



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

9:00 a.m.

**Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room
75515 Hovley Lane East
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/82736053384?pwd=qZYWxg06R6H6wrCa4gFpNJZlkXpV3O.1>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128
Webinar ID: 827 3605 3384
Password: 661396**

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 June 9, 2025, meeting of the Public Safety Committee**

P5

7.1 **ITEMS HELD OVER FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**

A. **Countywide Immigration Resources** – Grace Garner, Senior Legislative Analyst for Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

P10

Recommendation: Information

- B. **Regional Signal Synchronization and CV Sync's Public Safety Benefits –** **P15**
Kristopher Gunterson

Recommendation: Information

- C. **Election of Public Safety Committee Officers –** Tom Kirk **P17**

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Safety Committee for Fiscal Year 2025-26

9. **INFORMATION**

- A. **Attendance Record** **P19**

- B. **New location of CVAG's public meetings** **P20**

- C. **Countywide policy to address homeless encampments** **P21**

- D. **Efforts to Address Reoccurring 911 Outages in the Coachella Valley** **P55**

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, November 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, September 29, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item 2A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
Member Roster
2025-2026**



Voting Members	
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	Steve Shaw, Chief of Police
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin, District Attorney
Indio Police	Brian Tully, Chief of Police
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Jason Sexton, 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	Gregory Bovino, Chief Patrol Agent

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes June 9, 2025



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 Raymond Gregory, City of Cathedral City, at 9:00 a.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

City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Indio
City of Indian Wells
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Rancho Mirage

Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez
Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory, *Chair*
Councilmember Waymond Fermon, *Vice Chair*
Councilmember Toper Taylor
Councilmember John Peña
Councilmember Eve Fromberg Edelstein
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla

Ex-Officio Members Present

Desert Hot Springs Police
Cathedral City Fire
Cathedral City Police
Indio Police Department
Palm Springs Fire
Palm Springs Police
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation

Sergeant Cory Carranza
Fire Chief Michael Contreras
Deputy Chief Rick Sanchez
Chief Brian Tully
Fire Chief Paul Alvarado
Sergeant Kevin Lu
Lieutenant Daniel Porras

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Palm Springs
County of Riverside
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
California Highway Patrol
District Attorney's Office
Riverside County Fire
Riverside County Probation
Riverside County Sheriff's Department
Thermal Sheriff Station
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

Councilmember Frank Figueroa
Councilmember Daniel Pitts
Councilmember Grace Garner
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez
Emergency Services Manager Robert Bradbury
Officer Castro
Asst DA Rodney Tethal
Deputy Chief Robert Fissh
Chief Probation Officer Christopher Wright
Sheriff Chad Bianco
Captain Michael Bianco
Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City of Palm Desert Councilmember Karina Quintanilla 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 announced CVAG's General Assembly will be held on Monday, June 30 at 6 p.m. at the Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa in Rancho Mirage and reminded all members to register.

Ms. Felci announced that this would be the Committee's final meeting in the current space, as the building is scheduled for demolition in early fall to make way for the City of Palm Desert's new public library. The City has committed to establishing a dedicated meeting space within the new library for CVAG's committees. In the meantime, CVAG is anticipating holding all meetings across the parking lot in the Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board room and will announce if anything changes.

[Administrative note: After the meeting, it was determined that meetings would be held at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, 92260]

City of Indian Wells Councilmember Topper Taylor requested a future agenda item on Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Coachella Valley.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

City of Indio Chief of Police Brian Tully informed the committee that a fiber optic cut occurred today, temporarily disabling Indio's 911 system. However, service remains unaffected, as the Palm Springs Police Department is assisting with 911 calls while repairs are underway.

Chief Tully also reported that a peaceful protest took place on June 8 at the Indio Border Patrol office.

Cathedral City Police Department Deputy Chief Rick Sanchez reported the City Council approved the Drone First Responder program which will assist the department to have aerial views of incidents or large events in real time.

Palm Springs Police Department Sergeant Kevin Lu reported that the city will have a busy weekend with many events taking place including Freedom Fest and the No Kings Rally.

Desert Hot Springs Police Department Sergeant Cory Carranza provided an update on the Community Response Team as well as announced the City would be hosting their Fireworks Spectacular on Saturday, July 5th at Mission Springs Park.

Riverside County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Daniel Porras emphasized the importance of preparing for the heat when engaging in outdoor activities, such as hiking, as summer has arrived. He noted that the department has already had to conduct rescues for hikers experiencing heat-related emergencies.

Cathedral City Fire Chief Michael Contreras provided an update on Measure W. Chief Contreras also announced they have five new members graduating the academy this month.

Palm Springs Fire Chief Paul Alvarado addressed the Committee on a range of topics, including coordination among agencies and safety at street events.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the minutes from the May 12, 2025, meeting of the Public Safety Committee

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES AND 5 MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	ABSENT
Councilmember Daniel Pitts	ABSENT
Councilmember Toper Taylor	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	ABSENT
Councilmember Eve Fromberg Edelstein	AYE
Supervisor V Manuel Perez	ABSENT
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez	ABSENT

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation: Keeping crowds safe during large street events

Deputy Chief Sanchez provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the preparation that goes into ensuring crowd safety during large street events.

Robust member discussion ensued with Deputy Chief Sanchez and other ex-officio members answering questions from the committee regarding preparation and available resources.

No action was taken as this was an informational only item.

B. CV Link Maintenance Agreement with Desert Recreation District

Assistant Director of Transportation Randy Bowman presented the staff report.

Member discussion ensued with Mr. Bowman answering questions from the committee, including collaboration with local law enforcement and funding being used from measure A.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER QUINTANILLA TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DESERT RECREATION DISTRICT FOR TWO YEARS, WITH AN OPTIONAL ONE-YEAR RENEWAL, FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$600,000 PER YEAR TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE CV LINK

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES AND 5 MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	ABSENT
Councilmember Daniel Pitts	ABSENT
Councilmember Toper Taylor	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	ABSENT
Councilmember Eve Fromberg Edelstein	AYE
Supervisor V Manuel Perez	ABSENT
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez	ABSENT

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

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FERMON TO APPOINT TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS' TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR SHAWN ISAAC TO SERVE AS CVAG'S REPRESENTATIVE ON RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM THAT ENDS ON JUNE 30, 2028

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 7 AYES AND 5 MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory	AYE
Councilmember Frank Figueroa	ABSENT
Councilmember Daniel Pitts	ABSENT
Councilmember Toper Taylor	AYE
Councilmember Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Councilmember Grace Garner	ABSENT
Councilmember Eve Fromberg Edelstein	AYE
Supervisor V Manuel Perez	ABSENT
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez	ABSENT

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

A. Attendance Record

B. CVAG Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year 2025-26

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Public Safety Committee** will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260. The meeting is expected to be held at the Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board, 73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, CA 92260. CVAG staff will confirm the location closer to the meeting date.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 30, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, 71333 Dinah Shore Dr., Rancho Mirage, 92270.

The next meeting of the **General Assembly** will be held on Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa, 71333 Dinah Shore Dr., Rancho Mirage, 92270.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gregory adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Elysia Regalado*, Management Analyst

ITEM 8A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee September 8, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Countywide Immigration Resources

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At a recent meeting, members of the Public Safety Committee expressed an interest in having CVAG staff provide an update on immigration resources and coordination. With this report, staff is providing an update of efforts underway by Riverside County to coordinate resources.

On January 28, 2025, just a week after President Trump's inauguration, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors had a robust discussion about immigration and directed the County Executive Officer and County Counsel to prepare a resolution affirming that the County of Riverside is a "vibrant, compassionate, and inclusionary county for all law-abiding immigrants and refugees." At the meeting, the Supervisors also directed county staff to evaluate how data for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program participants and law-abiding undocumented immigrants is collected, managed, stored and protected; identify potential funding sources to support law-abiding undocumented immigrants facing deportation proceedings; and create a webpage with information and resources related to immigration.

The resolution (attached) was presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 4, 2025. The resolution passed on a 4-1 vote, with Supervisor Karen Spiegel opposing. A website has also been launched at <https://rivco.org/Immigration-Resources>.

The efforts to pass the resolution, analyze data and create a website were led by Supervisors V. Manuel Perez and Yxstian Gutierrez. Grace Garner, who is Supervisor Perez's Senior Legislative Analyst, will provide an update on the efforts at the Public Safety Committee's September meeting.

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

Attachment: Riverside County Resolution 2025-055

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-055
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
AFFIRMING RIVERSIDE COUNTY TO BE A VIBRANT, COMPASSIONATE, AND
WELCOMING COUNTY FOR ALL LAW-ABIDING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

WHEREAS, Riverside County is home to persons of diverse racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population, with foreign-born residents comprising over 22% of the County's total population; and

WHEREAS, All Riverside County immigrant residents, whether they are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, undocumented residents, refugees, or residents with any other immigration status, are valued and integral members of our social, cultural, and economic fabric; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County recognizes its long and rich history of immigrants who have contributed to our cultural community, local economy, and become leaders in agriculture, tourism, military, education, business, healthcare, government, and other professions; and

WHEREAS, Law-abiding immigrants and refugees add significantly not only to the County's economy, but also to the vitality of the state and national economies, with foreign-born workers representing almost 20% of the United States labor force and more than 35% of business owners in California; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County endeavors to inform all residents that interacting with local government should not put any residents at risk, regardless of immigration status, and irrespective of what service the individual is seeking to access, including benefits, reporting a crime, filing a legal document, or any of the countless other ways a resident and government come together; and

WHEREAS, Reducing language and cultural barriers to services and participation in civic life promotes coordination of services and resources for law-abiding immigrants and refugees across all systems, champions cultural competence and understanding, and strengthens accountability to maintain the highest quality of services for our communities; and

WHEREAS, The recent heightened attention on immigration has resulted in concerns and uncertainty among many, including but not limited to immigrants, vulnerable residents, families in our community, and service providers; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has enacted several statewide laws as a deliberate declaration that California recognizes and values the contributions of immigrants in our communities, including:

- The TRUST Act, Assembly Bill 4 (Chapter 570, Statutes of 2013), which limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement can detain individuals on behalf of federal immigration authorities; and
- The TRUTH Act, Assembly Bill 2792 (Chapter 768, Statutes of 2016), which ensures transparency and oversight regarding local law enforcement's communication with federal immigration authorities; and

- The VALUES Act, Senate Bill 54 (Chapter 495, Statutes of 2017), which limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement may use funds or personnel to support immigration enforcement and prevents police and sheriff's deputies from asking about an individual's immigration status, from sharing a person's personal information with immigration authorities, unless otherwise required or permitted by law, or from arresting anyone only for having a deportation removal order or for most other immigration violations; and
- California Welfare and Institutions Code section 831, which: 1) clarifies that juvenile court records and information are confidential regardless of a youth's immigration status; 2) makes clear that federal officials do not get automatic access to juvenile court records and must petition the juvenile court in order to be permitted access; and, 3) states that a child's name and immigration status are protected by California's confidentiality laws and cannot be disclosed without court permission; and
- California Government Code section 7285.1, which prohibits employers from voluntarily allowing ICE agents access to non-public areas of their workplaces or employee records without a judicial warrant; and
- California Government Code section 7285.2, which prohibits employers from allowing ICE agents to access, review, or obtain the employer's employee records without a subpoena or judicial warrant; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has an established history of taking steps to support immigrants in Riverside County, including:

- Adopting a resolution in 2013 in support of comprehensive immigration reform, advocating for security/national defense, a tough but fair pathway to citizenship, a guest worker program for agricultural workers and other subsistence-wage workers, a special provision to ensure minor children are treated separately, a registration program with the government to combat visa overstays, and an improved process for admitting future workers to serve our nation's workforce needs while simultaneously protecting all workers (Resolution No. 2013-050); and
- Adopting a resolution in 2018 in support of undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children ("Dreamers") and/or participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, advocating for a federal legislative solution to allow Dreamers to remain in the country (Resolution No. 2018-028); and
- Creating subject matter expert attorney and paralegal positions for the Law Offices of the Public Defender's Office to provide legal assistance to noncitizen indigent clients facing criminal charges in state court, allowing the County to provide effective legal assistance to noncitizen clients as required pursuant to the United States Supreme Court decision in *Padilla v. Kentucky*, 559 U.S. 356 (2010) (Item 3.25 on the Board of Supervisors agenda for October 23, 2018); and
- Adopting a resolution in 2023 establishing the Eastern Coachella Valley Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District, also known as *ECV Prospera*, will result in funding for expanded public infrastructure (including but not limited to infrastructure for water and

wastewater, transportation, utilities, and telecommunication) and for improvements to the Salton Sea (Resolution No. 2023-051); and

- Enhancing efforts to provide meaningful access to Spanish-speaking residents at Board of Supervisors' meeting by providing simultaneous Spanish interpretation of all comments made by board members, county staff, and members of the public, resulting in increased understanding, engagement and civic participation (Item 3.6 on the Board of Supervisors agenda for November 7, 2023); and

WHEREAS, It is important that Riverside County remains a vibrant, compassionate, and welcoming county for all law-abiding immigrants and refugees, and that we are One County and that all of our residents, regardless of immigration status, contribute to the social and economic fabric of this county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside:

1. Affirms that Riverside County is a vibrant, compassionate, and welcoming county for all law-abiding immigrants and refugees; and
2. Commits to safeguarding the civil rights of all our residents to the fullest extent provided by the law; and
3. Directs all County departments to continue to follow California state law, including the TRUST Act, the TRUTH Act, the VALUES Act, and Welfare and Institutions Code sections 827 et seq, Government Code sections 7285.1 and 7285.2 (and as they may be subsequently amended); and
4. Confirms that no County department or employee will initiate inquiry or enforcement action based solely on a person's actual or suspected immigration status, national origin, race, ethnicity and/or English proficiency, unless required to do so by state or federal law; and
5. Directs all County departments to review their confidentiality policies to ensure that eligible individuals are not deterred from seeking services or engaging with services based on immigration status; and
6. Promotes the value among residents of advancing efforts for integrating law-abiding immigrant and refugee communities, recognizing that a community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed; and
7. Continues to advocate for comprehensive, commonsense, and compassionate immigration reform and collaborate with stakeholders (including local institutions, organizations, and individuals) who are committed to this work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside:

8. Intends that this Resolution shall not be construed to prohibit any County department's assistance or cooperation with federal authorities if required by state and/or federal laws; and

9. Intends that this Resolution shall not be construed to affect the independent and constitutionally designated investigative and prosecutorial functions of the Sheriff and District Attorney as provided in Government Code section 25303.

ITEM 8B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee September 8, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Regional Signal Synchronization and CV Sync's Public Safety Benefits

Contact: Kristopher Gunterson, Program Manager – CV Sync (kgunterson@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Synchronizing the traffic signals across the Coachella Valley has been a longstanding goal at CVAG as it could reduce traffic delays, improve air quality and improve safety. As authorized by CVAG's Transportation and Executive Committees, CVAG is now well underway to improving more than 500 intersections across the Coachella Valley as part of CV Sync. Updates on CV Sync are usually provided through the Transportation and Executive Committees. However, as CVAG staff is now operating the system through the Regional Traffic Management Center (RTMC), it has identified some pilot projects in the region that benefit regional law enforcement. CVAG staff will provide an update on these efforts at the September meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

The CV Sync traffic signal coordination project is the largest multi-jurisdictional project of its kind in the nation. Phase I of CV Sync deployed improvements along the top three regional corridors: Highway 111, Washington Street and Ramon Road. Construction on Phase II of the CV Sync traffic signal coordination project is entering its final year. Design and engineering work for Phase III along Varner Road is well underway, and Phase IV in the City of Rancho Mirage is in the early design stages.

CV Sync establishes a framework for future "smart region" by installing highly technical hardware and software systems connected into a world-class, regional network. CV Sync also have technology that allows all cities to communicate and coordinate in real-time to manage traffic flow, which will be especially useful for the large events that draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to the Coachella Valley. This project is deploying fiber-optic broadband technology throughout the Coachella Valley, which can help to unlock federal and state funding opportunities.

CVAG staff is currently testing out new technologies to maximize the project's potential. One project is in partnership with Indio Police Department and SunLine Transit Agency. This involves deploying virtual roadside units in police vehicles and public buses to identify the quickest route where an emergency vehicle needs to go and prioritize them by adjusting signals and reducing the travel time. Another pilot project is being tested in partnership with the Cities of Palm Spring and Cathedral City, where CVAG staff is testing how cell phone apps can alert drivers about anything from upcoming emergency vehicles, pedestrians in the intersection and even the changing of signal timing.

Fiscal Analysis: Costs related to the pilot projects are covered under CV Sync's budget and existing staff time.

ITEM 8C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
September 8, 2025**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Election of Public Safety Committee Officers

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

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Public Safety Committee for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Background: Each fiscal year, the Public Safety Committee considers the election of a Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee does not have a formal officer rotation, or a set policy for how to select the Chair and Vice Chair.

A list of the officers for this Committee, dating back to 2010, is attached for member information. The current Chair is Cathedral City Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Gregory and the Vice Chair is Waymond Fermon. Because of the joint meeting with the Homelessness Committee in September 2024, the last election was held in November 2025.

Staff recommends that the Public Safety Committee provide nominations and elect its officers for this fiscal year.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to the budget as Public Safety Committee officers receive the same per diem as other committee members.

Attachment: History of Chair and Vice Chair

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR HISTORY**



	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Vice Chair</u>
2024-25	Raymond Gregory	Waymond Fermon
2023-24	Waymond Fermon	Raymond Gregory
2022-23	Waymond Fermon	Raymond Gregory
2021-22	Waymond Fermon	Megan Beaman-Jacinto
2020-21	Waymond Fermon	Megan Beaman-Jacinto
2019-20	John Peña	Waymond Fermon
2018-19	Russell Betts	John Peña
2017-18	Betty Sanchez	Russell Betts
2016-17	Betty Sanchez	Russell Betts
2015-16	Iris Smotrich	Betty Sanchez
2014-15	Paul Lewin	Iris Smotrich
2013-14	Paul Lewin	Iris Smotrich
2012-13	Terry Henderson	Paul Lewin
2011-12	Mary T. Roche	Terry Henderson
2010-11	Lee Weigel	Mary T. Roche
2009-10	Gene Gilbert	Lee Weigel

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	5
City of Blythe			●		○			○			●	●	3	out of	5
City of Cathedral City			●		●			●			●	●	5	out of	5
City of Coachella			●		●			●			○	○	3	out of	4
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		●			●			●	○	4	out of	5
City of Indian Wells			●		○			●			●	●	4	out of	5
City of Indio			●		●			●			●	●	5	out of	5
City of La Quinta			●		●			●			●	●	5	out of	5
City of Palm Desert			●		●			●			○	●	4	out of	5
City of Palm Springs			●		●			●			●	○	4	out of	5
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●			●			●	●	5	out of	5
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians			●		●			○			●	○	3	out of	5
Riverside County			●		●			●			●	○	4	out of	5
Total Attendance Per Meeting			12		10			10			10	7			

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP*	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED		
Agua Caliente			○		○			○			○	○	0	out of	5
California Highway Patrol			○		○			●			●	○	2	out of	5
Cathedral City Fire			●		●			○			●	●	4	out of	5
Cathedral City Police			●		●			●			●	●	5	out of	5
County Probation Department			○		○			●			○	○	1	out of	5
Desert Hot Springs Police			○		○			○			○	●	1	out of	5
District Attorney's Office			○		●			●			●	○	3	out of	5
Indio Police			●		●			●			●	●	5	out of	5
Palm Desert Sheriff Station			○		○			○			○	●	1	out of	5
Palm Springs Fire			○		○			○			○	●	1	out of	5
Palm Springs Police			●		○			○			●	●	3	out of	5
Riverside County Fire			○		○			●			●	○	2	out of	5
Riverside County Sheriff			○		○			○			○	○	0	out of	5
Thermal Sheriff Station			○		○			○			○	○	0	out of	5
U.S. Border Patrol			○		○			○			○	○	0	out of	5
Total Attendance Per Meeting			4		4			6			7	7			

* Meeting was held jointly with the Homelessness Committee

No Meeting
 Vacant **
 Present ●
 Absent ○

ITEM 9B

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
September 8, 2025**



STAFF REPORT

Subject: New location of CVAG's public meetings

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: For decades, CVAG has held its public meetings at the Parkview building located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive in Palm Desert. The building is owned by the City of Palm Desert. In 2024, Palm Desert staff notified CVAG that it would be demolishing the Parkview building to make space for the City's new library that is being built adjacent to Civic Center Park. The City also agreed to build a new conference room space for CVAG as part of the library's construction.

In the interim, CVAG staff sought to find an alternative meeting location for CVAG and for its sister agencies, the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) and the Coachella Valley Power Agency (CVPA). CVAG staff previously notified committee members and the public that CVAG anticipated moving its meetings to the Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board. Over the summer, CVAG learned the partnership would not be possible as logistics could not be worked out with the State.

Thankfully, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has agreed to have CVAG host its public meetings at CVWD's Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room, 75515 Hovley Lane East in the City of Palm Desert. CVAG and CVCC have larger-than-most governing boards, and the room is equipped to accommodate this need. The first meeting at the new location was the August meeting of CVAG's Transportation Committee. CVAG staff has posted the new location on its websites and also reached out to member jurisdictions to notify them of the change.

Fiscal Analysis: CVWD is providing the meeting room at no cost to CVAG. Coordination of public meetings is covered under existing staff time. Minor equipment purchases, such as additional microphones, may be necessary and would be covered under the Executive Director's spending authority and CVAG's existing budget.

ITEM 9C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee September 8, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Countywide policy to address homeless encampments

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In September 2024, CVAG's Public Safety and Homelessness Committees held a joint meeting to discuss the regional ramifications of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in the case of City of Grants Pass v. Johnson, which effectively set a new standard on how local municipalities can address homeless encampments on public property. The case stemmed from the enforcement of anti-camping laws in Grants Pass, Oregon, which had led to fines and penalties for homeless individuals camping on public property. The Court's ruling prompted Gov. Gavin Newsom to issue an executive order that immediately changed how California's state agencies addressed encampments and it prompted at least two Coachella Valley to update their own ordinances.

The ruling was a 6-3 decision. In reversing the Ninth Court ruling, the Supreme Court held that anti-camping ordinances did not violate the Eighth Amendment when they were applied in a manner that targeted the conduct of camping in public spaces and not the status of being homeless. The Court also acknowledged there was interest in maintaining public health, safety, and welfare, which in this case included preventing hazards at public spaces in order to have them accessible for the general public.

The Homelessness and Public Safety Committees had a lengthy discussion about the ruling and potential impacts during a joint meeting that was held in September 2024. At the time, CVAG staff sought direction on whether to create a model ordinance for the Coachella Valley that addresses homeless encampments on public property. It has been noted that having a cohesive approach across the region could be beneficial to cities, agencies or service providers seeking future grant opportunities. Committee members were divided on the concept of a model ordinance, with some members noting that their cities are satisfied with the ordinances that already exist. Instead, staff was directed to return with any model ordinance under development by Riverside County and consider how to promote a collaborative approach through a memorandum of understanding or a "good neighbor" policy, which was endorsed by CVAG's Executive Committee in December 2024.

CVAG staff also committed to tracking any updates on this issue as County staff had indicated they were working on a potential update to their encampment ordinance. Over the summer, Riverside County's Continuum of Care and the Board of Governance reviewed the county's policies and procedures for encampment responses. The document (attached) outlines collaboration between County departments as well as with agencies. The County's policy calls for 72-hour notice so homeless individuals have a chance to relocate before the encampment is removed – which is more time than the 48 hours that the State has recommended for a model approach. The County's COC formally adopted the policies and procedures at its July 23, 2025 meeting, and noted that it could serve as a model or

best practice that local jurisdictions could use. COC members also noted that it could be used to guide how future encampment funding is distributed in the County.

Greg Rodriguez, the Deputy Director for Government Affairs and Community Engagement at Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions, will be attending the September meeting of the Homelessness Committee in order to discuss the County efforts and how the policy compares to the State model. CVAG staff is also providing this as an informational update to the Public Safety Committee.

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

Attachment: Riverside County's Encampment Response Policies and Procedures



HWS HOUSING AND
WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS
ENGAGE. ENCOURAGE. EQUIP.

County of Riverside
Department of Housing and Workforce
Solutions- CoC Division
Homeless Encampment Response
Policies & Procedures

Riverside County Homeless Encampment Response Policies and Procedures

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I. Purpose

- A. This document is intended to create a set of clear guidelines for County departments and partners responding to homeless encampments. These guidelines will establish authority, best standards of practice, and governance related to all types of responses to encampments, from day-to-day practices to emergency and disaster response.

II. The Need

- A. Homeless encampments present health and safety risks for people experiencing homelessness and diminished quality of life for communities in general. In Riverside County, encampments in riverbeds and other open spaces negatively affect water quality and protected habitats and create risk of fire and other public safety and public health concerns. As many as twenty different county departments are affected by the presence of encampments, and for most departments, the impact creates costs that cannot be reimbursed by non-County sources of funding. Encampment clean-up costs are an example.
- B. Prior to the development of these guidelines, County departments typically responded to encampments in an ad hoc manner. As a result, the response did not effectively leverage our diverse resources to assist people experiencing homelessness not just out of a given area, but in moving into permanent housing. The Board of Supervisors are frequently on the front lines of this issue, as constituents regularly call with concerns and complaints.
- C. We recognize the importance of a designated county lead to avoid silos and duplication of efforts. County departments have identified the lack of a central point of contact, siloed information and communications, and no overarching plan as key problems.

III. Vision, Values, and Assumptions

To address the identified needs, Riverside County has developed the vision, values and assumptions stated below.

- A. **Vision:** To provide a coordinated encampment response leading to the most beneficial outcome for our homeless community and the community at large.
- B. The **values** underpinning our vision are:
 - Respect
 - Inclusion
 - Compassion
 - Collaboration
 - Transparency
 - Effective Outcomes

C. Assumptions

1. All episodes of homelessness are urgent. Limited resources force us to prioritize our response. This in no way minimizes the concern for people experiencing homelessness living in places that fall into a lower response priority.
2. As we test methods, and seek additional resources, these guidelines and protocols will evolve over time.
3. People move to living in an encampment because it is the best option they could find, given their circumstances. A meaningful response to encampments requires understanding the unique barriers that limit the ability of people living there to move out of homelessness.
4. Notwithstanding the rights of people living in encampments, residents and businesses in the neighboring areas also have a right to the use and enjoy their property and public spaces. This response seeks to balance the needs of the community and people experiencing homelessness.
5. Many County departments, in their daily work, will encounter people experiencing homelessness and have their own department-specific procedures to follow. This includes the responsibility of enforcement agencies to properly fulfill their duty to enforce the law.
6. Where practical and appropriate, these policies and procedures complement, and do not replace existing procedures, unless the department has opted to make those changes.
7. The response to homeless encampments requires collaboration, clear communication, and accountability among stakeholders.
8. The County has a fundamental interest in providing encampment dwellers a viable path out of homelessness to sustainability in permanent housing.
9. Securing permanent housing and other social services for residents living in encampments may be constrained by these factors:
 - a) *The presence of imminent threat to the health or safety of the public due to high fire potential or other similar threat that requires moving out of the site on short notice.*
 - b) *The rights and requirements of owners of property where people experiencing homelessness have encamped.*
 - c) *Limited local resources for housing and services.*
 - d) *Limited staff capacity to regularly engage and facilitate outreach to residents.*
10. These constraints are not insurmountable barriers.
11. Our process for addressing encampments should not jeopardize the safety, rights, or dignity of the people living in such encampments.
12. In responding to encampments and the needs of people living in them, we also seek to reduce the impact of homelessness on neighbors, private property owners, and public spaces.
13. County departments and response teams will need to apply their best judgement in situations not anticipated by these policies and procedures, and adjust policies and procedures as needed.

IV. Definitions

A. **Assessments** refer to reports collected by homeless encampment response personnel:

- a) **Observational Report:** *Contains a description of the encampment location and resident. May be provided in form of phone call, email, or in person.*
- b) **Site Assessment:** *Following receipt of an observational report, a site visit is conducted to determine what departments and/or personnel need to be involved in planning and executing a response. Information is recorded in the Homeless Encampment Response Database.*
- c) **Assessment:** *Occurs during or after an inspection. Survey of people living at the site to determine strategy for moving to permanent housing. Information collected in HMIS.*

B. **Attended Property** refers to personal property which is accompanied by a person who asserts or claims ownership over the personal property.

C. **Deployment Plan** occurs after Detailed Assessment. Developed by encampment response personnel in consultation with people conducting inspection and detailed assessment.

D. **Encampment** refers to three or more persons living in an outdoor location without permission from the owner.

E. **HMIS** refers to Homeless Management Information System.

F. **Personal property** refers to any and all tangible property, including, but not limited to, goods, materials, merchandise, tents, tarpaulins, bedding, sleeping bags, hammocks, and personal items such as luggage, backpacks, clothing, documents, medication, and household items.

G. **Private Property** refers to any real or personal property owned by an individual, organization, or business that is not a governmental entity.

H. **Public Property** refers to any real or personal property owned or controlled by local, State or Federal government or agency thereof.

I. **Response** refers to a coordinated action plan developed by encampment response personnel and executed by an assembled team to reach the most beneficial outcome for the homeless encampment inhabitants and communities. Team members will vary depending on location of encampment, and conditions to be addressed.

J. **Squatter** refers to one or more persons living in a building without permission from the owner.

K. **Trash/debris** refers to unclaimed property left at the site; and/or waste left by inhabitants and/or illegally dumped at the site.

L. **Trigger** refers to the event that initiates an encampment response. See Table 1, page 11.

M. **Trigger Priorities/Threat Levels** (see Table 1, page 11)

- 1. High/Disaster – Evacuate as soon as possible.
- 2. Medium/Emergency – Evacuation or other mitigation within 72 hours

3. Low/General – Time for intensive assessment and planning for housing placement

N. Unattended Property refers to personal property which is not accompanied by a person who asserts or claims ownership over the personal property.

V. Legal Considerations in Encampment Response

A. Civil Rights of Homeless People

1. Notice prior to Enforcement Action
 - a) *Fourth Amendment considerations regarding seizure of personal property, even if the personal property is left on sidewalks in violation of a municipal ordinance.*
 - b) *Fourteenth Amendment due process considerations regarding personal property, attended and unattended, at the encampment.*
2. Property ownership, personal property, and due process rights
 - a) *Public land – constitutional requirements are implicated, and the County must adhere to due process requirements for the removal of personal property; in most circumstances the County cannot criminally cite people for camping on public land.*
 - (1) Criminal enforcement of anti-camping ordinances may be a violation of the Eighth Amendment under *Martin v. Boise*.
 - (2) Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on camping are arguably still allowed.
 - (3) Non-criminal enforcement to clean up encampments is allowed as long as procedural protections are implemented.
 - b) *Private land – Civil court action or trespass orders. Private property owners are subject to administrative or civil penalties or injunctions for failure to comply or maintain their properties in accordance with County ordinances. Owners must follow civil process prior to clean-up when the encampment is on private property.*
 - c) *BNSF/other transit agency – the agency's internal protocols are followed to protect the safety of people encamped near railways.*
3. Other legal considerations
 - a) *Enforcement of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance for public area and private property may not require prior notice; but other procedural due process still applies for any removal of personal property.*

B. Documentation of Effort

1. Encampment on Public Property (Penal Code 602) (Riverside County Ordinance 328)
 - a) *Noticing efforts prior to clean up should be documented in writing and with photographs and affidavits. Photos of notices should be saved electronically.*
 - b) *During clean-up, photographs should be taken of encampment before unattended personal property is removed. Photos and/or video should be part of the case file.*

- c) *Detailed inventory of unattended personal property should be kept. (See Attachment A: Personal Property Inventory Sheet)*
 - d) *Personal property should be securely stored for 90 days so that individuals can retrieve their personal property.*
- 2. Encampment on Private Property
 - a) *Make efforts to secure a trespass order from the private property owner. If trespass order is obtained, follow same noticing and documentation efforts as with a public property clean-up.*
 - b) *If a trespass order cannot be obtained, pursue civil court action for abatement.*
- C. When are legal authorities required?
 - 1. Emergency (unexpected) response versus routine enforcement
 - a) *Generally, emergency response does not require prior notice of 72 hours.*
 - b) *Routine enforcement generally requires prior notice (see Section 8.)*
 - 2. Who issues the opinion/recommendation?
 - a) *The entity legally responsible for the property where the encampment is located will determine the need for its removal. In cases where a private owner does not act to remove an encampment, or has a no trespass order, an authorized enforcement agency (Code Enforcement and Sheriff) may initiate the order to leave.*
 - b) *For situations that are a public health concern, the County Health Officer will issue the order to clear a site.*

VI. RIVERSIDE COUNTY ENCAMPMENT POLICIES

- A. Standard Notifications: no imminent risk to health or safety of encampment residents.
 - 1. Notice prior to Enforcement Action
 - a) *For any Riverside County department response to a homeless encampment, policy is to provide people living in the encampment at least 72 hours prior notice of impending encampment clearance.*
 - b) *If the encampment response is led by a city or private property partner, the terms of County participation include requiring at least 72 hours prior notice.*
 - c) *The 72-hour requirement will not be in force when there is imminent risk to health or safety, as determined by the County Health Officer, County Flood Control District, Emergency Management Department, or Riverside County Sheriff*
 - d) *72-hour notification to leave an encampment will be accompanied at a minimum by an offer of temporary housing and services, as they are available.*
 - 2. Documentation of Effort
 - a) *Encampment on Public Property – Unincorporated Areas*
 - (1) *Prior noticing efforts and offers of temporary housing and services should be documented in writing and with photographs and affidavits.*
 - (2) *During clean-up, photographs should be taken of encampment before unattended personal property is removed.*

- (3) Disposition of property should be noted (what is disposed of, and where stored items will be held).
 - b) *Encampment on Private Property – Unincorporated Areas*
 - (1) Make efforts to secure a trespass order from the private property owner. If trespass order is obtained, follow same noticing and documentation efforts as with a public property clean-up.
 - (2) If a trespass order cannot be obtained, pursue civil court action for abatement.
 - c) *Personal Property*
 - (1) Any unattended personal property retained during an encampment clean up should be inventoried noting the name of the item, date collected and owner information, or location where it was gathered (**see attachment A**). Items that are contaminated, hazardous or combustible, and weapons will be turned over to local authorities such as law enforcement and environmental control. Other items that are soiled, perishables, paper, and open household products will be trashed.
 - (2) Retained unattended personal property should be securely stored for at least 90 days.
 - (3) Owners of the retained personal property should be given information on the location of their collected items and when they can access it.
- 3. Confidentiality
 - a) *Notwithstanding the public nature of homeless encampments, County personnel, to the greatest extent possible should respect the privacy of the people being asked to move. Photography to be used in media releases should have a signed or recorded consent from the people included in images or video.*
 - b) *Protected personal information should be recorded using designated applications, such as the Homeless Management Information System.*

VII. RIVERSIDE COUNTY ENCAMPMENT PROCEDURES

VIII. Participating Agencies – See Appendix A

IX. Staffing and Oversight

- A. **Staffing and Roles** (see Organizational chart with Encampment Response Team Roles on page 9)

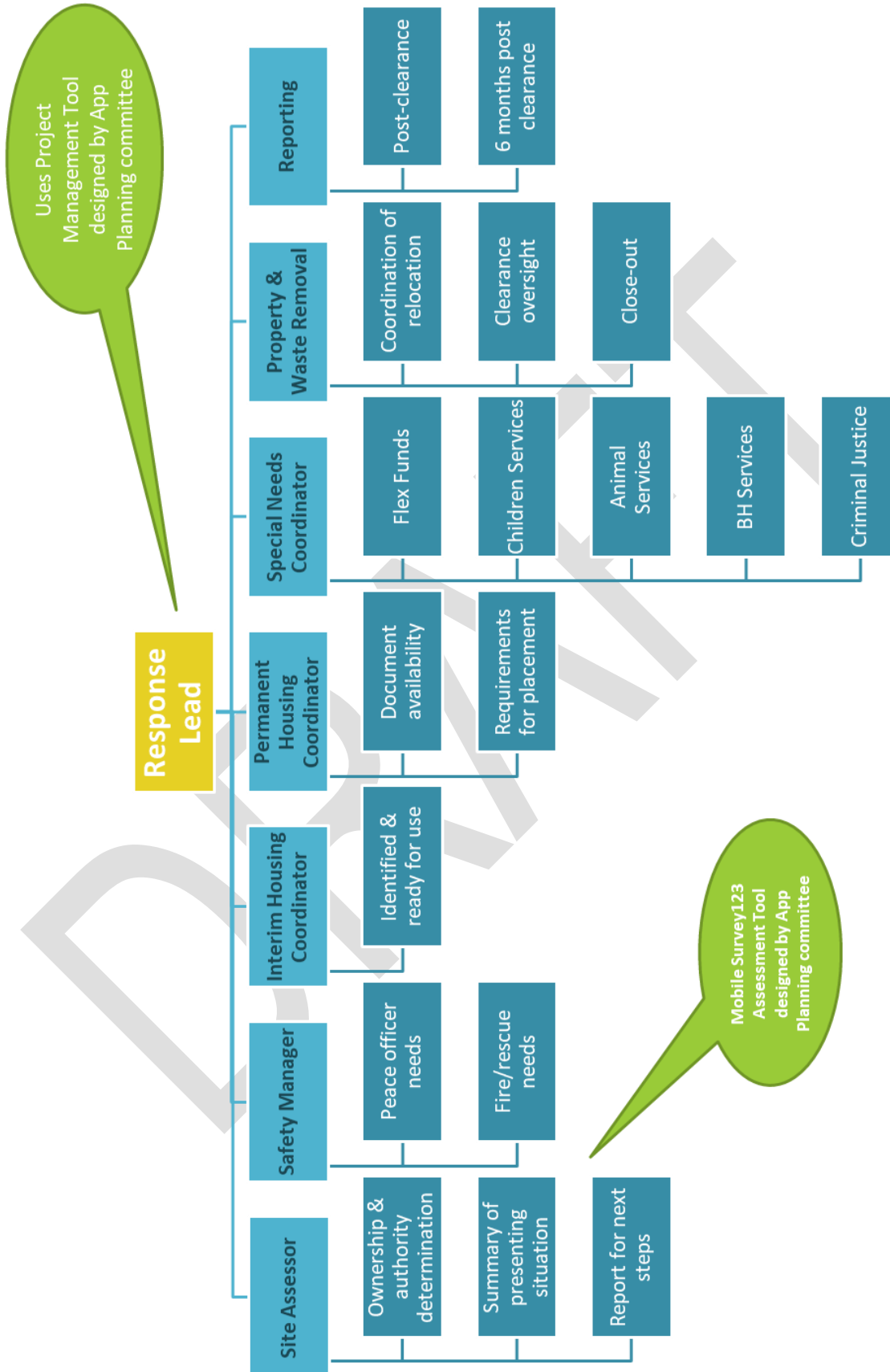
Following the Emergency Management Department Incident Command Model, the Encampment Response Protocols refer to roles that need to be filled during a response. In this section, we list the roles first, in bold, and indicate likely staff positions to fill the roles.

1. **Encampment Response Team:** Refers to the people convened by the Encampment Response Coordinator for a specific encampment response. Denoted by the response name. For example, “Hole Lake 2019 Encampment Response Team”.
2. **Encampment Response Coordinator:** This position receives countywide incoming calls for service, assigns responses, leads activation debriefs and prepares reports.
3. **Response Lead:** Regional position that coordinates the response for a specific event. In the near term, this may be filled by the Encampment Response Coordinator. As we become more practiced and there are simultaneous deployments in different parts of the county, additional staff will need to be designated at Response Leads. For example, if a response is on lands managed by Parks, the Response Lead could be a ranger within the Riverside County Regional Parks & Open Space District. Confirms property ownership and whether public or privately held. Ensures all required tasks are completed, troubleshoots issues, communicates progress and issues with Encampment Response Coordinator.
4. **Site Assessor:** Conducts initial site observation; recommends further action. Potentially done by staff from Code Enforcement, Sheriff, Flood Control, Parks District, Behavioral Health or partner outreach teams.
5. **Safety Manager:** Ensures presence of public safety officers as indicated by the assessment. While the safety manager need not be a public safety officer, staff asked to secure a location would likely come from Sheriff, or Rangers from Parks District.
6. **Interim Housing Coordinator:** Secures shelter or other short-term housing options. Behavioral Health, Housing Authority, nonprofit or city partners. This will vary by region.
7. **Special Needs Coordinator:** With encampment residents, develops and implements short- and long-term plans for services and housing. Filled by any dedicated social work or case management position from Behavioral Health, DPSS, Housing Authority, Probation, or

nonprofit partner. Engages additional support as needed from the following departments and agencies:

- a) *Department of Animal Services*
 - b) *DPSS Adult Services Division, Adult Protective Services*
 - c) *DPSS - Children's Services Division*
 - d) *DPSS - Self-Sufficiency Division*
 - e) *Law Offices of the Public Defender*
 - f) *Office on Aging*
 - g) *Probation Department*
 - h) *Relevant City and nonprofit partners including storage (for sites in unincorporated areas, or terms established in City MOU)*
 - i) *RUHS - Behavioral Health (mental health, addiction recovery)*
 - j) *RUHS - Public Health*
 - k) *Veterans' Services*
8. **Long Term Housing Coordinator:** Secures permanent housing options; works with Special Needs Coordinator to determine appropriate fit.
9. **Technology support:** Addresses any problems with information technology/applications, Riverside County Information Technology (RCIT)

ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE TEAM ROLES



- B. **Quality Improvement:** An Encampment Advisory Committee, as well as ad hoc committees comprised of diverse county departments provide feedback and guidance to the Encampment Coordinator.
- C. **Reporting:** It is important to report out to partners and to the county encampment response efforts. A proposed reporting schedule could look like the following:
1. Quarterly public reports summarizing operations and outcomes.
 2. Monthly district-specific reports regarding operations and plans.
 3. Annual Reports for year-end June 30th, by September 1st, starting September 1, 2022.

Table 1 Triggers for Encampment Response

	Type of Trigger	Location	By Whom	Potential Responding County Department	Other Possible Responders
Standard	Observation	Public or Private	Resident Complaint	Code Enforcement; Behavioral Health; RSO HOT	Jurisdiction's outreach or enforcement
	Property Maintenance	Private	Code Enforcement	Code Enforcement; Behavioral Health; RSO HOT; Waste Resources	CAL FIRE
	Property Maintenance	Public	Flood Control; Parks District	<--same + Behavioral Health	CalTrans, USFS
Crisis	Imminent Risk	Public or Private	Flood Control, Fire, EMD, Parks District	Code Enforcement; Behavioral Health; RSO HOT	State or Federal enforcement agencies, BNSF, Union Pacific
Urgent	Public Health	Public or Private	County Public Health Officer	Public Health, Behavioral Health, RSO HOT	
	Public Safety	Public or Private	RSO/Law enforcement	RSO HOT; Behavioral Health; Probation	City law enforcement

X. Prioritizing Encampment Response

The Encampment Response Coordinator prioritizes County-led responses following the trigger priorities/threat level standards. County responses may be deferred to support a City that has a more urgent situation, providing the City has an executed MOU with the County.

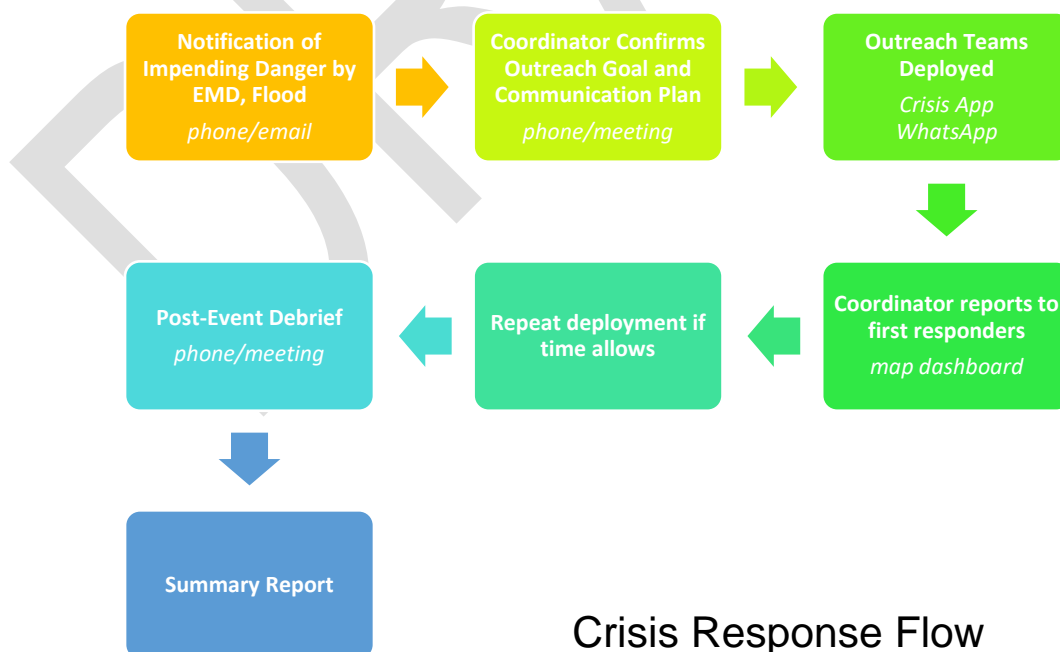
○ Authorities: Who Triggers the Response?

- Authority for triggering an encampment response depends on who has legal title to the property where the encampment is located, or who is empowered by local, state, or federal law to respond. Each of the responses below indicates potential sources of legal authority to act:
 - *County land use ordinances and California Penal Code: Code Enforcement*
 - *California Penal Code and County Ordinances: Sheriff Department, Parks District Rangers*
 - *California Health and Safety Code: County Health Officer*
 - *See **Appendix B** for table of legal authorities.*
 - Crisis/Emergency/Disaster Response for Imminent Risk
- Definition: Imminent risk refers to near-term risk of death. These are situations that emerge quickly, or may develop over a period of days, but typically in less than 72 hours. Examples include:
 - *Wildfire*
 - *Weather forecast predicting large volume of rain, dangerous winds, or extreme heat or cold.*
 - *Proximity to trains or traffic*
 - Public Health Response
- Definition: Public Health threats are those related to the spread of contagion, communicable diseases. Examples:
 - *Hepatitis A*
 - *Tuberculosis*
 - *Typhus*
 - Responding to Public Safety and Community Impact concerns
- Definition: Public safety and community impact concerns are situations that, while requiring a response, would fall behind imminent danger and public health threat responses. Examples:
 - *Encampment on private or public property adjacent to residential areas or businesses leading to complaints of theft and vandalism, or repeated calls to law enforcement.*
- Trigger & Authority
 - *Community complaint to Board of Supervisors: Board staff notifies Encampment Response Coordinator who will ascertain authority to respond.*
 - *Authority will depend on whether the encampment is on public or private property.*
- Response Goal
 - *Long-term strategy for housing placement and necessary services for encampment residents and clearance of the site.*
 - *Note: Nuisance abatement (administrative or civil enforcement against property owner). May result in appointment of receiver, length of process is dictated by court dates and timeframes.*

b) Process Overview

o CRISIS RESPONSE – IMMINENT DANGER

- Response Goal: Move people out of danger
- Trigger & Authority
 - *Trespass order (602 letter): initiated by private property owner (railroads).*
 - *City request: initiated by city, government by Encampment Response Memorandum of Understanding*
 - *Fire: CAL FIRE or EMD*
 - *Weather-related: Flood Control will use National Weather Service Data*
 - *Trains or traffic: Railway law enforcement, California Highway Patrol, CalTrans*
- Response Goals
 - *At a minimum, relocation to safer area.*
 - *Ideally, notifications to encampment dwellers with as much lead time as possible. Repeat notifications if time allows. Notification should be in writing and if people are present, given verbally.*
 - *Offers of services and transportation to shelter if time and resources allow.*
- Process
 - *Responses are organized via a coordination call with managing authorities (EMD, Railroads)*
 - *Crisis Response App will be used to track notifications and location of people refusing to leave area. Encampment Response Coordinator will communicate information with first responders.*



Crisis Response Flow

- *If part of a broader evacuation plan convened by EMD, Encampment Response Coordinator will provide updates on the homeless encampment response element of the evacuation plan.*

- **PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE**

- Response Goal: Address public health concerns in encampments. During a public health crisis such as COVID-19 homeless encampment response activities are led through the Emergency Operations Center. Encampment response is guided by state and local guidance such as for the one for COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html>

Additional recommendations during a health crisis such as COVID-19 include:

- c) If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are.
 - Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread.
- d) Encourage those staying in encampments to set up their tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per individual.
 - If an encampment is not able to provide sufficient space for each person, allow people to remain where they are but help decompress the encampment by linking those at [higher risk for severe illness](#) to individual rooms or safe shelter.
- e) Work together with community coalition members to improve sanitation in encampments.
- f) Ensure nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24 hours per day.
- g) If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, assist with providing access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for encampments of more than 10 people. These facilities should be equipped with hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).

- Trigger & Authority

- *The Health Officer of the County of Riverside is authorized under state law to make a determination that there is a threat of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease. Per State law, the Health Officer may request the support of law enforcement to ensure the implementation of prevention measures.*
- *During COVID-19, CDC recommendations for encampment response are used to create local guidance. Per the CDC recommendations individuals in encampments are advised to stay in place to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.*

- Response Goals

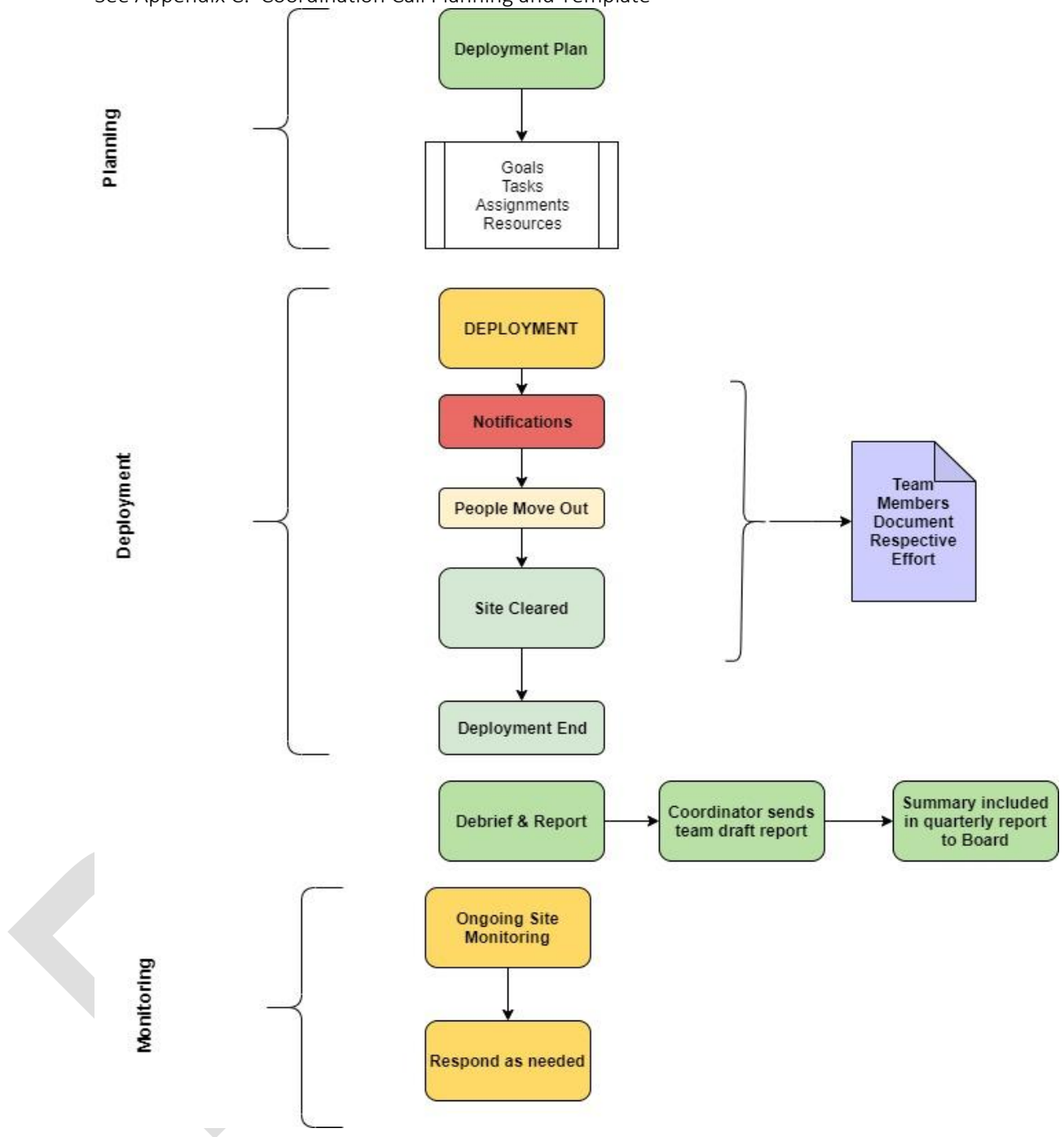
- *Notifications to people living in the encampment*
- *Dissemination of treatment*

- *If resources permit, clear the site and facilitate relocation to services and housing.*
- Process
 - *The Emergency Operations Center Coordinator organizes coordination call with managing authorities (Public Health, Sheriff)*
 - *The Site Assessment and Individual Assessment Apps will be used to track notifications and services provided.*
- Public Health Crisis-Pandemic
 - *The Emergency Operations Center Coordinator organizes coordination call with managing authorities (Public Health, Sheriff)*

○ STANDARD PROCESS OVERVIEW

- Response goal: Move as many people as possible to short- or long-term housing and services before clearing site.
- Either in the course of their work or because a resident notifies them, a county employee will learn of an encampment. The existence of the encampment should then be reported.
 - *Caveat: The employee should enter information in the Encampment Response Database. They should follow up with call or email to confirm it has been received.*
- If the person reporting the encampment does not have access to the Encampment Response Database or request that a member of the Encampment Response team form to address that response to do the assessment.
- Following the site assessment, the ERC and Site Assessor will discuss next steps. This will include:
 - *Confirmation of property ownership (public vs. private, and who)*
 - *Presence of people and animals*
 - *Visible hazards*
 - *Roster of agencies to be invited to kick-off coordination call or meeting*
- Kick-off call or meeting
 - *Attendees/Roll Call*
 - *Situational Awareness presented by Site Assessor*
 - *Additional information from team members*
 - *Draft deployment plan*
 - *Next steps (see Appendix C)*
- Follow up
 - *Additional Coordination Calls as needed*
 - *Debriefing [see template]*
 - *Outcomes report, media release*
 - *Monitoring plan*

- See Appendix C: Coordination Call Planning and Template



○ ASSESSMENT PROCESS & TOOLS

- Assessments are recorded in the following databases
 - *Encampment Response Database*
 - *Individual Assessments- HMIS database (Geolocation feature)*
 - *ArcGIS Field Maps*
- The databases are used and intended to gather just enough information to plan for the deployment of resources. Protected personal information will be entered into HMIS or other HIPAA compliant databases as needs dictate.
- Database use and oversight is informed by HWS staff member.

h) Resources

- Disaster resources [mass shelter, transportation]
- Health: Public health, behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, dental care
- Human services: Veterans, youth-specific, legal assistance, probation,
- Other services: Animal services, waste management
- Housing
- Code Enforcement
- Law Enforcement
- For any long-term response to work, the deployment plan must provide for the availability of, or connection to:
 - *Short-term housing (crisis shelter, bridge housing, motel vouchers)*
 - *Permanent housing (affordable to referred people; permanent supportive housing for high-need persons with disabilities)*
 - Diversion: transportation to home community, vehicle repairs, bicycle repairs, furniture, appliances, moving expenses, etc.
 - Storage
- Until further notice, the Encampment Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring each deployment has a personal property plan that, at a minimum, communicates to the person whose items have been collected how, where the property will be held, how long the property will be held, and the process for retrieving the property (hours, any needed identification).
- *The Encampment Response Coordinator will report on the use of storage in unincorporated areas and when possible, make a recommendation for standardized procedures.*

i) Stakeholder Responsibilities

- Notwithstanding the defined roles for encampment response, participating county agencies will have the following scope of engagement, dictated by the presenting conditions of each encampment:

- Animal Services
 - *Accompany outreach teams to offer veterinary services and assist with transporting people with animals during an encampment response. If part of a larger evacuation effort, inform animal owners in threatened areas about resources and having a plan for themselves and their animals, what to expect if they or their animals are evacuated, locations where services will be offered, and transportation resources available, etc.*
 - *Activate response plans to accept large and small animals at identified sites during evacuations*
 - *Coordinate public messaging with appropriate stakeholders*
- Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD)
 - *Identify, assess, and prepare, to the fullest extent practical, all District channels, storm drains, debris basins and other tributary facilities prior to weather events*
 - *Perform site visits to District flood channels, culverts, etc. During visits, if they encounter homeless population, they should be prepared to provide connection options to known available resources and notify the Encampment Coordinator.*
 - *Collaborate with National Weather Service (NWS) and EMD to regularly monitor weather patterns*
 - *Liaison to water quality and other environmental agencies and nonprofit stakeholders*
 - *Notify appropriate Encampment Coordinator when negative imminent weather may impact known encampment locations such as river bottoms and/or low-lying areas*
 - *Notify Encampment Coordinator of impending maintenance impeded by the presence of homeless encampments.*
- CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department
 - *Perform life safety and incident command operations in the field*
 - *Provide public education to residents, e.g. TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN*
 - *Coordinate with appropriate stakeholder agencies on public information messaging*
 - *Prevention of unwanted fires*
 - *Suppression or extinguishment of dangerous or hazardous fires*
 - *Maintenance of fire protection and elimination of fire hazards on land*
 - *Investigates the origin, cause, and circumstances of fire*
 - *Enforce State and local statutes, California Fire Code codes, and other public offenses*
- Emergency Management Department (EMD)
 - *Serve as primary coordination point at Emergency Operations Center (EOC)*
 - *Manage and deploy volunteer resources when unmet needs are identified during an emergency event;*

- *Notify appropriate Encampment Coordinator when negative imminent weather may impact known encampment locations such as river bottoms and/or low-lying areas*
- *As appropriate, facilitate the acquisition of resources to support emergency response*
- Environmental Health
 - *Coordinate with Encampment Response efforts when/if issues related to environmental safety or contamination are identified*
- Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
 - *Administers public benefits and safety net programs targeting low-income children, youth, families, individuals, and seniors, including CalWorks, Calfresh, and temporary shelter*
- RUHS – Behavioral Health
 - *Coordinate street outreach efforts to people with mental illness, including those involved with the criminal justice system*
 - *Administers the Coordinated Entry System*
 - *Participates in workflow analysis*
- Sheriff's Department
 - *Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) operations to identify and respond to homeless encampments*
 - *Participates in workflow analysis*
 - *Identify and respond to issues related to arrest, detention and release from County jails*
- County Counsel
 - *Provide legal guidance for encampment response efforts*
- District Attorney
 - *Identify and respond to issues related to arrest, detention and release from County jails*
- Parks and Open Space
 - *Patrols County parks and open spaces*
 - *Issues notices to move*
 - *Liaison to environmental partners*
 - *Participate in workflow analysis*
- HWS/Housing Authority
 - *Operates outreach teams for housing authority residents, but that can respond to deployments in limited circumstances*
 - *Administers housing subsidy programs*
- Veterans Services
 - *Connects veterans to state and federal benefits and resources*
- Transportation & Land Management Agency

- *Code Enforcement department responds to land use violations and resident complaints. Code can confirm whether 602 (trespass order) letter is on file. Code enforcement officers' role is to ensure property compliance; they are not peace officers*
- *Under certain circumstances, code enforcement personnel conduct property cleanup, but only after people inhabiting an area have left.*
- RUHS - Public Health
 - *Under certain conditions such as communicable disease or environmental contamination, the Public Health Officer can declare a health emergency that will set in motion an encampment response (Health and Safety Code §101040, §101080), subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors.*
 - *Sends nurses to evaluate and provide linkages to care.*
 - *Sends Communicable Disease Specialists for HIV screening/testing and linkage to care*
- Probation
 - *Supports ex-offenders, including those who are homeless, with services to prevent recidivism*
 - *Operates street outreach team to offer services to homeless probationers.*
- Law Offices of the Public Defender
 - *Legal representation for indigent defendants.*

j) Communications

- Internal messaging for response coordination and management
- Tools: The team will use Coordination Calls (phone, email, and video if available), for text messaging; site assessment tools will be used to communicate information collected during site assessments; dashboards on browser-based application to view mapped data
- Audience: Identified response team members, with copies to supervisors as requested
- Content: Situational analysis, identification of needed resources or additional people to add to the team, plans for next steps. The Coordinator will work with the team to get agreement

on external messaging to people outside the team. This could include Board offices, parties initiating the original request to respond, and/or media

- Summaries to elected officials: Email or phone call
- Messaging for partners (non-County entities that are part of a response team, not part of the response team, but affected by the work)
 - Tools: email, conference calls
 - Messaging for homeless people will be part of the deployment plan
 - Tools: Face to face; business cards (No flyers; info must be on cardstock, water-resistant ink; small enough to fit in a pocket; fonts large enough to read)
 - Audience: may need and not have prescription glasses to read, may have cognitive issues making it difficult to remember, may be distrustful
 - Content: Specific information with dates, times, consequences; where to obtain further information or retrieve stored personal belongings.
 - Messaging for the public:
 - Tools: Social media, print and electronic media
 - Audience: Concerned neighbors, general public
 - Content: The report for each action will include a summary to be used in press releases. Photos of people served only with their consent.

k) Data and Technology Needs

- Data and technology needs are assessed and addressed on an ongoing basis.
- Data collection tools
- The data collection tool will be the utilization of HMIS. They are intended for only County departments and encampment response stakeholders. They are not intended for general public use at this time.
- The tool include a crisis assessment for evacuations, site assessment, and a detailed assessment of people at site.
- HMIS for people accepting services
 - Project management
- Encampment Response Database to track assignments
- SharePoint/Google Docs to store and share plans, track progress, and reports
 - Reporting standards
- For each deployment:
 - *Number of people identified at site*
 - *Number of people offered assistance; number accepting assistance; outcomes*

- *Agencies serving on Encampment Response Team, number of personnel supporting response*
- *Duration of response*
- *Issues encountered, resolved, and continuing*
- *Reflection on what worked and what needs improvement*
- Summary report:
 - *Number of deployments*
 - *Total number of people assisted*
 - *Total number of people declining services*
 - *Total number of agencies and personnel participating*
 - *Names of participating agencies*
 - *Map of assessed sites and responses*
 - *Recommendations*
 - *Data retention policy to be developed*
 - *Users*
- User group will be convened by the Encampment Coordinator in collaboration with HMIS staff.
- HMIS will manage permissions, in accordance with set policy.

I) Managing Site Assessments and Creating the Plan

- The Coordinator serves as the single point of contact for the response. This section will refer to the Coordinator's responsibilities, but they may delegate the day-to-day management of the response to a Response Lead. While these procedures indicate a sequential response, the circumstances may require or permit simultaneous work. For example, if property ownership is not immediately clear, someone on the team will need to do further research to confirm ownership. In the time, outreach may be able to go out with a soft notice that enforcement is likely coming.
- In coordinating the Response Plan, the Coordinator must be aware of what, if any, other agencies would have a primary concern for addressing the encampment in the area. For example, Flood Control must follow specific procedures to comply with regulations and to minimize disruption or harm to the natural habitat. If there is a concern about criminal activity at the site, the Sheriff's Department may be the appropriate Response Lead.

- Disaster Prevention Response: used for short term actions such as evacuations, this is intended to clear people from an area with short notice. ARC GIS/ Field Maps is intended to be very quick survey to record the number of people at a site, how many intend to leave and how many intend to stay. Data from the app is used to notify first responders of any potential needs during a disaster event. It does not require collection of names.
 - Site Assessment: short survey to record general information about a site. This includes number of people, presence of children, dogs, safety hazards, and biohazards. The site assessment information will be mapped, giving a record over time of sites visited and assessed. The site assessment has 3 status settings: Observed, Active, and Closed.
- A. Detailed Assessment: Survey of the people at the site. May be used during site assessment visit, or during a follow-up visit. These records are tied to each person at the site, and their movement can be tracked over time. This assessment does not collect personally identifiable information. Should the person accept services, additional protected information will be collected in HMIS. This does not preclude other departments (such as Probation) from also recording information in their own database.
- B. Coordination calls:
1. After debriefing the site inspector, the lead and inspector will identify team members. The lead will organize coordination calls with selected team members. Based on the EMD model, the calls will follow this format:
 - a) *Roll Call*
 - b) *Legal status of property: ownership, issues related to owners (602 order on file, permits from collaborating jurisdiction, etc.)*
 - c) *Situational awareness: report from site inspector*
 - d) *Recommendations from Site Inspector and lead*
 - e) *Questions from team members*
 - f) *Plan for next site visit: who will go, when, what the objective will be*
 - g) *List of additional information that is needed, assignment of person(s) to conduct that research or obtain resources*
 - h) *Schedule for next call*
- C. Documentation
1. The Lead will document the planning process. Tools to support documentation include:
 - a) *Surveys collected via assessment apps*
 - b) *Coordination call meeting notes*
 - c) *Timelines created using project management tools*

- d) *A SharePoint site for encampment response has been set up at this time. Responses using non-County personnel may be set up in Asana or another web-based project management platform. If the sites are not HIPAA compliant, staff should ensure that no protected content is posted to the site.*
- e) *Regardless of the type of application used, the Encampment Coordinator will ensure that all parties to the plan will be provided a copy of it, indicating tasks, responsible parties, and time frame for completing the task.*

XI. At the Site

A. Personnel

1. Designated Lead: this is the go-to person at the site. If not fulfilled by the Encampment Coordinator for County-led responses, he will name a lead. This person responds to questions about the enforcement and outreach effort. For responses led by other entities, Encampment Coordinator will obtain the contact information for the designated lead.
2. Outreach & Assessment: people in this capacity will interview people that are there and complete the Detailed Assessment in HMIS. They will provide information about available services. If planned for, they may provide transport to service.
3. Enforcement/Safety: Depending on size and prior assessment of the site, public safety officers may be on site to provide back-up security. However, as with the HOT deputies, they would also be available to conduct assessments and encourage the encampment dwellers to accept services.

B. Personal Protective Equipment and Preparation

1. Visitors to the site must wear protective footwear (ideally boots) with thick rubber soles, and should wear long pants
2. Additional items if engaging in clean-up work: leather work gloves; eye protection, needle disposal container, and orange work shirts if heavy equipment will be used in the area.
3. Fully charged phone or mobile device
4. Sufficient water

C. Hazards

1. Staff should guard against putting themselves in danger or exposing themselves to biological threats. Forms of danger include hostile, erratic, or threatening behavior by people in the area, biohazards from needles, untreated human waste, sharp objects among the debris, and uncontrolled animals. At any time, a team member believes there is too much risk to proceed, they should retreat, and report back to the Lead.
2. Encampment responders also need to take note of potential environmental damage. If the team does not include representatives with that expertise, immediately notify the coordinator so that the connection can be made. Note that if the encampment is in the Flood Control District, or a protected habitat, there are regulations that govern how trash and hazards are to be removed.

D. Removal of Property

1. The team should ensure that identified personal property (see definitions) will be secured before site clearance.
2. Agencies charged with site clearance will comply with applicable regulations.
3. Any unattended personal property retained during an encampment clean up should be inventoried noting the name of the item, date collected and owner information, or location where it was gathered. Agencies should securely store any unattended or consumer's personal property for at least 90 days.

E. Notifications to Neighbors

1. Neighbors should be notified of an impending deployment if:
 - a) *Equipment or activity may affect ingress or egress to their property*
 - b) *There are safety concerns*
2. If not given prior notice, a person should be designated to respond to questions from neighbors
3. Neighbors should also be given the Coordinator's contact information if they have questions or concerns about the deployment.

XII. Appendix A Participating Agencies

A. Riverside County

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Board of Supervisors | 15. Riverside County Regional Parks & Open Space District |
| 2. Code Enforcement Department | |
| 3. Department of Animal Services | 16. Riverside University Health System (RUHS) |
| 4. Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS) | a) <i>Public Health</i> |
| 5. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) | b) <i>Behavioral Health</i> |
| 6. Emergency Management Department (EMD) | c) <i>Population Health</i> |
| 7. Fire Department | 17. Sheriff's Department |
| 8. Flood Control & Water Conservation District | 18. Veteran's Services |
| 9. Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR) | |
| 10. Law Offices of the Public Defender | |
| 11. Office of County Counsel | |
| 12. Office of the District Attorney | |
| 13. Office on Aging | |
| 14. Probation Department | |

B. Potential participating entities

1. All City Governments in the County of Riverside
2. State and Federal Agencies
 - a) *CalTrans*
 - b) *California Fish & Wildlife*
3. Native American Tribal Representatives
4. Nonprofit Agencies
5. Other entities
 - a) *Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF)*
 - b) *Union Pacific*
 - c) *Other private property owners*

XIII. Appendix B Legal Authorities

WHO	Legal Authority	Under What Conditions	Where	Goals/Notes
COUNTY				
Board of Supervisors	None			
CEO/Executive Office	None			
Deputy CEO Homelessness Solutions	None			
CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department	County Ordinance 695.4 and 772; 787.8 (adopting California Fire Code)	Fire prevention; Investigations and enforcement (peace officers)	Unimproved parcels with fire hazard or flammable vegetation	Abatement occurs <i>after</i> encampment is removed and only if flammable vegetation exists. Can also do 602 enforcement.
RivCo Code Enforcement	State: California Government Code Title 3 [23000-32005]; CA Penal Code - Section 829.5 Chapter 4.2. – role of Code Enforcement Officers 602 – No trespass	Code Enforcement Officers can assist with obtaining and verifying 602 No trespass orders for privately-owned property.	Countywide	Enhance public safety and quality of life for all parties involved, balancing the needs of communities with those of homeless people. This typically means abating the violations after the encampment has been dispersed.
	County:			
	Ord. 348 - Land Use	Excessive outside storage, occupied recreational vehicles, zoning and/or public nuisance	Private Property	Enhance public safety and the quality of life in partnership with communities through fair enforcement of the law and codes
	Ord. 520 - Vehicle Abatement			
	Ord. 541 - Accumulated Rubbish		Private Property	
	Ord. 754 NPDES	Pollution, illicit connection / discharge or non-storm water discharge.	Private Property	
	Ord. 413 - Parking	72 hour and RV Parking on County-maintained roads	Right of way/public road	

WHO	Legal Authority	Under What Conditions	Where	Goals/Notes
RivCo Flood Control	Title 40 CFR, Subpart D, Parts 112 & 122 Federal Clean Water Act, Sec. 402 CA Water Code (CWC), Chapt. 5.5, Div 7, starting at Sec. 13370 CA Health & Safety Code, Sec. 25250.12 CA Public Resources Code, Sec. 42954	Field reconnaissance, citizen complaint, outside agency notification	Flood control facilities w/in county Unincorp & several city boundaries	Homeless encampments should be removed promptly to avoid any water quality impacts to downstream property owners
Housing Authority of County of Riverside	None	Outreach teams may be engaged to support an encampment response.	Countywide	Engage for services; Linkage to emergency housing and permanent housing.
RivCo Parks & Open Space	Park Rangers are peace officers (CA Penal code 830.31b). Authority exist on County Park owned and managed lands. Enforcement of county Park ord. 328.1.	Rangers are first responders on Park properties. Typically respond to public complaints or executive office. Most encampments are addressed during routine patrols.	District properties countywide: regional parks, wildlife areas, RCA-owned properties & Santa Ana River.	Preserve lands and increase habitat. Staff are expected to evict homeless individuals, clear all debris, and restore the area to its native state. Routine patrols are required in order to prevent encampments from being established.
RUHS – Behavioral Health		General outreach per contract; emergency response as needed	Countywide	Engage for services; Move to permanent housing
RivCo Animal Services	Animal Service Officers	Officers can seize any animals deemed to be public safety concern.	Countywide	Seize any animals deemed to be public safety concern.

Attachment A

PERSONAL PROPERTY INVENTORY LIST

Any unattended personal property retained during an encampment clean up should be inventoried noting the name of the item, date collected and owner information, or location where it was gathered. Agencies should securely store any unattended or consumer's personal property for at least 90 days. If possible, provide a copy to the consumer and maintain a copy in agency's records. Ensure form is signed by Agency Staff and, if possible, consumer. If consumer is unavailable to sign, explain why.

Name of Consumer/Location of Encampment Site			HMIS or Case #	
UNATTENDED PERSONAL PROPERTY Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Quantity	Name/Description of item	Date Removed	Location where items will be stored (Item Record # at storage if any)	Planned Discard Date
AGENCY STAFF SIGNATURE		TITLE		DATE
CONSUMER SIGNATURE (if available)			DATE	
WITNESS		TITLE		DATE

Contacts

Riverside County Housing and Workforce Solutions

Tanya Torno, Deputy Director- (951) 955-7728

Emma Singh-Perez, Administrative Services Manager- (951) 907-1646

Raushanah Walker, Supervising Development Specialist- (951) 203-4035

Riverside County Parks and Open Space

Oscar Serrato, Natural Resources Manager- (951) 955-4558

Riverside County Code Enforcement Supervisors

District 1/2 (West County)

Supervisor Jamison Cole 951 210 1445 (desk)

District 5 (East County)

Supervisor Frank Mendez 760 393 3371 (desk)

District 4 (mid County)

Supervisor Jose Cruz 951 210 1145 (desk)

District 3 (South County)

Senior CEO Sara Rhoads 951 955 3497 (desk)

Cannabis Team (Admin)

Supervisor Jennifer Morris 951 210 1455

Special Enforcement Team (Vending, short term rental etc.)

Supervisor Ron Welch 951 600 6262 (desk)

Administrative Office: 951 955 2004

ITEM 9D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee September 8, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Efforts to Address Reoccurring 911 Outages in the Coachella Valley

Contact: Erica Felci, Deputy Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In February 2025, at the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized 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. In May 2025, the Public Safety Committee had presentations from Riverside County Sheriff and Fire Departments as well as California Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES), which led to a robust discussion about the issues causing the 911 system outages.

The stability of 911 infrastructure for the region has been a concern since Tropical Storm Hilary hit in 2023. These widespread outages, which have occurred as recently as last month, make it impossible to call the emergency hotline and, on occasion, limit the ability of the public to call local police departments through the non-emergency lines.

At the request of Public Safety Committee Chair Raymond Gregory, staff is providing this report to update the Committee members of some movement at the State level that could ultimately, but not immediately, help address the outages.

Assembly Bill 470, authored by Assembly Member Tina McKinnor, was making its way through the Legislature this year. If approved, it would establish a process that requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to allow a telephone corporation to relinquish its status as a "carrier of last resort" (COLR). As noted in previous staff reports, telephone providers still deliver services using copper networks in many areas, and these copper lines are prone to theft and weather damage. If phone companies are relieved of the COLR obligations, they may be more inclined to update to fiber networks or other modern technologies. As of this report, AB 470 was on the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

In addition to the legislative approach, there also are efforts underway by the CPUC to update the quality standards for telephone service, currently General Order 133-D. The CPUC is poised to issue updated rules that include some stronger enforcement tools, such as fines, related to outages. It is likely these will apply to landline and Voice Over IP services first, with the CPUC addressing broadband and wireless services later.

CVAG staff will continue to update the Public Safety Committee on this topic.

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