

ITEM 6A

**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 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 12:05 p.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Ross
Councilmember Russell Betts
Director JB Hamby
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Russ Martin
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Mayor Pro Tem Ron deHarte
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Agency

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Virgen
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

City of Blythe
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Riverside County – District 5

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Ross led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chair Ortiz provided various updates from recent Southern California Association of Governments' meetings, where he represents the region.

Councilmember Russell Betts requested that Agenda Item 7D be moved to the top of the action calendar to make sure there is ample time to discuss the matter.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve September 14, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR GRIFFITH TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Aye
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Ross	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	Absent
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Councilmember Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Councilmember deHarte	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

D. Dust Storms and Poor Air Quality Likely Resulting from Tropical Storm Hilary

This item was taken out of order at the direction of the Committee.

Executive Director Tom Kirk presented the staff report, including an overview of the damage from Tropical Storm Hilary and lingering air quality impacts. Mr. Kirk introduced Emily Nelson, CVAG's air quality consultant, who provided information regarding PM10 readings and changes seen since Tropical Storm Hilary.

Scott Epstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District's Program Supervisor of Air Quality, joined the meeting via Zoom videoconference to provide information regarding air quality warnings/advisories and daily forecasts.

Robust member discussion ensued, including discussion of the possible contributing factors and how to address it. Staff was directed to return with additional updates at future meetings.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

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

Program Manager Emmanuel Martinez presented the staff report.

Member discussion ensued regarding the study and the next steps for CVAG's role in securing a contractor.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ADDRESS THE COACHELLA VALLEY REPRESENTATION ON IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT ELECTRICAL SERVICES MATTERS BY:

- 1. NEGOTIATING TERMS AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGHEST RANKED RESPONSIBLE RESPONDER TO THE REQUEST FOR THE PROPOSALS FOR THE LONG-TERM GOVERNANCE AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN; CONTINGENT UPON:**
- 2. NEGOTIATING AND ENTERING INTO COST-SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH STAKEHOLDER AGENCIES TO COVER THE PLAN COSTS, WITH NO COST TO CVAG**

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Aye
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Ross	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	Absent
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Councilmember Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem deHarte	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

B. Partnership with Governor's Office of Planning and Research for the Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program

Program Manager Jacob Alvarez presented the staff report.

A brief member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM DEHARTE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PARTNER WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH AND INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTION AND RESILIENCY PROGRAM

AND ACCEPT \$100,000 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (EPA EJG2G) PROGRAM FOR THE COMMUNITY BASED CLIMATE RESILIENCE: CALIFORNIA EXTREME HEAT ADAPTION PLANNING PROJECT

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Aye
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Ross	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	Absent
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Councilmember Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Councilmember deHarte	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

C. Regional Opportunities for the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Program Manager Jacob Alvarez presented the staff report.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TAKE ANY NECESSARY STEPS FOR CVAG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBMISSION OF THE EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT APPLICATION, INCLUDING EXECUTING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTNERING AGENCIES, AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION CONCEPTS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA'S PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Aye
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Ross	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Virgen	Absent
Board Member Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Councilmember Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye

Director Martin	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Councilmember deHarte	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

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

- A. Attendance Record
- B. Upcoming Used Oil and Filter Recycling Events
- C. Rollout of California’s Solar Access Act

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

Deborah McGarrey from Southern California Gas Company shared information with the committee regarding tools they have implemented to notify customers regarding changes in prices and usage, as well as other assistance programs.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The committee will be contacted regarding the date of the next meeting to see if the February date remains necessary. If so, the next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, February 8, 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, January 29, 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 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Stueckle
Office Manager