

CVAG

**ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 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**

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/89485040102?pwd=NEpnSjB2OERrRG55bitCZDdTc0lEdz09>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128
Webinar ID: 894 8504 0102
Password: 607994**

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 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. 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

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3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Anyone wishing to address the Energy & Sustainability Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. At the discretion of the Chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approve the May 9, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

P5

B. Approve Amendment No. Five to the professional services agreement with the Southern California Mountains Foundation, authorizing the next cycle of Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program at a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 and extending the contract term through October 2025

P8

C. Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary actions, including the related agreements with the County of Riverside and College of the Desert, to receive available funding from the Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Grant Program for the region’s Smart Scalping and Landscape Certification Program

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7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. Imperial Irrigation District’s Coachella Valley Resiliency Initiative – Paul Rodriguez, IID’s Deputy Energy Manager

P17

Recommendation: Information

- B. **Increasing air quality concerns from the desert tourism industry, realtors, healthcare professionals and residents** **P18**

Recommendation: Information

- C. **Coordination with South Coast Air Quality Management District – Scott Epstein, SCAQMD Planning and Rules Manager** **P20**

Recommendation: Information

8. **INFORMATION**

- A. Attendance Record **P25**

- B. CVAG Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2024/25 **P26**

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

Any member of the public wishing to address the Committee on items not appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 2 minutes. At the discretion of the Chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, September 12, 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, June 24, at 4:30 p.m. at the Desert Hot Springs Recreation Center, 11-750 Cholla Dr, Desert Hot Springs, 92240.

The next meeting of the **General Assembly** will be held on Monday, June 24, at 6 p.m. at the Desert Hot Springs Recreation Center, 11-750 Cholla Dr, Desert Hot Springs, 92240.

11. **ADJOURN**

ITEM 2A

**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Member Roster
2023 – 2024**



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

ITEM 6A

**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 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 12:12 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.
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 Anthony Bianco
Councilmember Russell Betts
Director JB Hamby
Councilmember Dana Reed (*alternate*)
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper

Agency

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Blythe (via Zoom)
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
Riverside County – District 4

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Director Amber Duff
Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Mayor Pro Tem Ted Weill
Mayor Pro Tem Ron deHarte
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

Mission Springs Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
City of Rancho Mirage
City of Palm Springs
Riverside County – District 5

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director Tom Kirk led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mr. Kirk updated the Committee members regarding their request for an Imperial County/ lithium valley tour. He announced the tour will likely occur in the fall to avoid the summer heat.

Mr. Kirk also provided an update on CVAG's efforts to secure additional grant funding, including the recently completed application for an extreme heat grant.

Chair Ortiz requested CVAG put together a community perspective presentation on lithium valley for the Energy & Sustainability Committee or inviting community advocates on the item to speak during the tour.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve April 11, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETTS 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	Aye
Councilmember Betts	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Councilmember Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Absent
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem deHarte	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Weill	Absent
Deputy Chief Cooper	Aye
Secretary Santillanes	Absent

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Continued Coordination with South Coast Air Quality Management District

Program Manager Emmanuel Martinez presented the staff report and an update on the ongoing discussions with AQMD. Member discussion ensued.

No vote was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Dust Mitigation Efforts at the Salton Sea

Jessica Humes, Imperial Irrigation District's Senior Environmental Project Manager joined the committee via Zoom and provided a presentation on the topic.

A brief member discussion ensued regarding presented information.

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. Inland Regional Energy Network's 2023 Annual Report

C. Update from Imperial Irrigation District on the Coachella Valley Energy Resilience Initiative

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, June 13, 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, June 3, 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 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst

ITEM 6B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Sustainability Committee
June 13, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Contract Amendment for the Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program

Contact: Emily Langenbahn, Management Analyst (elangenbahn@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Approve Amendment No. Five to the professional services agreement with the Southern California Mountains Foundation, authorizing the next cycle of Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program at a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 and extending the contract term through October 2025

Background: CVAG annually applies for funding from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) for the Waste Tire Amnesty Program. In April 2024, CVAG was awarded TA7 funding for the Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program in the amount of \$50,000 from CalRecycle's Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program. Staff is now recommending a contract amendment with Southern California Mountains Foundation, which has performed the tire recycling services since 2020.

CVAG has participated in this tire recycling program since 2011. The previous cycle of this program yielded a total of 1,350 tires recycled, totaling 13.5 tons within CVAG's member jurisdictions through a series of 17 scheduled events. These tires were often collected from vacant properties where they were dumped illegally, retrieved from homeowners' yards, and even collected from roadways throughout the communities. The tires that are collected are all recycled into tire-derived aggregate, rubberized asphalt concrete or used for tire-derived products such as floor mats, drainpipes, mulch, office supplies and surfacing.

For the most current funding cycle, CalRecycle administered the funding later than normal due to some uncertainty of the funding statewide.

The Southern California Mountains Foundation was selected as the program contractor in 2020 after a request for proposals. The contract has been amended four times over the years to address funding awards and the timing of services, with the most recent amendment providing a no-cost time extension. Staff is now recommending Amendment No. 5 to continue the Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program for the 2024/2025 TA7 funding cycle. The Amendment will extend the contract to October 31, 2025, which is the end date for this grant period, and will be fully covered by the awarded grant amount. This authorization would also authorize the Executive Director and/or Legal Counsel to make clarifying changes before execution.

Fiscal Analysis: Amendment No. 5 with Southern California Mountains Foundation is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000. These services are covered by the next cycle of CalRecycle's Waste Tire Recycling Grant Program.

Attachments:

1. Amendment No. Five to the Professional Services Contract including scope of work and budget with Southern California Mountains Foundation

**AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE
TO THE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION
FOR THE
WASTE TIRE RECYCLING PROGRAM**

This **AMENDMENT NUMBER FIVE** is made and entered into this **24th day of June 2024**, by and between **COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**, a California joint powers agency (“**CVAG**”), and **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION (“CONSULTANT”)**, and is made with reference to the following background facts and circumstances. All other terms and conditions shall remain the same as stated in the original Agreement dated January 15, 2020 for the Waste Tire Recycling Program.

1. This Amendment Number Five extends the term of the Agreement to **October 31, 2025** coinciding with the CalRecycle’s amended Tire Amnesty 7 grant term extension.
2. This Amendment Number Five replaces Exhibit A. **PRICE FORMULA** in its entirety with the attached Exhibit A. **PRICE FORMULA** for a not-to-exceed amount of **\$50,000**.
3. This Amendment Number Five replaces Exhibit B. **SCOPE OF WORK** in its entirety with the attached Exhibit B. **SCOPE OF WORK**.
4. The total amount of the Agreement shall not exceed **\$145,978.21**

Original Agreement	January 15, 2020	\$45,978.21
Amendment Number One	September 27, 2021	No Cost
Amendment Number Two	September 26, 2022	\$50,000.00
Amendment Number Three	October 20, 2023	No Cost
Amendment Number Four	April 2, 2024	No Cost
Amendment Number Five	June 24, 2024	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
Total Agreement not-to-exceed		\$145,978.21

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this **Amendment Number Five** to be executed by their duly authorized representatives on this date:

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION

By: _____
Tom Kirk, Executive Director

By: _____
Stacy Gorin, Executive Officer

Contract No. CVAG-20-060-05
Project: Waste Tire Recycling Program

EXHIBIT A
PRICE FORMULA

Please refer to the following page for a detailed breakdown of the FY2024-2025 project budget for the not to exceed amount of \$50,000.

**Southern California
Mountains Foundation**
*Urban Conservation Corps of
the Inland Empire*



Grant/Client: CVAG
Project: TA7
Starting date
End date:

A) Personnel

Name & Title or Position Title	Total Hours	Hourly Wage	CVAG Grant Funds	Grantee Match Funds	Total
6 Corpsmember () for 8.00 hours per day for 16 days for 768 total hours.	768	\$ 46.58	\$ 35,773.44	\$ -	\$ 35,773.44
1 Coordinator () for 8.00 hours per day for 17 days for 136 total hours.	136	\$ 23.00	\$ 3,127.99	\$ -	\$ 3,127.99
	0		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total - A) Personnel			\$ 38,901.43	\$ -	\$ 38,901.43

B) Fringe Benefits

Name & Title or Position Title	Salary/Wage Base	Fringe Benefit Rate %	CVAG Grant Funds	Grantee Match Funds	Total
Corpsmember/Volunteer benefits are included in hourly Corpsmember-/Volunteer rate	\$ 35,773.44	0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Benefits for Coordinator (7.65% FICA, 5.20% SUI, 7.74% Workers Comp, 0.00% Health Ins, 3% 403b match) for 23.59% total benefit rate.	\$ 3,127.99	23.59%	\$ 737.89	\$ -	\$ 737.89
	\$ -	16.83%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total - B) Fringe Benefits			\$ 737.89	\$ -	\$ 737.89

C) Travel:

Proposed Other Travel Reimbursements:	Cost per Mile	No. of Miles	CVAG Grant Funds	Grantee Match Funds	Total
100 roundtrip miles for 16 trips for 1600 total miles at \$0.670 cost per mile for .	\$ 0.670	1600	\$ 1,072.00	\$ -	\$ 1,072.00
C) Total Travel Costs:			\$ 1,072.00	\$ -	\$ 1,072.00

D)Supplies:

Item	Quantity	Cost per unit	CVAG Grant Funds	Grantee Match Funds	Total
Misc supplies	1	\$ 111.67	\$ 111.67	\$ -	\$ 111.67
Total - D)Supplies:			\$ 111.67	\$ -	\$ 111.67

	CVAG Grant Funds	Grantee Match Funds	Total
Total Direct Costs	\$ 40,822.99	\$ -	\$ 40,822.99
Indirect rate at 22.48%	\$ 9,177.01	\$ -	\$ 9,177.01
Grant Grand Total	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00

EXHIBIT B

SCOPE OF WORK

The following scope of work identifies the tasks that are basic elements of the Waste Tire Recycling Program. Consultant is encouraged to include recommendations and creative suggestions for enhancements to the program that could result in greater participation and more waste tire recycling. The consultant will be responsible for an initial meeting with CVAG staff to review scope of work, project tasks, role of key project participants, and deliverables for the program.

Waste Tire Recycling Events

Task 1: Event Coordination

- Survey participating cities to create a schedule of events, determine level of city staff participation at the events, assess advertising opportunities and preferences, and identify support needs for member jurisdictions
- Coordinate with auto parts and tire stores and local jurisdictions to reserve event dates.
- Coordinate the preparation and submittal of all necessary permits, certificates of insurance, and other documents as required.
- Develop detailed event schedule (up to 7 Events)
- Develop contract(s) for waste tire hauling and recycling with Waste Tire Hauler.
- Coordinate with Waste Tire Hauler on events, certification, and proper disposal.
- Develop logistics/operational plan and program details.
- Obtain commitment from retailers (auto part and tire stores) to post event information/advertise events
- Prior to each event, contact participating store to ensure sufficient capacity for used tires, that promotional items have been delivered, and confirm all event logistics.
- Ensure that one representative fluent in Spanish is available for each event.

Task 2: Event Education and Marketing

- Coordinate design, printing, and distribution of event flyers and other printed material with CVAG and member jurisdictions (English and Spanish).
- Coordinate with CVAG staff to develop event marketing/advertising (radio, print, other media), promotional items necessary to complete the program.
- Coordinate the development of contracts as appropriate for CVAG approval with media outlets for pre-event advertising and onsite programs.
- Create billing inserts in English and Spanish to be mailed with Waste Hauler billing.
- If requested by CVAG, consultant will obtain from two or three vendors' price quotes for promotional items, and media expenditures.

Task 3: Program Measurement and Monitoring

The grant funding from CalRecycle requires program measurement and monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the program in meeting goals. Program measurement and monitoring is also needed to assess program effectiveness in meeting the needs of CVAG jurisdictions.

- Track and document for each Waste Tire Recycling Event, various program measurements including.
 - Location
 - Assessor Parcel Number/Address
 - Number of Tires o Number of Participants
 - Media Outreach (How did Participant become aware of event)
- Provide event data to participating auto parts & tire stores
- Include event data in reports to the Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Working Group.
- Coordinate with the event locations to collect data one month and three months after each event
- Provide a memorandum documenting the event statistics and assessment of program effectiveness.
- Help prepare final report to CalRecycle

Task 4: Grant Application and Report Assistance

The grant performance period ends September 30, 2023. The consultant is expected to prepare and submit the Final Report for the Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program, in coordination with CVAG staff during the Report Preparation period October 23, 2023-October 30, 2023. The Final Report is due October 31, 2023.

Task 5: Provide Support at Meetings as Requested by CVAG

The consultant will be expected to provide support to the CVAG Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Working Group meetings as requested by CVAG. This support could include attendance at meetings to report on the Waste Tire Recycling Program, preparation of staff reports, and other updates on the program as needed.

ITEM 6C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee

June 13, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Smart Scalping and Funding the Landscape & Irrigation Certification with College of the Desert

Contact: Emily Langenbahn, Management Analyst (elangenbahn@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary actions, including the related agreements with the County of Riverside and College of the Desert, to receive available funding from the Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Grant Program for the region's Smart Scalping and Landscape Certification Program

Background: Since the early 1990s, CVAG has coordinated efforts to improve air quality and help the Coachella Valley address its non-attainment status for particulate matter. This has included coordinating regional air quality programs such as the street sweeping program to control PM10 (particulate matter of less than 10 microns). PM10 in the Coachella Valley comes from dust-generating activities, including vehicles traveling over paved or unpaved streets and construction. It also comes from landscaping activities, such as scalping grass in the fall season in preparation for the winter rye grass.

To enhance air quality improvement efforts, CVAG launched a landscape certification program to mitigate air quality issues related to scalping and re-seeding of winter rye grass. The program was based on research conducted with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the University of California, Riverside, and the Hi-Lo Desert Golf Course Superintendents Association to analyze the harmful dust particles generated from scalping. CVAG's non-scalping technique helps to reduce harmful dust particles by 99 percent. Therefore, creating healthier grass through efficient, effective and environmentally sound turf re-seeding practices. In turn, helping to reduce dust and improve air quality and public health for the region.

CVAG has maintained a longtime partnership with College of the Desert's Landscape & Irrigation Technician Certificate of Achievement to provide comprehensive training and certification for aspiring landscapers. With a focus on sustainability, environmental stewardship, and modern landscaping techniques, the program equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the landscaping and irrigation industry.

As an alternative to using scalping as a technique to prepare for the winter rye grass, the program educates landscapers, through the certification course, to use a technique that does not scrape down to the dirt before winter rye grass is planted. By waiting until the Bermuda grass goes dormant, scalping can be eliminated from this traditional process, helping to keep the air clean and healthy for tourists and residents of the Coachella Valley. CVAG staff, in partnership with the College of the Desert, has also worked with all the Coachella Valley cities so that landscapers who are renewing or receiving a new business license at each city, are educated and certified on the non-scalping re-seeding process. By helping to increase educational opportunities for landscapers, widespread use of winter rye grass re-seeding technique can increase.

Currently, partial funding for this program is managed by both Riverside County and CVAG through the Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Fund, also known as COLMAC funds. COLMAC funding offers several benefits to the existing program at College of the Desert, including industry expertise, practical training, networking opportunities, and resource access to those seeking a professional career in landscaping and irrigation while providing high-quality education and training in sustainable landscaping practices.

This particular portion of COLMAC funding was directly supplied by the Desert View Power Plant facility, also known as GreenLeaf Power, which suspended its operations in Mecca on April 30, 2024. Prior to this shutdown, the Environmental Protection Agency found Desert View Power Plant had emitted illegally high levels of mercury and other dangerous pollutants in the eastern Coachella Valley, leading to an abrupt halt in its operations until further notice.

Because of this unexpected shutdown, funding for this portion of COLMAC allocated to the Landscape & Irrigation Technician Certificate of Achievement from College of the Desert will only have enough remaining funds for one additional fiscal year, FY2024-2025. This means until further notice, the COLMAC funding for this program is expected to conclude on June 30, 2025.

CVAG staff is now working with Riverside County to assess how much funding is available in order to extend the program through the upcoming fiscal year. This information is expected to be finalized after the next meeting of the Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Committee, which is convening this month. Staff anticipates providing a finalized amount when this item is presented to the Executive Committee for approval on June 24.

Fiscal Analysis: The costs for the Landscape Certification Program is about \$40,000 per year. Staff anticipates the available funding from the Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Program will fund an additional year of the program. Should anything change concerning the Desert View Power Plant facility prior to the close of the next fiscal year, the committee will reconvene to discuss the potential extension of funds.

ITEM 7A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee

June 13, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Imperial Irrigation District's Coachella Valley Resiliency Initiative

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager - External Affairs (emartinez@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The eastern Coachella Valley has repeatedly been impacted by microburst storms that caused considerable damage to Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) electrical infrastructure. These events have significant negative impacts on the public's health and safety as they have occurred during the hot summers months when energy reliability is most needed to run air conditioners and keep people cool. To address this issue and increase the resiliency of the electrical infrastructure, IID has sought outside funding to enhance the reliability, public safety and resiliency for impacted areas in the Coachella Valley.

A microburst storm is defined by the National Weather Service as a downdraft (sinking air) in a thunderstorm that is less than 2.5 miles in scale which can cause significant damage to life and property and can reach windspeeds as high as 150 miles per hour in extreme cases.

On June 5, 2020, microburst wind gusts of 41 miles per hours damaged and fell 53 transmission and distribution poles along a 2.5 mile stretch near Avenue 68 in the unincorporated community of Mecca. This affected 1,839 customers, although 1,765 had power restored within 90 minutes of the outage. In September 2021, a similar event destroyed more than 30 electrical poles, causing approximately 1,400 customers to lose power in the North Shore area. Given the severity of these events to customers as well as the cost to repair, the IID Board of Directors and the County of Riverside have declared them a Local Emergency, which also increases opportunities for funding from state and federal sources. Specifically, IID has coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and California Office of Emergency Services for funding.

As noted in the Energy & Sustainability Committee's May agenda, IID secured \$38 million for energy infrastructure and resilience improvements to electrical infrastructure in the eastern Coachella Valley. The K-Line Transmission Hardening Project, which includes a redesign and strengthening of the line, will receive \$31.8 million and will directly benefit the communities of Mecca, North Shore and Bombay Beach. Another \$2.4 million will be allocated to Mecca/North Shore area to enhance service reliability in that area, and \$3.9 for portable generators, to assist in ensuring service during extreme weather events.

IID's Deputy Energy Manager Paul Rodriguez will provide additional details during a presentation at the June meeting of the Energy & Sustainability Committee.

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

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee

June 13, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Increasing air quality concerns from the desert's tourism industry, realtors, healthcare professionals and residents

Contact: Tom Kirk, Executive Director (tkirk@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At its January 2024 meeting, the Energy & Sustainability Committee had a robust discussion about the region's air quality and the increasing concerns about the mud and sediment that remains on the valley floor following Tropical Storm Hilary. Committee members had requested several follow ups with partner agencies, which led to a presentation in February 2024 from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). CVAG staff has also reached out to the local school districts to explore opportunities for increased coordination on poor air quality days, when individuals should be staying indoors.

The May meeting of the Energy & Sustainability Committee will have a two-part focus on air quality. The first part of the meeting will focus on hearing the concerns being raised by key stakeholders, including the Convention & Visitors Bureau, about the potential long-term impacts that poor air quality will have on the region. The concerns are two-fold: That there will be detrimental effects to public health due to increased exposure and that there will be economic impacts to the regional economy based on a potential decline in tourism.

Anchoring the first part of this meeting will be a presentation by the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation's Chief Executive Officer Chris Christensen and Chief of Community Engagement Alejandro Espinoza. In December 2023, the District adopted its two-year Strategic Plan, which incorporated an environmental focus into its vision for grants and investments. The District's high priority goals are to "be responsive to and supportive of selected community initiatives that enhance the environment in the District's service area, pertaining to these strategies: 1) Play a role in raising awareness of the impact of air quality in the Coachella Valley on the health of community residents and be a catalyst for community organizations to act in implementing solutions, and 2) Play a role in raising awareness of the impact of poor water quality in the Coachella Valley on the health of community residents and be a catalyst for community organizations to act in implementing solutions."

On June 4, the DHCD staff kicked off the development of a request for proposals for a project aimed at mitigating air quality related health conditions. The meeting, which CVAG staff attended, allowed stakeholders to review, discuss, and provide input on current findings by the District.

The presentation is part of CVAG's efforts to address the air quality concerns stemming from Tropical Storm Hilary. The unprecedented August 2023 storm left behind new mud and

sediment, comprised of fine silt, that seems to be the cause of the valley's recent air quality problems. This silt is much smaller than gravel and sand that is typically deposited during storms. Such small diameter material appears to be much more likely to become airborne, even during the fall, which isn't the desert's windiest season. Rough estimates showed that there are more than 6,500 acres of such muddy deposits from Mission Creek's flood flows.

CVAG staff has not only been working with its member jurisdictions' staffs to encourage the application of soil stabilizer, but also raising awareness about the air quality impacts the valley will experience if left unaddressed. Poor air quality is not only bad for residents' health, but also bad for the health of the regional economy. Based on the preliminary findings of hourly PM10 data, there have been several days of extremely high levels of PM10 (Particulate Matter of 10 microns or less) since the storm. CVAG staff has also had several meetings with AQMD leadership to urge more action be taken, although AQMD leadership maintains that air quality levels are returning to normal.

PM 10 problems have long plagued the Coachella Valley. As detailed in a separate agenda item, CVAG staff continues to advocate for additional data and collaborate to address the current conditions, as continued dusty days will inevitably hurt the public's health and the regional tourism economy.

Fiscal Analysis: There are no additional costs to CVAG for providing this update.

Attachment:

KESQ June 5 news story "Local leaders urge SCAQMD to acknowledge and help address worsened air quality conditions post-Hilary: <https://kesq.com/news/2024/06/05/local-leaders-urging-scaqmd-to-acknowledge-and-help-address-worsened-coachella-valley-air-quality-conditions-post-hillary/>

ITEM 7C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee

June 13, 2024



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Coordination with South Coast Air Quality Management District

Contact: Tom Kirk, Executive Director (tkirk@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Both the Executive Committee and the Energy & Sustainability Committee have had robust discussions about the region's air quality and the increasing concerns about the mud and sediment that remains on the valley floor following Tropical Storm Hilary. The May meeting of the Energy & Sustainability Committee will have a two-part focus on air quality. Following an update by the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation and input from concerned stakeholders (detailed in a separate staff report), the Committee will hear an update from Scott Epstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Planning and Rules Manager.

SCAQMD has done extensive analysis of the particle pollution data collected since August 2023 at the existing PM10 monitors in Palm Springs and Mecca. Initially, SCAQMD reported that there were higher levels of particle pollution than would have been expected based on the wind speed when comparing to pre-Hilary conditions. However, SCAQMD maintains that these impacts at these stations have largely returned to pre-Hilary conditions over the past several months. SCAQMD has also reopened a permanent monitoring station in Indio and developed plans to install a temporary PM10 monitor near the stormwater channel in Cathedral City. The air monitor will be located in the northeast corner of Gene Autry Trail and Vista Chino, to help better collect data related to the sediment deposits from the storm.

CVAG staff have met several times with SCAQMD staff, and disagree that the region's air quality is returning to normal levels. This included a meeting on May 10, CVAG staff met in-person with SCAQMD executive management to discuss the growing and alarming concerns regarding the increased frequency and severity of air quality concerns in the Coachella Valley. The meeting included Wayne Natri, SCAQMD's Executive Officer, Davis Meyer with Visit Greater Palm Springs (Convention and Visitors Bureau), and County of Riverside Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, who assisted with facilitating the discussion. Although SCAQMD recognized that there was an increase in federal air quality exceedances post-Hilary, the staff at SCAQMD maintain that their data demonstrates that windblown dust events are in line with patterns experienced in past years. Despite this assertion, CVAG staff explained that from a qualitative perspective, the air quality conditions have been unlike past years. The dust plaguing the Coachella Valley is aerosolized for prolonged periods of time and is finer, begging the question as to whether the dust is a size between PM 2.5 and PM 10 and identifying the need to analyze this issue further, both from a quantitative and qualitative perspective.

CVAG and others are also hearing from residents who are expressing frustration with the frequency of poor air quality days. If conditions persist, it is CVAG staff's position that there will

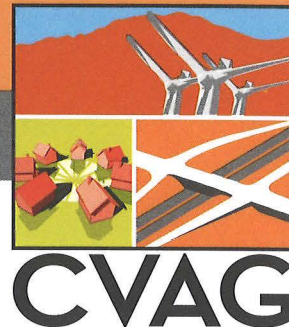
be significant negative impacts to public health, especially for vulnerable populations, as well as negative impacts to the region's highly dependent tourism economy. CVAG's air quality consultant, Emily Nelson, has been assisting with these efforts, including reaching out to the state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, who has expressed interest in conducting a preliminary epidemiological study to see if local health effects have been more severe since the storm event in August. These efforts could help with long-term strategies to understand the current health impacts of poor air quality. However, immediate action, such as soil stabilization and other dust control methods, is needed to avoid the detrimental effects to public health due to increased exposure as well as economic impacts to the regional economy.

Fiscal Analysis: There are no additional costs to CVAG for providing this update.

Attachment: CVAG letter to SCAQMD, May 31, 2024

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 200, Palm Desert, CA 92260 · (760) 346-1127 · www.cvag.org



May 31, 2024

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Re: Air quality is not “back to normal” in the Coachella Valley and more must be done to address the horrible conditions

Dear Mr. Nastri,

On or before May 20, 2024, La Quinta resident Ron Holmes called South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) staff to express a concern that is now pervasive in the Coachella Valley: our air quality is unprecedentedly horrible this Spring. According to Mr. Holmes, your staff informed him that air quality was improving, had actually returned to normal conditions and there was nothing the South Coast AQMD could do about the conditions. Instead, he was referred to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG). I share Mr. Holmes’ opinion that air quality conditions are not normal, and I believe South Coast AQMD, along with CVAG and others, can and must do more to address the conditions.

The message your team shared with Mr. Holmes is much like the one you and your staff shared when we met on May 10, 2024. The meeting in Rancho Mirage, facilitated by Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, you and your staff told representatives from the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of La Quinta and myself that air quality is back to “normal” conditions in the Coachella Valley and there wasn’t much that South Coast AQMD could do beyond monitoring, analysis and warnings. I disagree.

After unprecedented levels of dust in August and September of 2023, I reached out to your staff to meet on October 25, 2023 with some of the same concerns that many are expressing now: Tropical Storm Hilary deposits were of a very different quality – very fine muds – than typical sandy larger diameter deposits in our stream beds and they were deposited in the headwinds along Interstate 10 in the western Coachella Valley, an area notorious for being a source for PM10. Your team was already adjusting warning systems to account for the lower wind speeds which were now kicking up dust. Your team also responded to the need to add or replace a monitor in the City of Indio. I appreciate those efforts – but they are only the start of what needs to be done. At that meeting, I expressed my grave concern that these small, clay deposits might again create horrible air quality conditions in our windy, Spring season. Your staff expressed their opinion that revegetation and winter rains would ameliorate matters and air quality conditions would return to normal. They have not.

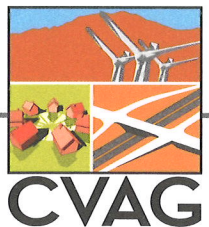
CVAG has no regulatory mandate nor statutory authority to address air quality. But due to the risk to our public health and largest economic industry, tourism, it was clear to me then and even more clear now that we must do something to address this urgent situation. With some encouragement, our cities and Caltrans responded to the potential springtime threat by applying soil stabilizer wherever possible and seeking financial relief from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which provided funding opportunities after President Biden approved an emergency declaration associated with storm's damage. However, we must do more and do so in partnership with you and your team at South Coast AQMD. South Coast AQMD is the largest and, most would argue, most effective air district in the nation with an unambiguous regulatory role. But we cannot let a regulatory focus lead to a continued disconnect between your staff's impression of normal and our daily experiences here.

Regulatory reporting requires a 24-hour average of PM 10 to be calculated from midnight to midnight. Yet this misrepresents the reality of what people in the Coachella Valley are experiencing on a far-too-frequent basis in recent months. For example, 24-hour average from 3:00 p.m. April 24 to 3:00 p.m. April 25, 2024, was 492 ug/m³ at the South Coast AQMD's new monitoring station in Indio. Those two April afternoons also coincided with some of the busiest times in the desert, when thousands of visitors are headed to the desert. April 24 was the ramp up to the Stagecoach Music Festival, and one of the largest country music festivals in the world. About 75,000 festival goers were traveling to the desert and spending the majority of their time outdoors. Tens of thousands of festival-related workers join the ranks of the tens of thousands in the desert who are already working outside. PM 10 data recorded for April 24 showed one-hour averages of 675, 765, 688, 1126, 759, 1126 and 1250 ug/m³ from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., respectively. April 25 also had considerable poor air quality between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m., with the highest 1-hour average of 639 ug/m³ at 2 p.m. Barely a month later, on May 24, the Coachella Valley experienced yet another poor air quality day with 1-hour PM 10 readings of 298 at the Mecca monitoring station at 5 p.m., when people are coming home from work and children are playing outside.

Because these high levels did not coincide with a midnight-to-midnight 24-hour period, these days might go unreported as an exceedance of federal air quality standards. However, these concentrations represent severe exposure across two afternoons and evenings, exposing residents and visitors to hazardous air quality conditions. For those not in the desert, they might not realize what those dusty afternoons look like: school activities being brought indoors; people pulling out those COVID-era masks just to make a trip to the grocery store; co-workers and friends coughing and sneezing uncontrollably; and a thin layer of dust covering cars, roads, patios and everywhere else you look outside. The impacts to the public's welfare are clearly noticeable as aerosolized particles produce a persistent haze that is visible long after winds have died down. Given the welfare effects of reduced visibility, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) established ambient air quality standards for visibility reducing particles to protect public welfare in addition to the Clean Air Act's health based PM10 standards.

The time for action is now.

Stakeholders throughout the Coachella Valley – including residents, business owners, and health professionals – are urging us to take more action over the noticeably worse air quality, which is unlike anything experienced in previous years. I recommend that the South Coast AQMD consider at least the following steps:



- *Re-evaluating its position that conditions have returned to normal:* Perhaps through the lens of whether our air basin is in compliance or not with Federal and State rules, conditions this Spring may seem similar to previous periods. Yet even the data presented by South Coast AQMD's on May 2, 2024 demonstrated that the PM10 levels for six of the nine months after Tropical Storm Hilary were higher than the averages routinely seen at the Mecca and Palm Springs stations before the storm. As we have shared, the nature of the dust in the air and into our lungs is very different too, much smaller and easily aerosolized. South Coast AQMD staff's expertise can be employed to understand if dust is in fact "smaller" than in past years and thus more dangerous.
- *Fully participating with the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation (DHCD) and regional efforts to understand and address the health impacts from this air quality:* These efforts will help raise awareness and build a coalition of partners to better understand facts and data, as well as identify additional data needed to help determine implementation strategies to improve air quality related health outcomes for Coachella Valley residents and visitors. DHCD is holding a listening session at 10 a.m. on June 4 at the Regional Access Project Foundation, located at 41500 Eclectic Street in Palm Desert.
- *Partnering with CVAG to develop a methodology to prove, or disprove, that the source area for much of the fine particles are the approximately 6,000 acres of mud deposits from Tropical Storm Hilary:* Such an analysis could potentially support efforts to continue to use FEMA funding for mitigation and/or prevention.
- *Joining with CVAG to evaluate the efficacy of the soil stabilizers that were applied post-Hilary:* Based on the data, we could develop a methodology and approach for applying additional soil stabilizers across the region. I also encourage the South Coast AQMD to help us identify funding to support these efforts.

Many of us share La Quinta resident Mr. Holmes' opinion that our air quality conditions post-Hilary are not "normal." I look forward to hearing from your team, which has already agreed to attend CVAG's Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting at noon on June 13. I also stand ready to work with you to address this persistent threat to public health and our economy.

Sincerely,



Tom Kirk
Executive Director

CC:

V. Manuel Perez, 4th District Supervisor, County of Riverside
CVAG Executive Committee
CVAG Energy and Sustainability Committee
Scott White, President & CEO, Convention and Visitors Bureau
Chris Christensen, CEO, Desert Healthcare District & Foundation



ITEM 8A

**ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILTY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY 2023-2024**

VOTING MEMBERS	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	-	-		-		-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	
City of Blythe	-	-		-		-		✓	-	✓	✓	
City of Cathedral City	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	
City of Coachella	-	-	✓	-	✓	-		✓	-	✓	✓	
Coachella Valley Water District	-	-		-		-			-	✓	✓	
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	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	-	-		-		-			-			
EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS												
Desert Water Agency	-	-		-		-			-			
Riverside County - District 5	-	-		-		-			-			

Absent  No Meeting -
 Vacancy ****** Present ✓

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025



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.	-	-	30	-	H Dec 2	-	27	24	-	28	H June 2	30
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	1 st Monday	10:00 a.m.		-	H Aug 26	-	4	-	6	3	-	7	5	2
COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2 nd Thursday	10:30 a.m.	-	-	12	-	14	-	9	13	-	10	8	12
DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY	3 rd Monday	3:00 p.m.	-	-	16	21	18	-	H Jan 13	H Feb 10	17	21	19	16
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE	2 nd Thursday	12:00 p.m.	-	-	12	-	14	-	9	13	-	10	8	12
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE	2 nd Monday	9:00 a.m.	-	-	9	-	H Nov 18	-	13	10	-	-	12	9
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE	3 rd Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	-	-	18	-	20	-	15	19	-	16	21	18
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Last Monday in June	6:00 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30

H = Holiday * = Special Meeting

AGENDAS CAN BE FOUND AT: www.cvag.org.

UPDATED: May 31, 2024

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.