event in the City of Blythe coordinated and staffed by Southern California Mountains Foundation

Describe any findings or recommendations that you feel could improve the Tire Amnesty Program.

Additional funding dedicated to outreach and coordination efforts would be greatly appreciated. For the next cycle (TA7), Southern California Mountains Foundation is coordinating efforts with the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District in the City of Indio to increase local awareness of standing water build up that can accumulate in discarded tires, leading to increased mosquito activity

Emily Langenbahn  
Signature (does not have to be signatory)

10/22/2024

Date