

CVAG Chronicle

September 2009

HOT TOPIC: ROY'S DESERT RESOURCE CENTER

By Aurora Wilson

Following the untimely passing of Riverside County 4th District Supervisor Roy Wilson on August 26, 2009, the Board of Supervisors, with the permission of the Wilson Family, took action on September 3rd, to rename the Multi-Service Center for the homeless in Palm Springs, "Roy's Desert Resource Center."

Roy's DRC continues to move forward with an opening date of December 1st. With major support from Riverside County Facilities Department, demolition and construction have begun on the interior of the building. The architects, WWCOT, have been instrumental in the design of the infrastructure of the facility including selection of the equipment, flooring, carpeting, paint, etc. We have also received furniture and equipment donated by the County, several cities and businesses. It is being inspected, sorted and stored in the Center.

a one time windfall from County DPSS of \$750,000 for capital. A funding request to the Wells Fargo Foundation has resulted in a \$100,000 contribution that will go for operations of the Center.

- ❖ Roy's DRC has come to the attention of Columbia University's Senior Executive Program and their Positive Impact Project (PIP). It is a flagship program that takes the combined business experience of global class executives who choose to work on a social entrepreneurship program.
- ❖ This year, Columbia University has chosen Roy's Desert Resource Center. The Program involves 4 weeks of intense work between the executives and a local team on a number of issues; e.g., how to market; fundraise; how to get a number of providers to work as one; etc.
- ❖ The local team that will participate in the four week session will include: CVAG's Homelessness Committee Chair and Indio Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson; DHS Mayor Pro Tem Karl Baker; Ron Stewart, Manager of the County's Homeless Division and Rev. Tahlib McMicheaux with the First Community Baptist Church in Desert Hot Springs.
- ❖ At the conclusion of the Program, near the end of October, two CVAG staff are invited to attend a meeting in Connecticut to receive the ideas and recommendations from the class and the local task force.
- ❖ Special thanks go to Bruce Cravens from Columbia University and the DHS community, who brought this project together.



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Photo taken at Center Kick-off.

The Executive Committee directed staff to undertake contract negotiations with the proposed services provider, Jewish Family Services of San Diego. A contract will be making its way through the CVAG committees in October.

- ❖ As we continue to look for funding streams, we are pleased to announce

Coachella Valley

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HOT TOPIC: Roy's Desert Resource Center

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CVAG Department Heads

Tom Kirk
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Services

Allyn Waggle
Transportation

Aurora Wilson
Community
Resources

Katie Barrows
Energy
&
Environment

Jim Sullivan
GIS Program
Director

Toni Eggebraaten
General Counsel



**Supervisor Roy Wilson
CVAG Chairman
July 1999 - June 2000**

On August 26th, the Coachella Valley lost its "giant", Roy Wilson. Supervisor Wilson had recently and surprisingly resigned from the Board of Supervisors on Friday, August 21st.

His illness was relentless and unforgiving and the speed at which it took him shocked us all including those who knew him best, his wife and family.

Roy's contributions to the Coachella Valley are unsurpassed and will be remembered for a long time to come. The Desert Resource Center for the Homeless is just one of the many projects that he was passionate about. He served the largest of the County's Supervisorial districts from Palm Springs to Blythe.

Supervisor Wilson served on the County Board of Supervisors for almost fifteen years. Prior to that, he served on the Palm Desert City Council for nearly seventeen years. He was also a Professor at the College of the Desert for more than twenty five years.

He eagerly served on many Boards and Commissions: Riverside County Transportation Commission, SunLine Transit Agency, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Mojave Desert Air Quality District to name a few.

It has been said that Supervisor Wilson's fingerprints can be found on almost every major project in the Coachella Valley including CSUSB-Palm

Desert, UCR Palm Desert, the CVMSHCP, the Indian Wells Tennis Gardens, and on and on. How true. He is missed but we move forward, as he would want us to, to continue his legacy. He leaves behind his wife, Aurora, children: Karen, Lisa, John, Scott, Stan and eleven grandchildren.

CVAG Announcements

- ❖ **Baton Passed - CVAG** would like to welcome its newest employee, Diana Aguilar. Diana joins CVAG as the new receptionist. Welcome aboard, Diana!
- ❖ **Coachella Valley Regional Housing Trust Debuted -** On September 30, 2009, Valley Leaders gathered to meet the new agency's board of directors, discussed the future of the Housing Trust, and listened to Keynote Speaker, Lynn Jacobs, State Director of Housing and Community Development.
- ❖ **Interchange Update -** At last! Two Coachella Valley Interstate 10 interchange projects held bid openings in October. Bids for the Ramon Road/ Bob Hope Drive interchange project were opened on October 8th. The Engineer's Estimate for this project was \$40,602,000. The lowest bid received was \$22,428,651, a difference of \$18 Million! Six other bids were under \$24 Million, and the second lowest bid missed the mark by less than \$300! The Palm Drive/ Gene Autry Trail interchange bid opening was held on October 14th. This bid opening combined the interchange project with the adjacent Union Pacific railroad bridge widening project together as one package. The Engineer's Estimate for this combined project was \$33,474,000. The lowest bid received was in the amount of \$16,950,686. Approximately \$13,500,000 of that amount was for interchange, with the remainder for the railroad bridge. Seven of the bids on this project were under \$20 Million. These two important projects are the first wave of the Coachella Valley Corridor Improvement Program now being undertaken. Watch for more information in the next Chronicle regarding groundbreaking events and construction schedules for these projects, as well as the current schedules for the three remaining interchange projects.



Executive Committee Meeting September 28, 2009

ACTION TAKEN

- Approved a letter to the Board of Supervisors signed by the CVAG's Chair endorsing the Board's action on September 3rd to rename the Desert Resource Center to "Roy's Desert Resource Center" and that the letter thank Supervisor Marion Ashley and the Board of Supervisors for taking such action; and approved travel arrangements for an amount not to exceed \$1000 for up to two CVAG staff to join Homelessness Committee members in Connecticut on October 29th for participation in Columbia University's School of Business Positive Impact Project (PIP).
- Approved issuing an RFP to retain a consultant to provide professional public relations services for the I-10 interchange projects, and other transportation related programs as appropriate; and appointed a selection committee to assist in selecting a firm.
- Reaffirmed the direction to update the TUMF Nexus Study/ TUMF Fee Schedule; and clarified CVAG Policy that the local share of project costs is related to construction project expenses, not pavement maintenance or other approved uses.
- Approved an amendment to the reimbursement agreement with the City of Indio for the Madison Street Improvement Project to include the road segment from Avenue 50 to Avenue 52, and to include the City of La Quinta as a participating agency.
- Approved the request by Caltrans to allocate \$2.335 million of additional funding support, pending bid opening and award of contract, to complete the Ramon Road-Bob Hope Drive/Interstate 10 Interchange Project.
- Approved the draft MOU for the County's Travel Demand Model for maintenance, update and usage, including: that the jurisdictions be authorized to obtain the data files, should they choose to run the Model in-house; and that a cost schedule of allowed charges for services be established and approved prior to execution of this MOU to run the Model on a fee basis.
- Approved the addendum to the MOU between Riverside County TLMA; UCR; WRCOG; and CVAG for the Center for Demographic Research; and authorized the Executive Director to sign the addendum.
- Approved a grant application for Colmac funds to support: 1) Greenhouse Gas Inventory and reduction plan, 2) Off-Highway Vehicle Task Force, 3) Landscapers Certification Course, and 4) Annual Reseeding Marketing Program.
- Approved acceptance of FY 2008/09 Colmac funds for \$153,000 for the purpose of a recovery effort for Caltrans Blow Sand Mitigation: tree planting and irrigation projects at HWY 111 and HWY 62.
- Approved funds of an additional \$33,957.04 from regional AB2766 funds to the CleanStreet contract to address a shortfall from services provided during FY 2008/09.
- Authorized the chair to sign a letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein supporting her proposal to create the Sand to Snow National Monument.
- Approved funding from the BLM and authorized transfer of the funds to the CVCC.
- Relinquished all right, title and interest in any excess right of way on Jefferson Street, between the Whitewater Channel and Westward Ho Drive, to the City of La Quinta. The City shall remit to CVAG 75% of any payment received for, and hold CVAG Harmless for any liability connected with the relinquishment.

UPCOMING CVAG MEETINGS OCTOBER 2009

Executive Committee

October 26 at 6:00 p.m. (Suite 119)

Technical Advisory Committee

October 9 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Transportation Committee

* October 19 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee

October 26 at 12:00 p.m. (Suite 119)

Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

October 9 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission

October 9 at 11:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee

October 15 at 8:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

AB939 Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group

November 9 at 3:00 p.m. (Suite 119)

Public Safety Committee

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

Homelessness Committee

October 21 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

Human & Community Resources Committee

October 21 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

* Meeting changed due to Columbus Day Holiday.



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

Vice Mayor Beverly Mays, City of Blythe

Mayor Kathy DeRosa, City of Cathedral City

Mayor Eduardo Garcia, City of Coachella

Mayor Larry Spicer, City of Indian Wells

Councilmember Ben Godfrey, City of Indio

Mayor Don Adolph, City of La Quinta

Mayor Robert Spiegel, City of Palm Desert

Mayor Gordon Moller, City of Rancho Mirage

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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