

ITEM 6A

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes February 8, 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 12:00 p.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert. Zoom videoconferencing was available at locations in the Cities of Blythe and Bakersfield.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Ross
Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Virgen
Director JB Hamby
Councilmember Donna Griffith
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
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 Blythe (via Zoom)
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Imperial Irrigation District
City of Indian Wells (via Zoom)
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Director Anthony Bianco
Councilmember Russell Betts
Director Amber Duff
Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

Coachella Valley Water District
City of Desert Hot Springs
Mission Springs Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Riverside County – District 5

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Linda Evans led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, addressed the committee regarding items 7A and 7B on the agenda stating he has concerns on the items and will monitor today's updates on them.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Virgen announced that the City of Coachella is having a women's summit in March for Women's History Month and is seeking sponsors.

Chair Ortiz gave an update on recent discussions and actions by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Energy and Environment Committee and Regional Council.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve January 11, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR HAMBY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

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

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

B. Next Steps for Coachella Valley Energy Commission and Ongoing Analysis of Regional Alternative Governance

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

Program Manager Emmanuel Martinez presented the staff report.

Eric Douglas, founder and consultant of Leading Resources Inc. (LRI), and Jim Tracy, consultant with LRI, joined via Zoom to share the key parts of their proposal, next steps on the study and appreciation for the opportunity to work with CVAG on this project.

Member discussion ensued with Mr. Douglas answering questions from the committee.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

A. Update from the South Coast Air Quality Management District

Executive Director Tom Kirk presented the staff report, and introduced Ian MacMillan, South Coast Air Quality Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, who provided an update on the latest State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the Coachella Valley and the recent wind-driven dust events.

Member discussion ensued with Mr. MacMillan answering questions from the committee.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, addressed the committee and expressed his concern about public comment and asked the committee to resume accepting comments at individual agenda items.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, April 11, 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, February 26, 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,

Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst