

ITEM 6A

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes May 8, 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 Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, at 12:02 p.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert. Zoom videoconferencing was available from the City of Blythe and Imperial Irrigation District's office in El Centro.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Mayor Nancy Ross
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Director Anthony Bianco
Councilmember Dirk Voss
Director JB Hamby
Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Amber Duff
Mayor Ted Weill**
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez*

Agency

City of Blythe (*via Zoom*)
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District (*via Zoom*)
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Councilmember Gina Nestande
Mayor Ron deHarte
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Riverside County – District 5

* *Left at Item 7C and was replaced by Deputy Chief of Staff Pat Cooper*

***Left after Item 7B*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Linda Evans led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Tom Kirk requested Agenda Item 7C be moved to the front of the discussion/action item calendar due to some scheduling conflicts and members needing to leave the meeting a little early.

Mr. Kirk highlighted the letters submitted to South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), signed by City of Rancho Mirage Mayor and CVAG Chair Ted Weill and City of Indio Councilmember and CVAG Energy & Sustainability Chair Oscar Ortiz, summarizing CVAG's discussions on SCAQMD's Rules 1111 and 121. Copies of these letters were shared with members and were available at the back of the room for public access.

Mr. Kirk also provided an update regarding funding for the Urban and Community Forestry Program, detailed as Agenda Item 8B, and the uncertainty of launching a program with Imperial Irrigation District to plant shade trees.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the minutes from the April 10, 2025, meeting

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

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Mayor DeConinck	Aye
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Absent
Mayor deHarte	Absent
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Absent

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

None

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

C. CVAG Staffing of the Coachella Valley Power Agency Joint Powers Authority

Program Manager Emmanuel Martinez presented the staff report.

Member discussion ensued with Mr. Martinez answering questions from the Committee regarding areas of coverage and next steps for the CVPA.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR HAMBY TO APPROVE, CONDITIONAL ON GUIDANCE FROM THE COACHELLA VALLEY

POWER AGENCY (CVPA), AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR AND/OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FINALIZE AND EXECUTE A STAFFING AGREEMENT FOR CVAG TO ADMINISTER THE CVPA.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Mayor DeConinck	Aye
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Absent
Mayor deHarte	Absent
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Absent

A. Presentation: SunLine Transit Agency Zero-Emission Fleet and Infrastructure Projects

SunLine Planning Manager Disoelyn Moreno provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding fleet and infrastructure projects.

Member discussion ensued with Ms. Moreno answering questions from the Committee regarding hydrogen usage and availability.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Proposed Updates to Coachella Valley Water District Landscape Ordinance

CVWD Conservation Manager Adam McWey provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding CVWD's proposed updates to the landscape ordinance.

Robust member discussion ensued with Mr. McWey answering questions from Committee members regarding proposed changes, rebates, timelines for changes and public education regarding proposed changes.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

D. Inland Regional Energy Network's 2024 Annual Report

Program Manager Jacob Alvarez presented the staff report.

Brief member discussion ensued. No action was taken as this was an informational item.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Urban and Community Forestry Program- Shade Trees for Southern California's Deserts

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at noon at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

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. Additional event information to be announced soon.

11. ADJOURN – Chair Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst