# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025

**9:00 a.m.**

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

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

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87312944251?pwd=l56ukejJCXW9yj0xWX9PJ0nPvGzvn0.1**

**Dial In:** +1 669 900 9128
**Webinar ID:** 873 1294 4251
**Password:** 874882

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

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Public Safety Committee meeting prior to the meeting at 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.

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

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

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Raymond Gregory, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Cathedral City

**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 Public Safety 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. CHAIR /COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS**

**6. EX-OFFICIO UPDATES**

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve the minutes from the November 18, 2024, meeting of the Public Safety Committee** **P5**

**7.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8. DISCUSSION/ ACTION**

**A. Countywide efforts to address wildfires and Santa Ana winds** – Deputy Chief Robert Fish **P10**

**Recommendation:** Information

**B.** **Expanding Partnerships with Riverside County Probation** – Chief Probation Officer Christopher Wright P15

**Recommendation:** Information

**C.** **Reoccurring 911 Outages in the Coachella Valley –** Erica Felci P18

**Recommendation:** Authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to advocate for legislative fixes and policy changes that improve the stability of the 911 system in the Coachella Valley

## 9. INFORMATION

**A.** **Attendance Record** P22

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

This is the second opportunity for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Public Safety 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.

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

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

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**Item 2A**

# Coachella Valley Association of Governments
## Public Safety Committee
## Member Roster
## 2024-2025

| Voting Members | |
|---|---|
| Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III |
| City of Blythe | Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez |
| City of Cathedral City | Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory – **CHAIR** |
| City of Coachella | Councilmember Frank Figueroa |
| City of Desert Hot Springs | Councilmember Daniel Pitts |
| City of Indian Wells | Councilmember Toper Taylor |
| City of Indio | Councilmember Waymond Fermon – **VICE CHAIR** |
| City of La Quinta | Councilmember John Peña |
| City of Palm Desert | Councilmember Karina Quintanilla |
| City of Palm Springs | Councilmember Grace Garner |
| City of Rancho Mirage | Councilmember Eve Fromberg Edelstein |
| County of Riverside | Supervisor V. Manuel Perez |
| Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | Tribal Chairman Joseph Mirelez |
| **Ex-Officio Members** | |
| Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager |
| California Highway Patrol | David Efferson, Captain |
| Cathedral City Fire | Michael Contreras, Fire Chief |
| Cathedral City Police | George Crum, Chief of Police |
| Desert Hot Springs Police | Jim Henson, Chief of Police |
| District Attorney's Office | Michael Hestrin, District Attorney |
| Indio Police | Brian Tully, Chief of Police |
| Palm Desert Sheriff Station | Dean Agnoletto, Captain |
| Palm Springs Fire | Paul Alvarado, Fire Chief |
| Palm Springs Police | Andrew Mills, Chief of Police |
| Riverside County Fire Department | Robert Fish, Deputy Chief |
| Riverside County Probation Department | Ron Miller, Chief Probation Officer |
| Riverside County Sheriff's Department | Sheriff Chad Bianco |
| Thermal Sheriff Station | Michael Bianco, Captain |
| U.S. Border Patrol | David Kim |

**ITEM 7A**

# Public Safety Committee
# Meeting Minutes
# November 18, 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 Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 9:02 a.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert. Videoconferencing was available from the City of Riverside.

2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

| | |
|---|---|
| City of Cathedral City | Councilmember Raymond Gregory, *Vice Chair* |
| City of Coachella** | Councilmember Frank Figueroa |
| City of Desert Hot Springs | Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye |
| City of Indio | Councilmember Waymond Fermon, *Chair* |
| City of La Quinta | Councilmember John Peña |
| City of Palm Desert | Mayor Karina Quintanilla |
| City of Palm Springs | Councilmember Grace Garner |
| City of Rancho Mirage | Councilmember Lynn Mallotto |
| County of Riverside | Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper |
| Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians* | Tribal Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez |

**Arrived at item 4*
*** Arrived at item 8A*

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cathedral City Police | Commander Rick Sanchez |
| Cathedral City Fire | Battalion Chief Stephen Tumir |
| Indio Police Department | Chief Brian Tully |
| District Attorney's Office | Asst DA Rodney Tethal/Sr Investigator Jason Polanco |

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

| | |
|---|---|
| Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | Tribal Councilmember John Preckwinkle III |
| City of Blythe | Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez |
| City of Indian Wells | Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitman |
| Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | Emergency Services Manager Robert Bradbury |
| California Highway Patrol | Captain David Efferson/Sergeant Eric Peña |
| Desert Hot Springs Police | Chief of Police Jim Henson |
| Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation | Dean Agnoletto, Captain |
| Palm Springs Fire | Fire Chief Paul Alvarado |
| Palm Springs Police | Chief Andrew Mills |
| Riverside County Fire | Deputy Chief Robert Fish |
| Riverside County Probation | Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller |
| Riverside County Sheriff's Department | Sheriff Chad Bianco |

| | |
|---|---|
| Thermal Sheriff Station | Captain Michael Bianco |
| U.S. Customs and Border Patrol | Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim |

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Indio Police Chief Brian Tully led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS**

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci welcomed Desert Hot Springs Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye to the committee.

Councilmember Raymond Gregory announced the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards will be held Wednesday, November 20th at Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage. Councilmember Gregory also announced the Sheriff Department is having their Blue Light Ceremony on Monday, December 16th at the Rancho Mirage Public Library.

Tribal Vice Chair Mirelez announced the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians will be having a fiesta on December 7th at noon and it is open to the public.

Chair Fermon commended all first responders for their part in ensuring they are keeping families safe during the events and construction going on across the valley. Mr. Fermon also suggested a future agenda item regarding safety on CV Link.

**6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS**

Commander Rick Sanchez from Cathedral City Police Department announced the City of Cathedral City will be hosting their annual International Ballon Festival this weekend and their headline performer on Saturday evening is LeAnn Rimes.

Chief Tully announced the City of Indio will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new Public Safety Campus on Wednesday, November 20 at 9 a.m.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve the minutes from the June 10, 2024, meeting of the Public Safety Committee**

**B. Approve the minutes from the September 18, 2024, joint meeting of the Homelessness and Public Safety Committee**

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

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM PEÑA AND SECONDED BY TRIBAL VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES, 4 MEMBERS ABSENT AND 1 ABSTENTION**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Councilmember John Preckwinkle** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Raymond Gregory** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Frank Figueroa** | **ABSENT** |
| **Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye** | **ABSTAIN** |
| **Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitman** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Waymond Fermon** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember John Peña** | **AYE** |
| **Mayor Karina Quintanilla** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Grace Garner** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Lynn Mallotto** | **AYE** |
| **Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper** | **AYE** |
| **Tribal Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez** | **AYE** |

## 8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

### A. Presentation: Riverside County Child Exploitation Team (RCCET)

Riverside County District Attorney's Office Senior Investigator Jason Polanco provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the RCCET team and their duties. He was joined by K9 officer Solo.

A lengthy member discussion ensued with Senior Investigator Polanco answering questions from the committee.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

### B. Local approaches to addressing street racing

Indio Chief of Police Brian Tully introduced Lieutenant Anderw Leyva who provided an update on tactics being used to address street racing.

Brief member discussion ensued. No action was taken as this was an informational item only.

### C. Good Neighbor Policy for Homelessness Coordination

Ms. Felci presented the staff report.

Member discussion ensued. Councilmembers requesting clarifying language be added to the drafted policy before it was provided to the Executive Committee for adoption to address whether this was an encouragement or setting a new requirement.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR QUINTANILLA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MALLOTTO TO PROVIDE DIRECTION OF ADDING CLARIFYING LANGUAGE ON A MODEL RESOLUTION THAT REINFORCES THE COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL**

**HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS AND ESTABLISHES A GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY AMONG CVAG MEMBER JURISDICTIONS**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES and 3 MEMBERS ABSENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Councilmember John Preckwinkle** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Raymond Gregory** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Frank Figueroa** | **AYE** |
| **Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye** | **AYE** |
| **Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitman** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Waymond Fermon** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember John Peña** | **AYE** |
| **Mayor Karina Quintanilla** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Grace Garner** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Lynn Mallotto** | **AYE** |
| **Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper** | **AYE** |
| **Tribal Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez** | **AYE** |

## D. Election of Public Safety Committee Officers

Mr. Kirk opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair Fermon nominated Vice Chair Gregory to become Chair.

Vice Chair Gregory nominated Chair Fermon to become Vice Chair.

Mayor Quintanilla nominated Chair Fermon to remain as chair.

No other nominations were received.

The floor was opened for a second to be made to any motions for nominations received. Tribal Vice Chair Mirelez seconded the nominations by Chair Fermon and Vice Chair Gregory.

**IT WAS MOVED BY CHAIR FERMON AND SECONDED BY TRIBAL VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ FOR VICE CHAIR GREGORY TO BECOME CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025**

**IT WAS MOVED BY VICE CHAIR GREGORY AND SECONDED BY TRIBAL VICE CHAIR MIRELEZ FOR CHAIR FERMON TO BECOME VICE CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES and 3 MEMBERS ABSENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Councilmember John Preckwinkle** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Raymond Gregory** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Frank Figueroa** | **AYE** |
| **Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye** | **AYE** |
| **Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitman** | **ABSENT** |
| **Councilmember Waymond Fermon** | **AYE** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Councilmember John Peña** | **AYE** |
| **Mayor Karina Quintanilla** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Grace Garner** | **AYE** |
| **Councilmember Lynn Mallotto** | **AYE** |
| **Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper** | **AYE** |
| **Tribal Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez** | **AYE** |

**9. INFORMATION –** The following item was provided for information only:

**A. Attendance Record**

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

None

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. 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.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elysia Regalado,* Management Analyst

**ITEM 8A**

# Coachella Valley Association of Governments
## Public Safety Committee
### February 10, 2025

**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** **Countywide efforts to address wildfires and Santa Ana winds**

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Fueled by dry brush and fierce Santa Ana winds, a series of wildfires ripped through the City of Los Angeles in early January and caused unprecedented devastation as they scorched about 40,000 acres. More than 12,000 homes and structures were destroyed or damaged, 25 people were killed and 100,000-plus people fled their homes amid evacuation orders. The Eaton and Palisades fires are now considered the most destructive and second-most destructive wildfires, respectively, in Southern California's history.

In Riverside County, these powerful Santa Ana winds also spread wildfires such as the Scout Fire in Jurupa Valley and the Stone Fire in Hemet. Officials issued red flag fire warnings and implemented public safety power shutoffs, which left more than 92,000 Southern California Edison (SCE) customers countywide. Riverside County activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate county operations with Southern California Edison (SCE), local cities, tribes, special districts and volunteer organizations. The all-hands coordination also included public outreach through AlertRivCo warnings and the County's 211 call center. Fire prone communities such as Idyllwild were on high alert, with County Fire responding to an average of 570 calls a day in early January. The County also paid close attention to dry lands near river bottoms where a small fire could quickly get out of hand.

At the request of CVAG Chair Ted Weill, CalFire/ Riverside County Fire Department Fire Chief Bill Weiser and Deputy Chief Robert Fish will brief CVAG's Public Safety and Executive Committees on the response to the recent fires and the efforts to prepare for future wildfires.

Additionally, Riverside County officials are encouraging residents to sign up for updates through Alert RivCo, which allows emergency managers and first responders to issue warnings. Riverside County is also utilizing the Genasys Protect alerting app to provide urgent notifications.

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

**Attachment:** The Desert Sun story "'You learn to be prepared': SoCal mountain town residents who've been burned before prepare for high winds," January 12, 2025

Desert Sun.

WILDFIRES

# 'You learn early to be prepared': SoCal mountain town residents who've been burned before prepare for high winds

*Tucked away in the San Jacinto Mountains above Palm Springs, California, the town of Idyllwild is no stranger to wildfires, but this tight-knit community is ready for anything.*

**Jennifer Cortez** Palm Springs Desert Sun

Published 7:22 p.m. PT Jan. 12, 2025 | **Updated 7:34 p.m. PT Jan. 12, 2025**

John Drake admits he wasn't fully prepared when the Cranston Fire swept through Idyllwild, a town in the San Jacinto Mountains above Palm Springs, in 2018. But in this unincorporated mountain town in Riverside County, California, residents have come to understand that an important part of surviving a wildfire lies in preparation.

Leaning against the truck bed of his Mazda, parked near Red Kettle — a small, old-fashioned diner set against a backdrop of towering pines and mountain peaks — Drake recalled driving to Fern Leaf Drive less than a mile away, a spot offering sweeping views of the town.

What he saw that day were matchsticks ablaze, not trees.

"My entire horizon was a line of fire. It just took my breath away. It was cathartic," Drake said. "After that, I just knew I'm leaving next time. And so when (Southern California Edison) shuts off the power, it's a small price to pay. I'm glad to do it. You know the comparison to what it could be. You go. You don't hang around — and you don't become a liability for the first-responders."

## Anxiety hangs in the air, but Idyllwild residents are prepared

The rural town is entering another week of heightened fire risk, as high winds that began on Jan. 7 prompted Southern California Edison to implement public safety power shutdowns. This has been deemed necessary in many wildland and wildland-adjacent areas of the Golden

State, where downed power lines, or those experiencing a power surge, have sparked some of the deadliest fires in the state's history.

He, along with many others in the area, is preparing for the possibility of additional power outages throughout the week, especially as nighttime temperatures dip into the low 30s. But living in this community, where assistance is an hour or so away, requires a strong reliance on one another, Drake said.

"It’s a religion up here," he said. "You’d be surprised how much we do for each other."

Since arriving in Idyllwild with her parents after evacuating their home in Chevy Chase Canyon due to the wildfires in Los Angeles County, Ravenna Griepp has been lending a helping hand at Idyllwild Clothing Company.

"It’s been quite the breather and a big blessing," Griepp said, her voice still hoarse from the smoke. "I just worry about the winds. I don’t want the winds blowing anything toward any other place — especially for the community here, who have been so lovely."

Although she arrived in town on the same day the power was shut off, she was relieved to find safety at a nearby cabin where she was invited to stay. On her first night, she turned to local Facebook groups for restaurant recommendations after realizing the cabin had an electric stove, not the gas stove she had originally expected. There, residents were quick to offer assistance — even virtually.

When Griepp mentioned she only managed to evacuate with just one outfit, Marguerite Pfaff, who works at the clothing shop, immediately offered assistance, asking if she needed anything else and offering to make a call for support.

## Residents learned their lesson from the Cranston Fire

Pfaff, a Lake Hemet resident just a short drive from Idyllwild, knows firsthand the fear of surviving a wildfire. In 2018, she was forced to evacuate from the Cranston Fire with her then-6-month-old daughter.

The Cranston Fire, which started on July 25, 2018, and was fully contained by Aug. 10, 2018, forced a mandatory evacuation of Idyllwild and other areas in the San Jacinto Mountains. The arson-caused wildfire left these communities without power for nearly two weeks in 100-degree temperatures. Similarly, the arson-caused Esperanza Fire that killed five firefighters broke out in 2005 near Cabazon, west of Palm Springs.

"A lot of us struggle with what I can only describe as PTSD from Esperanza and Cranston," Pfaff said. "We've been lucky so far, but there's always that underlying concern. Because of the winds and the fire risk, there's definitely a bag sitting at my house that has all my stuff in it. I feel more prepared, but that doesn't stop the anxiety. But the community works together — I saw it with Cranston."

Leaning against the shop counter, Griepp nodded and said the Idyllwild Community Center and Town Hall has been an invaluable resource, especially as a charging station. Since the power shut-offs, community outreach specialists with Southern California Edison have distributed more than 200 resiliency kits with solar chargers and other resources.

"What a community," she said. "It's been warming to the heart. I kept hearing people say, 'Hey, let me know if you need anything, I can help you.' Seeing all that, I feel like everybody's here for each other to make sure they're taken care of."

Standing outside the doors of the Idyllwild Library, Mauricio Mejia, a development specialist with the Riverside County Library System and the Riverside County Office of Economic Development, is greeting community members at the door to invite them in for free water and bags of ice.

On a typical Sunday, the Idyllwild Library is closed. However, since Saturday, it has served as a distribution point until 10 p.m. for those still without power and in need of assistance. While most of the community has had their power restored since Thursday, Mejia acknowledged that some areas are still affected and that they are prepared to continue providing service.

## 'When you live up here, you learn early to be prepared'

The same Santa Ana wind event that helped spark five wildfires last week that are still burning in Los Angeles County severely impacted a local mobile home park, with some residents losing their homes, said Shannon Ng, deputy director with the county library system.

GoFundMe accounts were quickly set up, and many of the affected residents have found temporary, rent-free housing until their situations are resolved.

"There's a lot of hometown help," she said, a longtime resident of Idyllwild and also part of the community emergency response team. "When you live up here, you learn early to be

prepared to take care of things. When something goes south, there's people right away to help."

Without skipping a beat, the two said they feel prepared to handle whatever challenges arise in order to support the community.

"We're ready," Meija said. "It's a really nice place to be in an emergency."

*Jennifer Cortez covers education in the Coachella Valley. Reach her at jennifer.cortez@desertsun.com.*

**ITEM 8B**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 10, 2025

**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** **Expanding Partnerships with Riverside County Probation**

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Riverside County's Probation Department oversees a range of client rehabilitation, accountability and community safety programs as it supervises both adult and juvenile clients. This includes state-mandated services and regular supervision contacts; juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs; and operating three juvenile detention facilities, including Indio Juvenile Hall. The department is led by Chief Probation Officer Christopher Wright, who was appointed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in May 2023 and is the 12th person to hold the position.

Under Chief Wright's leadership, the Probation Department is expanding its collaboration with community-based organizations, governmental agencies and other county agencies. In December 2024, Chief Wright outlined his vision for partnerships at a meeting of the Regional Access Project Foundation's Board of Directors, which was attended by several members of CVAG's Public Safety and Homelessness Committees. Indio Councilmember Waymond Ferman, who serves as vice chair for both committees, extended an invitation for Chief Wright to attend February's Public Safety meeting and talk with local leaders about this work.

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

**Attachment:** Flyer from Probation Department

SERVING COURTS. PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY. CHANGING LIVES.

# RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**Background:** Since 1905, the Riverside County Probation Department (RCP) has been entrusted with the mission of Serving Courts, Protecting Our Community and Changing Lives pursuant to 830.5 PC.

**Department Highlights:** The Probation Department is one of the most diversified justice agencies in the county. Withstanding noticeable legislative changes over the years, RCP has developed robust legislative, public relations, and training teams to be on the forefront of change. Our Management Support team was designed to maximize efficiency with operations and assist in the implementation of department-wide strategy. Our infrastructure includes a BIOS unit, research, internal investigations, backgrounds, fiscal, contracts/grants and facilities management.

**Institutional Services:** RCP operates three juvenile detention facilities across the county. The detention facilities primarily house youth pending court or out-of-home placement. RCP provides in-house residential treatment programs ordered by the Court as well as a secure track treatment program, resulting from the passage of SB 823.

- Case assessment by a multi-agency treatment team
- Case planning to address each youth's specific needs
- High school, college, and vocational education programs
- Recreational and exercise programs
- Faith-based services and counseling
- Medical evaluations and treatment
- Individual and group behavioral health counseling
- Inclusion of credible messengers

**Field Services:** Field Services operates 17 locations across the county is responsible for a wide range of services primarily focused on client rehabilitation, accountability, and community safety. While intake, investigations and supervision are prescribed by law, probation services beyond to include:

**Juvenile**

- Successful Short-Term Supervision
- Wraparound
- Aftercare
- Placement
- Dual Status
- Diversion/DUI Program
- Independent Living Plan
- Extended Foster Care
- Resource Families
- Civil /Stepparent Adoption Investigations

**Adult**

- 1203.9 out of county transfers
- Day Reporting Centers
- High Risk Supervision
- Domestic Violence Program Monitoring
- State Authorized Risk Assessment Tools for Sex Offenders Monitoring
- Collaborative Courts
- Interstate Compact
- Motivational Interviewing/Evidence-Based Practice
- Pretrial
- Task Forces
- Victim Restitution

**Partners:** RCP enjoys an excellent reputation for working in a collaborative manner with both state and county agencies as well as various faith and community-based organizations to maximize the success of all clients.

**Challenge:** Creating seamless connections for probation clients that go beyond compliance monitoring, with the ultimate goal of helping them thrive as engaged, productive citizens of Riverside County.

**Solution:** Strengthening partnerships with county departments, including workforce development and housing support, to provide holistic services. This approach includes leveraging braided funding strategies to maximize resources and ensure comprehensive support for each client.

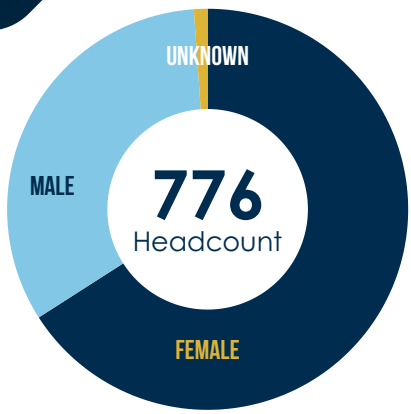
# RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION

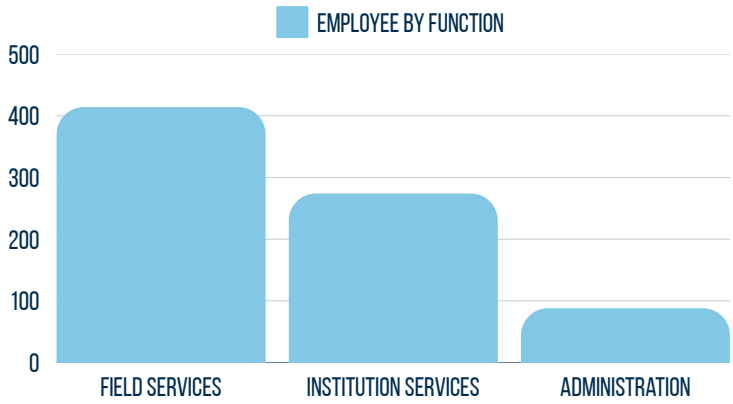
CHRISTOPHER H. WRIGHT, Chief Probation Officer
www.rivcoprobation.org

**41.62**
Average Age

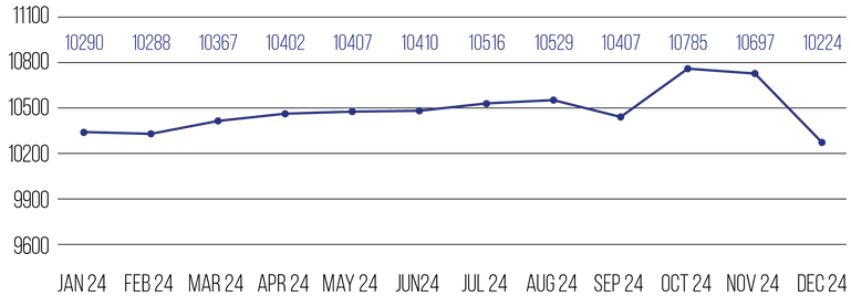
**11.47**
Average Yrs of Service

**$77K**
Average Salary/ Yr

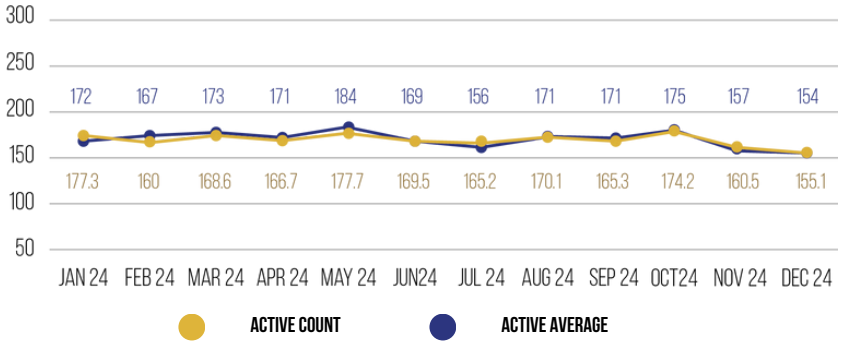


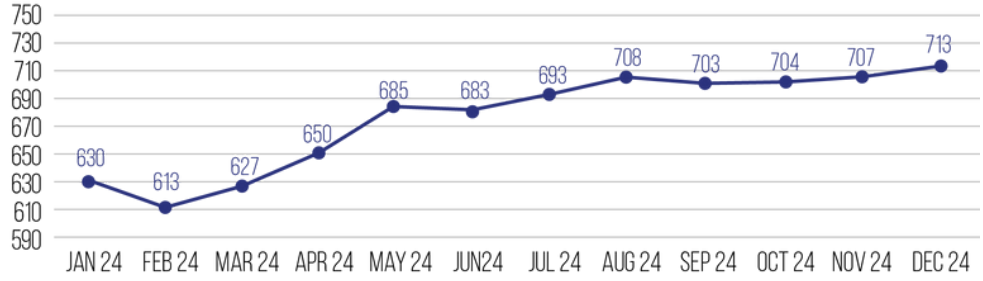

## ADULT ACTIVE CLIENTS BY MONTH




## JUVENILE AVERAGE AND COUNT DETAINED CLIENTS BY MONTH




## JUVENILE ACTIVE CLIENTS BY MONTH




## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**$184,534,587**
FY 2024/25 BUDGET

## REVENUES

**$135.2M** State Funds

**$3.2M** Federal Funds

**$2.9M** Charges for Current Services

## EXPENDITURES

**$125.4M** Salaries & Benefits

| $33.7M | $27.1M | ($1.9M) | $188K |
|---|---|---|---|
| SERVICES & SUPPLIES | OTHER CHARGES | INTRAFUND TRANSFERS | CAPITAL ASSETS |

RIVERSIDE COUNTY RCP PROBATION

**ITEM 8C**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
February 10, 2025

**STAFF REPORT**

**Subject:** **Reoccurring 911 Outages in the Coachella Valley**

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Chief Operating Officer (efelci@cvag.org)

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**Recommendation: Authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to advocate for legislative fixes and policy changes that improve the stability of the 911 system in the Coachella Valley**

**Background:** Coachella Valley officials have been increasingly concerned about the stability of 911 infrastructure for the region. Since Tropical Storm Hilary hit in 2023, there have been at least five times when the 911 system experienced an outage that made it impossible to call the emergency hotline. Some of those outages have also impacted the non-emergency business lines, limiting the ability of the public to call local police departments.

Conversations are now ongoing among local cities and law enforcement about how to ensure this does not continue. In the City of Palm Springs, for example, city officials have been coordinating with both Frontier and AT&T about how to improve service. There are also preliminary discussions about whether a legislative change would prompt more redundancies in the emergency systems.

The issue was also highlighted by U.S. Rep. Raul Ruiz, who advocated at a recent congressional hearing for federal investments in a nationwide Internet Protocol (IP) based system. Such a system could accommodate not just phone calls but also text messages, video sharing, as well as location tracking for coordination during emergencies and natural disasters.

CVAG's Legislative Platform, which was last updated in December 2024, does not specifically address advocacy related to 911 systems. Staff is now recommending that the Chair and/or Executive Director be authorized to advocate for legislative fixes and policy changes that improve the stability of the 911 system in the Coachella Valley. This would allow CVAG to provide support, including letters, to the ongoing local efforts.

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

**Attachment:** Palm Springs Post article "911 outages plague Palm Springs, other area cities again; officials demand action"

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# 911 outages plague Palm Springs, other area cities again; officials demand action

"I've been a cop for almost 44 years and I don't ever remember [a] 911 system going down," Police Chief Andy Mills said. "It's gone down five times. This is completely unacceptable."

BY MARK TALKINGTON • PUBLIC SAFETY • JANUARY 10, 2025

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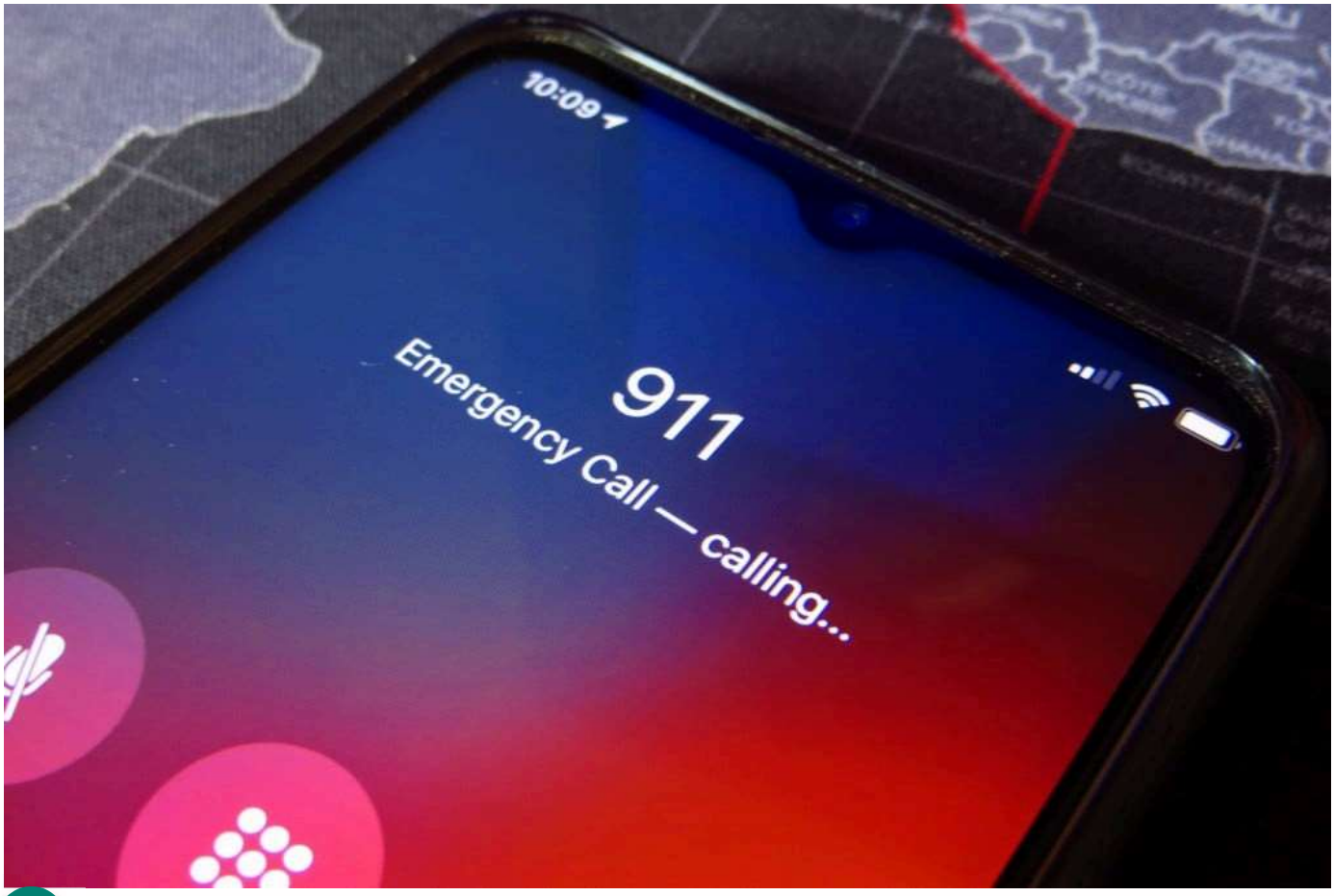

As Palm Springs experienced its fifth 911 outage since August 2023 on Thursday evening — leaving residents unable to reach emergency services — city officials expressed frustration and called for immediate action to address the recurring problem.

During the regular meeting of the Palm Springs City Council, Police Chief Andy Mills reported that the 911 system went down around 8:30 p.m., affecting not only Palm Springs but also neighboring cities including Cathedral City and Indio. His reaction was similar to that of impacted residents.


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"I've been a cop for almost 44 years and I don't ever remember [a] 911 system going down," Mills said. "It's gone down five times. This is completely unacceptable."


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The outage marks the latest in a series of disruptions that have plagued the city's emergency communication system since Hurricane Hilary struck the region in August 2023. That has led to growing frustration with telecom providers Frontier and AT&T, which have cited various explanations for the failures.

"They point fingers at each other," Mills said. "They have all the excuses in the world. But it is unacceptable because our community is at risk when they can't get ahold of the police or the fire department or paramedics."

City Manager Scott Stiles echoed the sentiment, describing the situation as "very frustrating" for the community, police department, and fire department.

The causes of the outages remain unclear, with Mills suggesting a range of possibilities including sabotage, vandalism, and environmental factors.

As for possible solutions, "We also need a fix from the state level to have redundancy built into our 911 system so this does not happen," Mills said. "And that is not there right now."

Mayor Ron deHarte inquired about potential legal options during the meeting, prompting the city attorney to agree to explore avenues with the police chief and city staff.

Just as they've done with all other outages, on Thursday Mills said police and fire personnel implemented defensive measures to maintain public safety. These included increasing field presence and alerting officers to be vigilant for residents attempting to flag them down for assistance.

The city also attempted to alert the public via text messages, and communication through social media and local news outlets, providing alternate phone numbers to call to report emergencies.

"What we do is go into a defensive posture, try to put as many people we can in the field, spread out throughout the city and tell our people to be very alert for flag downs, people waving their arms at us," Mills explained.

The fire department also adapted by stationing personnel at the front of their buildings to receive people seeking help directly.

## Author

### MARK TALKINGTON

Mark first moved to the Coachella Valley in 1994 and is currently a Palm Springs resident. After a long career in newspapers (including The Desert Sun) and major digital news websites, he founded The Palm Springs Post in 2021.


## Related Articles

**Item 9A**

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2024-2025

| Voting Members | JUL | AUG | SEP* | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | ATTENDED | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| City of Blythe | | | ● | | ○ | | | | | | | | 1 | out of | 2 |
| City of Cathedral City | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| City of Coachella | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| City of Desert Hot Springs | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| City of Indian Wells | | | ● | | ○ | | | | | | | | 1 | out of | 2 |
| City of Indio | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| City of La Quinta | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| City of Palm Desert | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| City of Palm Springs | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| City of Rancho Mirage | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| Riverside County | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| **Total Attendance Per Meeting** | | | **12** | | **10** | | | | | | | | | | |

| Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members | JUL | AUG | SEP* | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | ATTENDED | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agua Caliente | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| California Highway Patrol | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| Cathedral City Fire | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| Cathedral City Police | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| County Probation Department | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| Desert Hot Springs Police | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| District Attorney's Office | | | ○ | | ● | | | | | | | | 1 | out of | 2 |
| Indio Police | | | ● | | ● | | | | | | | | 2 | out of | 2 |
| Palm Desert Sheriff Station | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| Palm Springs Fire | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| Palm Springs Police | | | ● | | ○ | | | | | | | | 1 | out of | 2 |
| Riverside County Fire | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| Riverside County Sheriff | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| Thermal Sheriff Station | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| U.S. Border Patrol | | | ○ | | ○ | | | | | | | | 0 | out of | 2 |
| **Total Attendance Per Meeting** | | | **4** | | **4** | | | | | | | | | | |

* Meeting was held jointly with the Homelessness Committee

**No Meeting**
**Vacant** **
**Present** ●
**Absent** ○