

CVAG Chronicle

April 2010

HOT TOPIC: The Coachella Valley's Sustainability Pledge: What is Our Carbon Footprint?

By Katie Barrows

Reducing our carbon footprint – the sum of all emissions of greenhouse gases — is another step in the Coachella Valley's long-standing commitment to preserving our quality of life. Collectively, we are taking many of the steps needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - using alternative fuel vehicles, planning with walkable community strategies, making municipal facilities more energy efficient. By doing so we are reducing our dependence on foreign oil. And we are using less electricity, saving energy and money. In 2006, the League of California Cities responded to AB 32 by urging cities to take immediate local actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions, noting that as leaders in this effort, California cities are saving and creating thousands of jobs along the way. To measure our progress, Coachella Valley elected leaders pledged to collaborate on a regional greenhouse gas inventory at the 2009 Energy Summit.

Fortunately, last summer the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) agreed to partner with CVAG to prepare a Coachella Valley Regional Baseline Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Because AQMD monitors many of the emission sources, they provided significant data and staff resources to analyze those data. We are now working with AQMD to finalize the inventory report which we expect to complete this summer. This inventory will help us identify where to focus reduction strategies and to measure our success in doing so. And help the Coachella Valley to better address



SB 375, AB 32 and other climate change initiatives by giving us real data on primary greenhouse gas sources.

The inventory focuses on major greenhouse gases — carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide — describing them for the entire Coachella Valley area within CVAG boundaries. The inventory also breaks out greenhouse gas emissions individually for each city, and the unincorporated areas of eastern Riverside County. Major source categories include on-road vehicles, electricity use, natural gas consumption, waste disposal, and other mobile sources (trains and aircraft, off-road-equipment).

The inventory uses the baseline year of 2005, which is also the baseline year for CVAG energy use reduction goals set in 2008. The inventory also looks into the



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Coachella Valley
Association of Governments



73710 Fred Waring Dr., Ste. 200
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 346-1127
cvag@cvag.org
www.cvag.org

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future with a forecast of greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2020, based on population growth and economic factors for our area. The 2020 data provides guidance for goal setting and greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.

Although the inventory report is not yet complete, some preliminary trends are evident. The Coachella Valley is like other areas of the state, with the most significant sources of greenhouse gases being vehicle use, electricity consumption, and fuel combustion for space and water heating, cooking, and related uses. Like elsewhere, passenger cars and light duty trucks are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions here. Other emissions sources evaluated in the inventory include trains, other mobile sources, and fertilizers used on golf courses and other applications. Data was also gathered on electricity-related emissions from water pumping and waste water treatment.

This greenhouse gas inventory provides the baseline for tracking our carbon footprint. When the inventory is completed, it will be circulated through the CVAG committees and the data will be available to all our members. A goal of this project is to provide economies of scale for member jurisdictions which are all addressing greenhouse gas emissions at some level. We are fortunate that AQMD has done all the work on the inventory without cost to CVAG or our members.



CVAG has recently received a significant grant from Southern California Edison to implement a 3-year model program to integrate energy efficiency and climate action planning by our jurisdictions. CVAG's request for \$6.1 million was the largest recommended award among the proposals received by SCE from cities and local government partnerships throughout their territory. We also have funding from the Colmac grant program for a framework Coachella Valley greenhouse gas reduction plan.

The Coachella Valley Economic Blueprint cites an Ernst and Young report which recognizes unprecedented awareness and support for climate-friendly policies by the general public. The good news is that the actions already being taken, including energy efficiency programs, solar energy installations, fleet vehicle changes, and mixed use projects will not only contribute to greenhouse gas reduction but will promote energy independence, improve air quality, and reduce congestion. Integrating greenhouse gas reduction with other sustainability initiatives will position the Coachella Valley as a center for renewable energy and green economic growth.

- Katie Barrows



**Register today for the
2010 CVAG General Assembly!
\$45.00 per person. Call 760-346-1127.**

CVAG Department Heads

Tom Kirk
Executive Director

Gary Leong, CPA
Administrative
Services

Allyn Waggle
Transportation

Aurora Wilson
Community
Resources

Katie Barrows
Energy
&
Environment

Toni Eggebraaten
General Counsel



Executive Committee Meeting April 26, 2010

ACTION

- Approved a resolution supporting the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010.
- Approved holding the 2010 General Assembly at the Palm Springs Convention Center at \$45.00 per person.
- Adopted Resolution of Intention to approve an amendment to CVAG's contract with CalPers; and approved immediate implementation of offering to interested and eligible employees the opportunity to retire during a designated period with an additional two-year service credit.
- Directed a letter of support of the concept behind AB 2759 to be signed by the Chair.
- Approved the Coachella Valley Cities/County increase of their contribution to the Regional Street Sweeping Program by increasing their pass through AB 2766 funds from 45% to 100% or to provide an in-lieu contribution from other sources in a like amount in order to obtain matching funds from the AQMD/MSRC.
- Approved that staff be authorized to enter into contract negotiations with CleanStreet.
- Authorized the Executive Director to accept \$400,000 from the SCAQMD that may be granted contingent on CVAG's securing commitments for a sustainable funding source for the program, such as from increased use of AB2766 funds.
- Approved an amendment to the Jefferson Street/Interstate 10 interchange project agreement to substitute Riverside County as lead agency.
- Approved an agreement with Cathedral City to provide 75% of the local share of costs for a highway bridge program grant for the Date Palm Drive bridge project, in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,608,925.
- Authorized the Executive Director to purchase one minibus for Roy's Desert Resource Center using a portion of the funds allocated by Riverside County DPSS in an amount not to exceed \$55,500.
- Approved a MOU with Desert Water Agency to become a non-voting member of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.
- Approved the change of bonus point criteria regarding accidents for the 2009 Update to the Transportation Project Prioritization Study.
- Approved an amendment to the reimbursement agreement with Indio for the Madison Street improvement project to de-obligate funding for construction work on the road segment from Miles Avenue to Fred Waring Drive.
- Approved an amendment to the Cook Street widening project to reduce the construction estimate and to extend the project construction date.
- Approved an agreement to provide additional funds in the amount of \$1,364,272 to complete the Indian Avenue/ Interstate 10 project.

UPCOMING CVAG MEETINGS

MAY 2010

Executive Committee

June 7 at 6:00 p.m. (Suite 119)

Technical Advisory Committee

May 10 at 11:30 a.m. (Suite 119)

Transportation Committee

May 3 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee

May 24 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

May 13 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission

May 13 at 11:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee

June 17 at 8:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

AB939 Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group

May 10 at 3:00 p.m. (Suite 200)

Public Safety Committee

May 10 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Homelessness Committee

May 19 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Human & Community Resources Committee

May 19 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)



Palm Springs Convention Center

Don't forget to register for the General Assembly!

CVAG's Executive Committee comprises 30 members. Voting members (17) are Riverside County supervisors, mayors and chairs of CVAG cities and tribes or their designees. Nonvoting members (13) are county, city and tribal managers.

Executive Committee Roster

Mayor Stephen Pougnet, City of Palm Springs
CVAG CHAIR

Mayor Yvonne Parks, City of Desert Hot Springs
CVAG VICE CHAIR

Mayor Joseph DeConinck, City of Blythe

Mayor Kathleen DeRosa, City of Cathedral City

Mayor Eduardo Garcia, City of Coachella

Mayor Ed Monarch, City of Indian Wells

Mayor Pro Tem Ben Godfrey, City of Indio

Mayor Don Adolph, City of La Quinta

Mayor Cindy Finerty, City of Palm Desert

Mayor Gordon Moller, City of Rancho Mirage

Supervisor John J. Benoit, **Supervisor Marion Ashley**,

Supervisor Bob Buster, **Supervisor John Tavaglione**, and

Supervisor Jeff Stone, County of Riverside

Tribal Chair Richard Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

2nd Tribal Vice Chair David Roosevelt, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians



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