



ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025
12:00 p.m.**

**Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**Members of the Committee and the public may attend and participate by
video at the following remote location:**

**Blythe City Hall
235 N Broadway, Room A
Blythe, CA 92225**

**Imperial Irrigation District
1284 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the
Energy & Sustainability Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098567932?pwd=rEOYq3bk2VbZ0l3dzybUcYBs0Fswbu.1>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128
Webinar ID: 830 9856 7932
Password: 257394**

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127

Public Comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Energy & Sustainability Committee prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. 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** – Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, Chair

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 Energy & Sustainability 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. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

A. **Update on regional efforts to address air quality**

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the minutes from the May 8, 2025, meeting**

P5

B. **Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary to accept \$40,000 from the Colmac Air Quality Enhancement Fund Grant Program for the region’s Landscape Certification Program, including executing the required agreement with the County of Riverside**

P9

6.1 **ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- A. **Presentation: First Public Hydrogen Authority Municipal Hydrogen Utility – FPH₂** **P11**
Chief Executive Officer Jason Caudle

Recommendation: Information

- B. **Rollout of the Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts Program – Kalli Legakes,** **P12**
tree planting program consultant

Recommendation: Information

- C. **Election of Energy & Sustainability Committee Officers – Tom Kirk** **P14**

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Energy & Sustainability Committee for Fiscal Year 2025-26

8. **INFORMATION**

- A. **Attendance Record** **P16**

- B. **New location of CVAG's public meetings** **P17**

- C. **Coachella Valley Power Agency Update** **P18**

- D. **Used Oil Recycling Annual Report** **P20**

- E. **Inland Regional Energy Network's Business Plan and Executive Committee Update** **P25**

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

This is the second opportunity for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Energy & Sustainability 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.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at noon 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.

11. **ADJOURN**

ITEM 2A

**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Member Roster
2025 – 2026**



VOTING MEMBERS	
City of Blythe	Mayor Joseph DeConinck
City of Cathedral City	Mayor Nancy Ross
City of Coachella	Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Coachella Valley Water District	Director Anthony Bianco
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Dirk Voss
Imperial Irrigation District	Director JB Hamby
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed
City of Indio	Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Mayor Linda Evans, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Mission Springs Water District	Director Amber Duff
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Gina Nestande
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Ron deHarte
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Mallotto
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Chairman Joseph Mirelez
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Riverside County – District 5	Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

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

ITEM 6B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Landscape Certification Program

Contact: Nancy Reyes, Program Specialist (nreyes@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary steps to accept \$40,000 from the Colmac Air Quality Enhancement Fund Grant Program for the region's Landscape Certification Program, including executing the required agreement with the County of Riverside

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

To enhance air quality improvement efforts, CVAG partners with the College of the Desert to run a landscape certification program to mitigate air quality issues related to scalping and re-seeding of winter rye grass. The program works with all the Coachella Valley cities so that landscapers who are renewing or receiving a new business license at each city are educated and certified in the non-scalping re-seeding process. By helping to increase educational opportunities for landscapers, widespread use of non-scalping winter rye grass re-seeding technique can increase.

The landscaping certification program has been supported by the County's Air Quality Enhancement Fund. This fund relied on mitigation funding from the Colmac biomass energy plant, a 49.9-megawatt biomass energy generating facility in the community of Mecca. Mitigation funds received from the plant were deposited in the County's Air Quality Enhancement Fund and were used to fund competitive solicitation for proposals to improve air quality in the Coachella Valley. CVAG has been applying to, and receiving funding, from the County's Air Quality Enhancement program for many years.

The Colmac plant closed in April 2024 due to repeated air quality violations, including mercury emissions, and community pressure for permanent closure. After the closure, the Air Quality Enhancement Fund had a remaining balance of \$40,000. CVAG staff has been working with County staff to utilize the remaining funds to pay for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Landscaping Certification Program.

The Coachella Valley Air Quality Advisory Committee met on August 29, 2025, and supported

an extension of the agreement with CVAG for \$40,000. CVAG staff is recommending that the Executive Director be authorized to take necessary steps to accept the funds, including executing any agreements with the County. With this funding, College of the Desert will continue to host CVAG's Landscape Certification program online. COD will also promote the course on its website on the Partnership and Community Education webpage.

Fiscal Analysis: The costs for the Landscape Certification Program is \$40,000 per year. The grant from the County of Riverside's Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Program will fund the program through Fiscal Year 2025-26.

CVAG staff will be working with local agencies and partners to identify funding that can keep the certification program running for future fiscal years.

ITEM 7A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Presentation: First Public Hydrogen Authority Municipal Hydrogen Utility

Contact: Lisa McNeilly, Director of Energy and Sustainability (lmcneilly@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Members of CVAG's Energy & Sustainability Committee have expressed interest in learning more about the recently established municipal hydrogen utility, First Public Hydrogen Authority (FPH₂). At the September meeting, FPH₂ Chief Executive Officer Jason Caudle will provide a high-level overview of FPH₂ and what's on the horizon for the utility.

Launched in late 2024, FPH₂ is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between the City of Lancaster, City of Industry (the two founding members), and the City of Fresno. They are the nation's first public hydrogen utility. FPH₂ aims to streamline the process to scale the production of renewable hydrogen and its use by establishing a wholesale, transparent market convener that sellers and buyers alike can trust. The utility operates as a market aggregator to connect hydrogen producers off-takers (such as transit agencies, port terminals, municipalities or data centers). FPH₂ is currently in the process of matchmaking and executing contracts between hydrogen suppliers and off-takers. Membership in FPH₂ is open to public agencies only, with no financial obligation.

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

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Rollout of the Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts Program

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Assistant Director – Energy & External Affairs
(emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In fall 2024, CVAG and Imperial Irrigation District were notified that they were awarded a \$2.9 million Urban and Community Forestry grant to plant 6,000 trees in Imperial County and Riverside County under the Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts program proposal. The project's start had been on hold due to uncertainty with federal funding and the new Administration's Executive Orders. In June 2025, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) issued an intent to proceed, moving the project to the implementation phase. At the September meeting, the Energy & Sustainability Committee will hear from Kalli Legakes of Legakes Consulting Corporation, who has been hired by IID to run the program, about the next steps with this program.

The Shade Trees for Southern California Deserts program will significantly boost urban greening efforts in Imperial and Riverside County. The grant funds a three-year, 6,000 tree planting project, of which half will go to the Coachella Valley and the other half to Imperial County communities served by IID. IID and CVAG will focus on planting 15-gallon trees in disadvantaged communities and under-represented demographic groups with environmental, social, and economically identified needs. Using a two-pronged approach, half of the trees will be planted in residential properties, and half will be planted in public spaces. There will be two planting seasons per year, fall and spring, over the three-year grant period. This program will leverage the planning, organization and management tools and experience of IID under their Tree for All Program, which was created in 2021.

As part of CVAG's implementation responsibilities, CVAG staff will coordinate planting efforts in the Riverside County area. The grant allocates 3,000 trees to Riverside County and can be planted outside of the IID's jurisdictional boundaries— meaning western Coachella Valley communities will also reap benefits of this regional effort. However, it is important to note that the grant requires prioritization of disadvantaged communities as identified by the CalEnviroScreen. CVAG has long expressed concerns with CalEnviroScreen as the criteria that is used does not fully depict the socioeconomic diversity of the region, and the scoring puts only a handful of census tracts in either the Coachella Valley or in Blythe in categories that become eligible for funding. CVAG staff will be required to work closely with IID, Cal Fire, and the consultant to develop and deploy an equitable distribution plan that ensures compliance with the grant requirements and also distributes trees across the region.

As detailed in the grant application, this project engages partners such as Alianza Coachella Valley and the Desert Recreation District to assist with community engagement. CVAG staff will also work directly with Coachella Valley jurisdictions to identify public planting locations. Alianza will assist with marketing, outreach, and engagement to residents, which include digital and physical marketing and going door to door in qualifying census tracts. Desert Recreation District will assist with the planting component and identifying public spaces for planting.

Staff from IID and CVAG will act expeditiously to implement the grant. Given looming uncertainty, Cal Fire has encouraged CVAG and IID to frontload as many tree plantings as possible with proper planting and in adherence with the grant. Therefore, pending final agreements with contractors, the current plan is to take advantage of the upcoming fall planting season to move forward with efforts in the unincorporated communities of Thermal, Mecca, North Shore and Bombay Beach areas. The goal is to plant 1,000 trees (500 public and 500 private) by December of this year. After that work is completed, staff will begin planning for the spring 2026 season.

From an operational standpoint, IID will enter into agreements with two landscaping contractors, one for Imperial and one for Riverside counties, who will be responsible for planting the trees. IID will also enter into an agreement with Ms. Legakes who will oversee the program, including reporting requirements to the state. Under the authorization provided to the Executive Director in November 2024, CVAG will enter into an agreement with Legakes Consulting Corporation to receive reimbursement for CVAG staff time and related expenses.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to this update.

IID and CVAG submitted a \$2,975,163 grant request to Cal Fire's UCF program. The budget amount allocated for CVAG staff time is \$85,463 which assumes 20 hours per week per planting season, and two planting seasons per year for three years. Additionally, \$60,000 is allocated for outreach efforts in the Coachella Valley.

Although matching funds are not required given that all benefits must accrue to disadvantaged communities, IID and CVAG provided a \$500,000 match to increase the application's competitiveness. Of that amount, CVAG is committing \$20,000 in staff time to support outreach, education and coordination efforts in the Coachella Valley over the three-year grant period, which comes to about \$6,666 per year. The remaining matching funds are being allocated by IID.

ITEM 7C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Election of Energy & Sustainability Committee Officers

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

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Energy & Sustainability Committee for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Background: Each fiscal year, the Energy & Sustainability Committee considers the election of a Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee, which was renamed as of July 1, 2023, does not have a formal officer rotation, or a set policy for how to select the Chair and Vice Chair.

Attached for members' information is a list of the officers dating back to 2004, when the Committee was the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee. The current Chair is Indio Councilmember Oscar Ortiz and the Vice Chair is La Quinta Mayor Linda Evans.

Staff recommends that the Energy & Sustainability Committee provide nominations and elect its officers for this fiscal year. These officers would also represent CVAG's three votes on the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Executive Committee, where Councilmember Ortiz previously served as Vice Chair and as Chair.

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

Attachment: History of Chair and Vice Chair

**ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
(FORMERLY ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES)
CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR HISTORY**



	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Vice Chair</u>
2024-25	Oscar Ortiz	Linda Evans
2023-24	Oscar Ortiz	Linda Evans
2022-23	Oscar Ortiz	Linda Evans
2021-22	Linda Evans	Oscar Ortiz
2020-21	Linda Evans	Oscar Ortiz
2019-20	Linda Evans	Vacant
2018-19	Linda Evans	Richard Balocco
2017-18	Linda Evans	Yvonne Parks
2016-17	Linda Evans	Yvonne Parks
2015-16	Linda Evans	Yvonne Parks/Paul Lewin
2014-15	Michael Wilson	Linda Evans
2013-14	Michael Wilson	Linda Evans
2012-13	Michael Wilson	Linda Evans
2011-12	Stephen Pougnet	Yvonne Parks/Michael Wilson
2010-11	Ben Godfrey	Stephen Pougnet
2009-10	Ben Godfrey	Stephen Pougnet
2008-09	Ben Godfrey	Stephen Pougnet
2007-08	Ben Godfrey	Stephen Pougnet
2006-07	Hank Hohenstein	Ben Godfrey
2005-06	Buford Crites	Stanley Sniff
2004-05	Buford Crites	Stanley Sniff

ITEM 8A

**ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY 2024-2025**

<i>VOTING MEMBERS</i>	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	-	-		-		-	-		-		**	**
City of Blythe	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-		-	✓	✓	-
City of Cathedral City	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
City of Coachella	-	-		-		-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Coachella Valley Water District	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-		✓	-
City of Desert Hot Springs	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Imperial Irrigation District	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-		✓	-
City of Indian Wells	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
City of Indio	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
City of La Quinta	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Mission Springs Water District	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
City of Palm Desert	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓		-
City of Palm Springs	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓		-
City of Rancho Mirage	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Riverside County - District 4	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			-

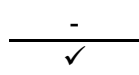
EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Desert Water Agency	-	-		-		-	-		-			-
Riverside County - District 5	-	-		-		-	-		-			-

Absent
Vacancy



No Meeting
Present



ITEM 8B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 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 8C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Coachella Valley Power Agency Update

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Assistant Director – Energy & External Affairs
(emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Addressing electrical service matters and representation concerns is a top priority for the Coachella Valley cities served by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). In May 2025, the Coachella Valley Power Agency (CVPA) was officially formed to increase local control and coordinated governance over electrical service in the Coachella Valley area served by IID. The founding members of CVPA are the cities of La Quinta and Indio and the County of Riverside.

The CVPA Board had its first meeting on June 12 and acted on several key administrative matters to help begin its operations. At the meeting, the leadership was selected for Fiscal Year 2025-26, with the Board selecting City of Indio Councilmember Waymond Fermon to serve as Chair and City of La Quinta Mayor Linda Evans as Vice Chair. Additionally, the CVPA Board took action to retain Best Best & Krieger to provide legal services and the CVPA's Bylaws were adopted.

To initiate the CVPA's momentum, the CVPA Board also approved the staffing agreement between the CVPA and CVAG. This is the same agreement that CVAG's Executive Committee, at the recommendation of the Energy & Sustainability Committee, had authorized earlier this year. The staffing agreement mirrors the staffing agreements CVAG uses for the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) and Desert Community Energy (DCE), and it allows CVAG to be reimbursed for staff time allocated to CVPA efforts. It also enables the CVPA to operate and benefit from economies of scale related to legal, auditing, and other administrative support that are pooled across the agencies. The agreement is for a period of five years.

The CVPA Board also had a meeting in July. The Board began to address administrative and operational decisions, including approving a start-up, \$500,000 budget for staff time, legal services, and operational expenses. This is to be funded by contributions from the member agencies. Staff has been directed to bring a revised budget back to the Board in September. On August 20, the Indio City Council approved their contribution, and staff is awaiting similar votes by the City of La Quinta and Riverside County.

Coordinating key task to advance the CVPA's goals and objectives will require IID's collaboration. To help facilitate this effort, CVPA Board approved a Cooperation Agreement with IID. This agreement establishes a five-year collaboration framework to advance key goals and objectives, allowing CVPA to propose and implement energy projects within IID's distribution

system. The agreement was crafted in close coordination and collaboration with IID staff and is awaiting IID approval.

The next CVPA Board meeting is September 29. The major items to be discussed relate to finalizing the budget, including consideration of a budget resolution and funding strategies for electrical infrastructure needs in the Coachella Valley.

CVAG staff will continue to provide key CVPA updates to the Energy & Sustainability Committee.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to CVAG for this informational report. CVAG staff time and expenses related to CVPA are covered under the staffing agreement between CVPA and CVAG.

ITEM 8D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Used Oil Recycling Annual Report

Contact: Eman Nazir, Management Analyst (enazir@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: CVAG, in partnership with its member jurisdictions, has long maintained successful recycling programs for waste tires and for used oil. Funded through the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the Used Oil Recycling Program is a state-funded initiative aimed at promoting the proper collection and recycling of used oil. The grant supports event coordination and staff services to host events that reduce environmental contamination from improper disposal and increase public awareness.

Each August, the Annual Report for the Used Oil Recycling Program is due. The Annual Report for 2025 was submitted on August 5, 2025. The report includes detailed accounts of program activities, financial expenditures, and achievements over the past year.

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, CVAG created flyers in English and Spanish to share information on local resources for used oil collection and best management practices. The flyers included a list of Certified Collection Centers (CCCs) as alternatives to the used oil collection events. The flyers were distributed to the participating member cities to increase distribution through cities' social media and news outlets. Additional information on local CCCs was distributed directly to 262 Coachella Valley residents who had signed up for used oil event email notifications.

Used oil filter exchange events hosted by CVAG were paused in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 due to the reduction in funding. Staff anticipates that these events will resume in Fiscal Year 2025-26, with eight used oil filter exchange events being planned for the member cities.

Even with the pause of events, there was an uptick in the total gallons of oil and the number of oil filters collected in Fiscal Year 2024-25 as compared to the previous year. CVAG collected a total of 78,077 gallons and 11,614 filters in 2024-25, which is an increase of 2,455 gallons and 32 additional oil filters over Fiscal Year 2023-24. This increase may be explained by continued education and outreach on available resources as detailed in the flyers and e-blast.

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

Attachments: Used Oil Recycling Program Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25



Annual Report Summary

Recipient/Jurisdiction: Coachella Valley Association of Governments

Status: Open

Fiscal Year: 2024-25

Program Advisor: Farrall, Annabel

Oil Collection Type	Oil (Gallons)	Oil Filters
Certified Collection Centers	74,715	10,250
PHHW and ABOPS	2,662	1,323
Residential Collection	701	41
Oil Collection Total:	78,078	11,614

Expenditures		
PAYMENT NUMBER : OPP14-23-0217		
	AVAILABLE BALANCE	925.17
Administration	Personnel	925.17
	REMAINING BALANCE	0.00
PAYMENT NUMBER : OPP15-25-0217		
	AVAILABLE BALANCE	53,765.00
Administration	Personnel	11,542.00
	REMAINING BALANCE	42,223.00

Program Highlights

Theme: One of the main activities of the Used Oil Program is to promote/increase used oil filter collection. What activities did you conduct to increase used oil filter collection?

To promote and increase used oil filter collection in FY 2024/2025, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) created an English and Spanish translation web flyer sharing education on local resources for used oil collection and best management practices for used oil collection. The web flyer included a local list of Certified Collection Centers (CCCs) for residents to utilize as an alternative to the used oil collection events. The web flyer was distributed to the nine member cities participating in the Oil Payment Program managed by CVAG for their use and promotion through City news outlets. Information on local CCCs was distributed to approximately 262 Coachella Valley residents that signed up for used oil event email notifications.

In FY 2024/2025 used oil filter exchange events hosted by CVAG were paused due to the reduction in OPP funding. The events will resume in FY 2025/2026 in alignment with the rotating event schedule that was established to manage a decreased OPP budget. CVAG anticipates hosting eight used oil filter exchange events in FY 2025/2026 for the nine member cities participating in the OPP. CVAG also plans to resume the poster drawing contest coordinated with local schools and host advertisements through a broad range of media outlets to encourage diverse attendance at FY 2025/2026 events.

Did you increase or decrease used oil and filter collection compared to last year? How much and why?

In FY 2024/2025 Coachella Valley residents continued to properly recycle their used oil and oil filters through year-round utilization of local collection resources. CVAG OPP member City collection data for FY 2024/2025 displayed a marginal increase in the total gallons of oil and number of oil filters collected, with a total of 78,077 gallons and 11,614 filters collected. The total annual gallons of oil collected increased by 2,455 gallons and 32 additional oil filters compared to total collection data from FY 2023/2024. This increase may be explained by continued education on the used oil recycling program and proper used oil and filter recycling, through resources including the FY 2024/25 web flyer and e-blast. During FY 2024/2025, used oil filter collection events were paused, thus there are no event collection figures to compare to previous years. CVAG plans to host collection events in FY 2025/2026 and compare these figures to FY 2023/2024 event totals when available.

Were there any program changes from this year to last year?

In FY 2024/2025 used oil collection events were paused due to the continued reduction in OPP funds. Before the pandemic, CVAG was able to host approximately 7-9 events each year. Post pandemic, CVAG has established a rotating schedule for the number of events to manage a budget that has decreased by approximately 40%. CVAG anticipates hosting eight events in FY 2025/2026.

If you dropped a program or method, why do you think it didn't work?

To be able to continue to host the events with a reduced budget, CVAG has paused procuring particular giveaway items as part of the oil change kit. Participants have demonstrated interest and use of the funnels, towels, and drainer containers at previous events. If the budget returns to pre-pandemic levels, CVAG will first resume events on an annual schedule, and then return to offering the additional giveaways.

What program or method has worked best for you?

- The development and distribution of a web flyer in FY 2024/2025 proved to be a valuable resource in promoting used oil filter collection during event off years by highlighting local year-round collection resources and used oil collection best practices.
- Used Oil Filter Exchange Events and education and outreach by event personnel to event participants continues to expand education and outreach on the recyclability of oil filters.
- CVAG plans to continue the drawing contest in FY 2025/26. This outreach method has been historically significant to CVAG as it ties in educating Coachella Valley's youth.
- Email is a great way to contact the customers who regularly attend the events. Regular attendees bring in family and friends, expanding outreach through word of mouth. In FY 2024/25 CVAG continued its email outreach to regular event attendees to ensure they have information needed to continue to recycle used oil and oil filters at permanent certified collection facilities.
- Radio advertising has historically been the number one driver for attendance and will be used again in event years.
- Demographic research has allowed CVAG to adapt the outreach efforts to best fit the community.

Did you develop any best practices or techniques to share with other grantees?

During CVAG's CCC site visits, CCCs are made aware of the free signage available on CalRecycle's website. Promoting the use of well-maintained, multilingual signage supports ongoing education efforts at locations where DIY oil changers typically shop.

Used Oil and oil filter collection events in the Coachella Valley have often been attended predominantly by people aged 50 and above. CVAG focuses on four initiatives to engage youth and young adults to increase their understanding of used oil and oil filter recycling. These initiatives will resume in FY 2025/2026 for the promotion of used oil filter collection events.

- Send advertisements to the local community college for distribution.
- Disseminate radio advertisements across a variety of station genres and include both English and Spanish versions.
- Utilize an email list developed from previous years' attendance to notify past attendees of upcoming events. This email list has the ripple effect of creating a portion of new and younger attendees from word of mouth. Observations at previous events noted there was a generational shift between family members attending.
- Data tracking of events year over year identifies how residents hear about the events offered and which methods are the best to update programs for the future.


What can CalRecycle do to help you? Or what would you like to see modified to better assist you?

Nothing at this time. We appreciate that the CalRecycle team overseeing the OPP grant is available to assist CVAG with any used oil program-related questions in a timely manner.

Annual Report Certification

"I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that I have read the Oil Payment Program (OPP) Guidelines (Guidelines), that the submitted Annual Report and Expenditure information is correct, and that all funds received under the OPP have been expended in accordance with the Guidelines."

X



8/5/2025

Tom Kirk (Aug 5, 2025 13:27:24 PDT)
Signature of Signature Authority (as authorized in Resolution) or Authorized
Designee (as authorized in Letter of Designation)

Date

Tom Kirk

Print Name

IMPORTANT! Recipient must print out this page, obtain Signature of Signature Authority, upload signed document to the LoGOPP system, and retain the original document in Recipient's cycle file.






Used Oil AnnualReport_FY24.25

Final Audit Report

2025-08-05

Created:	2025-08-05
By:	Eman Nazir (enazir@cvag.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAxVyD3Oh_QG-AWff2rKWgrrF5dG_Aixxs

"Used Oil AnnualReport_FY24.25" History

-  Document created by Eman Nazir (enazir@cvag.org)
2025-08-05 - 8:13:16 PM GMT- IP address: 76.53.51.98
-  Document emailed to Tom Kirk (tkirk@cvag.org) for signature
2025-08-05 - 8:13:40 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Tom Kirk (tkirk@cvag.org)
2025-08-05 - 8:27:08 PM GMT- IP address: 172.226.186.18
-  Document e-signed by Tom Kirk (tkirk@cvag.org)
Signature Date: 2025-08-05 - 8:27:24 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 72.132.59.49
-  Agreement completed.
2025-08-05 - 8:27:24 PM GMT

ITEM 8E

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee September 11, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Inland Regional Energy Network's Business Plan and Executive Committee Update

Contact: Jacob Alvarez, Program Manager (jalvarez@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: CVAG is collaborating with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) on a joint Regional Energy Network (REN), known as Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN). I-REN is governed by an Executive Committee, with CVAG's votes represented by the CVAG Energy & Sustainability Committee Chair, or Vice Chair as needed.

In April 2025, staff provided the Energy & Sustainability Committee with an update on the 2028 Business Plan, a critical document for guiding future financial investments. The update focused on the Executive Committee's February authorization for staff to advocate for the expansion of the plan to include Residential and Commercial (small and medium) sectors, an area of interest for both CVAG and SBCOG. CVAG staff was authorized to continue developing the plan for the Public, Codes & Standards, and Workforce Education & Training sectors while further analysis was conducted on the potential new additions.

At the May I-REN Executive Meeting, staff presented a comprehensive review of existing statewide and regional ratepayer-funded programs, a direct result of the Energy & Sustainability Committee's advocacy for including Residential and Commercial programs in the Business Plan. While programs already exist in each of the sectors of interest, staff noted a significant gap in their awareness and utilization. Instead of waiting for the next business plan to add new sectors, I-REN staff suggested it would be more effective and cost-efficient to coordinate with other program administrators to integrate and promote existing programs through enhanced outreach and education in the near term. As a result, The I-REN Executive Committee authorized the submission of the 2028-2035 Business Plan for the Public, Workforce Education & Training, and Codes & Standards Sectors. It also directed staff to coordinate with existing Energy Efficiency Programs in the Commercial, Residential, and Industrial Sectors to bring more resources to the Inland Empire.

At the July I-REN Executive Committee meeting, I-REN staff gave a presentation on third-party Commercial and Industrial programs. This highlights the ongoing effort to meet with these program administrators to coordinate and promote their energy and cost-saving programs. A follow-up presentation on third-party Residential programs is anticipated at the next I-REN Executive Committee meeting, which will be held October 21.

CVAG staff anticipates an updated draft of the Business Plan will be provided for the Energy & Sustainability Committee's review prior to the I-REN Executive Committee's consideration of approval. CVAG staff is planning to bring this forward in November meeting, ahead of the final submission deadline of February 13, 2026.

Staff would also note some additional updates from the last meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee, which was July 15. Among the actions approved:

- Selection of Leadership Positions for Fiscal Year 2025/2026: The I-REN Executive Committee chose its officers for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The newly elected Chair is Art Bishop from the Town of Apple Valley (SBCOG member), the Vice-Chair is Chris Barajas from the City of Jurupa Valley (WRCOG member), and the 2nd Vice-Chair CVAG's representative, Indio Councilmember and Energy & Sustainability Committee Chair Oscar Ortiz.
- Approval of an Agreement with the Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) to assist I-REN to administer the California Energy Commission (CEC) Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Program: The CEC awarded \$329 million to the Southern California EBD Coalition to launch a Direct Install Program for residential decarbonization. As a partner in the EBD coalition, I-REN is set to receive approximately \$1.35 million to support outreach in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. I-REN staff recommended partnering with the Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) to administer this program and distribute up to \$1.14 million to local community-based organizations (up to 10 CBOs at \$95,000 each) for various marketing, education, and outreach activities, including events and direct engagement with the community.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to CVAG for this update. Staff time dedicated to I-REN and the costs of the services of consultants are covered through the I-REN budget.