

**ATTENTION: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.**



## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 18, 2020), the Public Safety Committee meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89292307182?pwd=a3VoL1R1Z3FhdXpKeEQvUTAvQ2diZz09>

**Password: 111170**

**One Tap Mobile: +16699009128,,89292307182#**

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128**

**Webinar ID: 892 9230 7182**

**Password: 111170**

*This will provide listening access and ability to address the  
Public Safety Committee when called upon.*

**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](mailto:cvag@cvag.org) by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Comments intended to be read aloud should be no more than 300 characters.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Waymond Fermon, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Indio
  
2. **ROLL CALL**
  - A. **Member Roster** **P4**
  
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
  - A. **Moment of Silence for San Bernardino County Sheriff Sgt. Dominic Vaca**
  
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on agenda items. 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**
  - A. **Re-launch of Cathedral City Police Department’s Gang Unit**
  
7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
  - A. **Approve the May 10, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes** **P5**
  
8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**
  - A. **Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis – Bruce Barton, Director, Riverside County Emergency Management Department**
  
  - B. **Riverside County’s Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers – Erica Felci** **P10**

**Recommendation:** Information
  
  - C. **Continued Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing – Erica Felci** **P13**

**Recommendation:** Discuss and provide direction to staff on next steps
  
9. **INFORMATION**
  - A. **Attendance Record** **P15**
  
  - B. **Member Survey on CVAG Meetings in Post-COVID Environment** **P16**

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

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this committee. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021, at 9 a.m. either via Zoom webinar or in-person.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021, with closed session at 4 p.m. and regular session at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **General Assembly** will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Item 2A**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
Member Roster  
2020-2021**



<b>Voting Members</b>		
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez	
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale	
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto – <b>VICE CHAIR</b>	
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez	
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders	
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon - <b>CHAIR</b>	
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Pena	
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Grace Garner	
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich	
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Councilmember John Preckwinkle III	
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Vacant	
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>		
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Robert Bradbury, Emergency Services Manager	
Cathedral City Police	George Crum, Chief of Police	
Cathedral City Fire	John Muhr, Fire Chief	
Desert Hot Springs Police	Jim Henson, Chief of Police	
Thermal Sheriff Station	Herman Lopez, Captain	
Indio Police	Mike Washburn, Chief of Police	
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco	
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Dean Agnoletto, Captain	
Palm Springs Police	Bryan Reyes, Chief of Police	
Palm Springs Fire	J. Kevin Nalder, Fire Chief	
Riverside County Fire Department	Eddy Moore, Division Chief	
California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury, Commander	
U.S. Border Patrol	David Kim	
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin, District Attorney	
Riverside County Probation Department	Ron Miller, Chief Probation Officer	
<b>Staff</b>		
Tom Kirk, Executive Director	Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director	Tom Cox, Management Analyst

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2021



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 9:00 a.m. via Zoom videoconference, pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon, Chair
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Christy Holstege
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

City of Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
City of Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
City of Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
City of Palm Springs Police	Chief Bryan Reyes
City of Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder
Riverside County District Attorney	DA Mike Hestrin
Riverside County Probation	Christine Castro

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Aqua Caliente	Margaret Muhr
City of Cathedral City Fire	Chief John Muhr
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Capitan Dean Agnoletto
Riverside County Fire Department	Division Chief Eddy Moore
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Herman Lopez
California Highway Patrol	Commander Dennis Woodbury
U.S. Border Patrol	David Kim

**Others Present**

CVAG

Tom Kirk

CVAG

Erica Felci  
Tom Cox  
Oscar Vizcarra  
Trisha Stull  
Anyse Smith  
Kristen Nelson  
Juan Perez  
Pat Cooper  
Greg Rodriguez  
Joe DelGiudice  
Gerald Fineman  
Dennis Vrooman  
Joe DelGiudice  
Brad Anderson  
Shelley Vedrode  
One other joined video conference without full names listed

City of Indian Wells  
Riverside County Executive Office  
Riverside County District 4

Riverside County District Attorney

Riverside County Sheriff

Additional participants

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

Members of the Committee recited the pledge.

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

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, asked about the opportunities to express comment during meeting.

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

Councilmember Karina Quintanilla said that she had heard community interest in continuing listening sessions around race, diversity and policing.

Councilmember Roger Nuñez said he had heard concerns from Desert Hot Springs residents about the California Highway Patrol coming into the community for enforcement, and asked about coordination between departments.

Vice Chair Megan Beaman Jacinto addressed rumors about immigration check points, and noted the recent uptick in asylum seekers.

Chair Fermon highlighted how the public safety community had come together for a recent fundraiser to help an ailing child. He also praised the response to a hiker rescue.

Committee members asked staff to put listening sessions on an upcoming agenda so it could be discussed again.

### **6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS**

Chief Mike Washburn, City of Indio, provided an update on COVID-19 in the department and also addressed the influx of asylum seekers.

Chief Bryan Reyes, City of Palm Springs, gave an update that included highlighting how the use of police officers' body cameras helped identify someone who was posing as a bail agent.

Assistant District Attorney Gerald Fineman pointed out the change in California law that guides investigations into use of force.

District Attorney's Chief of Bureau of Investigation Joe DelGiudice noted the additional investigators who had been added to the division.

## **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER BEAMAN JACINTO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMOTRICH TO:**

### **A. Approve the February 8, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES AND 3 ABSENT**

<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Mark Carnevale</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Roger Nuñez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Greg Sanders</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Karina Quintanilla</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Christy Holstege</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>

## **8. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

### **A. Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis**

Juan Perez, Riverside County's new Chief Operating Officer, provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, particularly the availability of the vaccine. Member discussion ensued, and members expressed interest in having valley-specific statistics in addition to the countywide data. Mayor Christy Holstege also highlighted opportunities to coordinate the vaccine distribution with food distribution.

There was no action taken as this was an information item.

### **B. CV Housing First: Coordinated Response to Helping the CV 200**

Tom Kirk, along with Tom Cox, provided an update on CV Housing First Program, which has now transitioned to an in-house program. The presentation focused on the progress being made to help the CV200, and the coordination done with local law enforcement. Member discussion ensued, and Mr. Kirk and Mr. Cox addressed questions about the program.

There was no action as this was an informational item.

**C. CVAG Representative on Riverside County’s Emergency Medical Care Committee**

Erica Felci presented the staff report and noted that, due to a retirement, there was a need for a City Manager to serve on the Emergency Medical Care Committee. Member discussion ensued. Chair Fermon nominated Indio’s new City Manager, Bryan Montgomery, for the position.

**IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FERMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NUNEZ TO NOMINATE INDIO CITY MANAGER BRYAN MONTGOMERY TO SERVE AS CVAG’S REPRESENTATIVE ON RIVERSIDE COUNTY’S EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM, WHICH ENDS ON JUNE 30, 2022.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES AND 3 ABSENT**

<b>Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Mark Carnevale</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Roger Nuñez</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Greg Sanders</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember John Peña</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Karina Quintanilla</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Mayor Christy Holstege</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilmember Iris Smotrich</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>

**D. Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority, Public Safety Enterprise Communications and the Coordination of Radio Communications**

Riverside County Undersheriff Dennis Vrooman provided an overview of the transition of the Public Safety Enterprise Communications (PSEC) into the county’s Sheriff’s Department. Chair Fermon also highlighted the discussion being held among cities using the Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority for radio, and opened up the conversation to the police chiefs.

Member discussion ensued, including ex officio members. No action was taken as this was an informational item.

**9. INFORMATION – The following items were provided for information only:**

**A. Attendance Record**

**B. Meeting Reimbursements for Elected Committee Members**

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

Mr. Anderson commented on the format of public comment.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Upcoming Meetings via Zoom videoconference:

- Public Safety – Monday, June 14, 2021 at 9 a.m.
- Executive Committee – Monday, June 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Prior to the meeting adjournment, Committee members asked that CVAG staff provide the following updates on a future meeting agenda: community listening sessions and the plans for CVAG meetings once COVID-related restrictions are eased for public meetings.

Councilmember Smotrich also noted the importance of taking precautions when hiking, particularly as the weather gets warmer in the desert.

**12. ADJOURN**

Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erica Felci*  
Assistant to the Executive Director

**ITEM 8B**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee

June 14, 2021



**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Riverside County's Coordinated Response to Asylum Seekers

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** At the May meeting of the Public Safety Committee, members asked for an update on the efforts that Riverside County is leading to address asylum seekers who are entering Riverside County.

The Riverside County Asylum Seeker Response Program was launched in March 2021 to support the U.S. Customs and Border Protection response to asylum seekers entering the county. The response includes ensuring that asylum seekers who are released by Border Patrol, and legally seeking asylum in the United States, receive short-term transitional services, as well as participate in the testing and sheltering needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the County, more than 2,300 individuals, mostly families with children, had been released into Riverside County between March and mid-May. Of these, 52 percent are individuals who have not tested positive for or have been exposed to COVID-19, and they were connected to the Galilee Center, an eastern Coachella Valley-based nonprofit organization that fulfills the food, clothing and basic needs for local disadvantaged children, families, and farmworkers,

Riverside County estimates that, over the course of the next six months, the County will serve nearly 7,000 asylum seekers. In response, Riverside County's Board of Supervisors in May allocated \$750,000 to the Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions Department to implement Asylum Seeker Response Program. This included funding for the Galilee Center, which continues to work with the County on the response. The program also engages an array of other County departments – including public health, behavioral health, public social services and Riverside County Probation Department – to address the various social services needed, including mass care and shelter coordination, meal operations, travel assistance and other wraparound services.

Bruce Barton, Director of Riverside County's Emergency Management Department, will provide an update to the response at the June 14 meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

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

**Attachment:** Desert Sun story, May 24, 2021

INDIO

## Riverside County expects to aid 6,900 asylum seekers over next 6 months

**Eliana Perez** Palm Springs Desert Sun

Published 8:56 p.m. PT May 24, 2021 | Updated 2:17 p.m. PT May 25, 2021

Riverside County expects to assist nearly 7,000 asylum seekers released by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol over the next six months, and on Tuesday the board of supervisors voted to approve spending \$750,000 on temporary shelter and other services for the arrivals.

The funds will be divided between the Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions Department and the Galilee Center in Mecca.

The homelessness department will receive \$750,000 from Riverside County to implement a response program for asylum seekers through Sept. 30. Of that, the Galilee Center will receive \$300,000.

The funding is to support of case management services like short-term housing, intake and assessment, medical services, meal services and travel coordination.

Most of the money — \$378,000 — would pay for hotel rooms. Meals would cost \$30,000, staffing at hotels another \$30,000 and supplies, \$12,000. The \$300,000 for the Galilee Center is for "sheltering and wraparound services."

In documents prepared for the board of supervisors meeting, the county said it intends to seek federal funds to reimburse for 100% of the costs, which amount to \$108.70 per each of the 6,900 people expected.

On May 11, county spokesperson Brooke Federico told the Desert Sun that Riverside County had already received about 2,000 asylum seekers since early March.

Asylum seekers coming to the county are being tested for COVID-19. The state has set up a testing site in Indio; Federico said about half of those who have arrived in the county since March have been sent to quarantine before completing travel to their final destinations and reuniting with sponsors or families.

Galilee Center Founder Gloria Gomez said the center has received asylum seekers since 2019, with most of them arriving in El Centro in Imperial County first.

*Eliana Perez covers the eastern Coachella Valley. Email her at [eliana.perez@desertsun.com](mailto:eliana.perez@desertsun.com).*

**ITEM 8C**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
June 14, 2021



**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Continued Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Discuss and provide direction to staff on next steps**

**Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee:** Requested staff compile additional data by fall 2021 about what CVAG's member jurisdictions have done (Meeting of June 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Background:** At the December 7, 2020 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 20-008, which formally outlined CVAG's commitment to continuing the conversation in the Coachella Valley around race, diversity and policing. The resolution had developed out of extensive conversation by the Public Safety Committee, as well as an ad hoc committee formed in summer 2020 that was comprised of La Quinta Councilmember John Peña, Coachella Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto, Indio Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon and Palm Springs Mayor Christy Holstege.

The conversations by the Public Safety Committee, the ad hoc committee, and the community in general have centered on systemic racism, use of excessive force, public right to protest, and potential rioting. It also has included thoughtful input about potential next steps and best practices. Many of CVAG's member jurisdictions, and their law enforcement personnel, have held community listening sessions to keep this conversation moving forward. In February 2021, the Public Safety Committee received an update on Riverside County's own series of listening sessions, which had been done in partnership with the School of Public Policy at the University of California, Riverside. Recurring themes and topics emerged that included systemic racism and inequity; public safety and criminal justice reform; funding for social services; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; marijuana and industrial hemp; climate change; and education.

At the May 2021 meeting, several members of CVAG's Public Safety Committee inquired about what next steps, if any, CVAG may take as it pertains to listening sessions. CVAG staff coordinated with the ad hoc to have a meeting on June 3, 2021, which was attended by Mayor Pro Tem Fermon, Councilmember Peña and Palm Springs Councilmember Grace Garner, who the Palm Springs Council recently appointed to this committee. CVAG and County staff provided some options for soliciting input on these issues, and also acknowledged that CVAG's role is unique because CVAG does not have any policy control over local law enforcement.

The ad hoc members had a robust discussion and reached a consensus that CVAG should compile data on what cities and the County have done, but not immediately pursue any additional listening sessions or panels. The ad hoc members requested that this information be provided back to the Public Safety Committee in the fall of 2021.

CVAG staff is providing this information as a follow up. It is staff's recommendation that the Public Safety Committee discuss the issue and provide direction for next steps.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no cost to CVAG for this informational update. However, if listening sessions or panel discussions are led by CVAG, staff would note that funding would be needed because CVAG's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget, and the proposed Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget, do not include funding for a valleywide listening sessions.

The costs of community engagement would depend on the level and format. CVAG received preliminary estimates on a valleywide survey and data report range that ranged from \$11,200 to \$31,500, depending on the extensiveness of the data report. The work would include survey development, online and offline data collection, and data analysis and reporting.


Based on the Public Safety Committee's previous discussions, CVAG also solicited an initial estimate on the tele-townhall format, which costs about \$4,025 to reach about 40,000-47,000 phone numbers. Based on the size of the Coachella Valley, CVAG could need more than one of these to reach residents across all cities.

**Item 9A**

**COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE RECORD  
FY2020-2021**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>ATTENDED</b>
City of Blythe			○		○			○			○		0 out of 4
City of Cathedral City			●		●			●			○		3 out of 4
City of Coachella			○		●			●			●		3 out of 4
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		●			●			●		4 out of 4
City of Indian Wells			●		●			●			●		4 out of 4
City of Indio			●		●			●			●		4 out of 4
City of La Quinta			●		●			●			●		4 out of 4
City of Palm Desert			●		●			●			●		4 out of 4
City of Palm Springs			●		●			●			●		4 out of 4
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●			●			●		4 out of 4
Riverside County			●		●			●			○		3 out of 4
Aqua Caliente - <i>Vacant until June 2021</i>			*		*			*			*		0 out of 4
Cabazon Band - Vacant			*		*			*			*		0 out of 4
<b>Total Attendance Per Meeting</b>			<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>			<b>10</b>			<b>8</b>		

<b>Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>ATTENDED</b>
Agua Caliente			○		○			○			○		0 out of 4
Cathedral City Police			○		○			○			●		0 out of 4
Cathedral City Fire			○		○			○			○		0 out of 4
Desert Hot Springs Police			●		●			●			●		3 out of 4
Indio Police			●		●			●			●		3 out of 4
Thermal Sheriff Station			●		●			●			○		3 out of 4
Palm Desert Sheriff Station			●		●			○			○		2 out of 4
Palm Springs Police			●		●			●			●		3 out of 4
Palm Springs Fire			●		●			●			●		3 out of 4
Riverside County Fire			●		●			●			○		3 out of 4
Riverside County Sheriff			○		○			○			○		0 out of 4
California Highway Patrol			○		●			●			○		2 out of 4
U.S. Border Patrol			○		○			○			○		0 out of 4
District Attorney's Office			●		●			●			●		3 out of 4
County Probation Department			●		●			●			○		3 out of 4
<b>Total Attendance Per Meeting</b>			<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>			<b>9</b>			<b>6</b>		

Scheduled Dark Month   
 Vacant \*  
 Present ●  
 Absent ○

**ITEM 9B**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Public Safety Committee  
June 14, 2021



**Staff Report**

**Subject:** Member Survey on CVAG Meetings in Post-COVID environment

**Contact:** Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director, ([efelci@cvag.org](mailto:efelci@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** CVAG's committees have been meeting via video/teleconferencing since March 2020, when Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order to address public meeting procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has proven to be an efficient way to conduct business for CVAG, which covers an expansive geographic area across eastern Riverside County. Committee meetings have been well attended, leading to thoughtful and robust conversations on CVAG's policies, projects and programs. The 2020 General Assembly – which was held via Zoom – had a record-setting attendance among elected officials. The use of both videoconference and telephone access has also fostered public engagement, as people can join the meetings from a convenient location instead of driving to CVAG's Palm Desert conference room.

State officials recently announced that – as of June 15, 2021 – California will officially reopen and will no longer require social distancing. This will be in line with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new mask guidelines, which state it is safe for fully vaccinated people to skip face coverings and social distancing in nearly all situations, except for crowded indoor locations such as airplanes or public transit.

It remains unclear how the state's new guidance will impact the way public meetings are held. There are certainly benefits to meeting in person, particularly the personal connections and discourse that can occur when everyone is sitting around the same table. However, CVAG has 19 member jurisdictions, so it has a much larger committee membership than most agencies. Its meeting room is relatively small, especially when put in comparison to a city council chamber. CVAG's meeting room is also not set up for the hybrid format that some cities have initiated, with Council members meeting in person and general public participating via telecast or videoconference. Continued use of video conferencing also allows CVAG to help reduce vehicle miles traveled to its meetings, a practice that has demonstrated air quality and other environmental impacts in the last year.

CVAG staff anticipates that the June 2021 meetings will continue to be held virtually, which are the last meetings held before the standing committees go dark for the summer. CVAG staff will, in coming weeks, be seeking feedback from members on meeting formats that could be implemented this fall. CVAG staff will be circulating a survey to gather this input, including exploring the options of continuing with at least some form of videoconferencing, and plans to provide a summary report in September 2021.

**Fiscal Analysis:** CVAG does not anticipate any costs for the survey.

## COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022



CVAG STANDING COMMITTEES	DAY	TIME	JULY (Dark)	AUG (Dark)	SEPT	OCT (Dark)	NOV	DEC (Dark)	JAN	FEB	MAR (Dark)	APR	MAY	JUN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Last Monday	4:30 p.m.	-	-	27	-	H Dec 6	-	31	28	-	25	H June 6	27
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	10:00 a.m.	12	-	H Aug 30	-	1	-	3	7	-	4	2	6
COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	10:30 a.m.	-	-	9	-	H Nov18	-	13	10	-	14	12	9
DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	2:30 p.m.	19	16	20	18	15	-	H Jan 10	H Feb14	21	18	16	20
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	12:00 p.m.	-	-	9	-	H Nov18	-	13	10	-	14	12	9
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	9:00 a.m.	-	-	13	-	8	-	10	14	-	-	9	13
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	-	-	15	-	17	-	19	16	-	20	18	15
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Last Monday in June	6:00 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27

H = Holiday    \* = Special Meeting

AGENDAS CAN BE FOUND AT: [www.cvag.org](http://www.cvag.org).

UPDATED: June 1, 2021

**PLEASE NOTE:** When it becomes necessary to have a special meeting or to change the date of a meeting, committee members will be alerted and the change will be noted on the CVAG website calendar.