

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee was called to order by Chair Ben Godfrey at 12:00 noon on April 9, 2009.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ben Godfrey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present. Chair Ben Godfrey welcomed Buford Crites filling in for Supervisor Wilson today.

Members Present

Vice Mayor Beverly Mayes
Mayor Kathy DeRosa
Mayor Eduardo Garcia
Councilmember Russell Betts
Councilmember Ben Godfrey, Chair
Councilmember Stanley Sniff
Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Finerty
Councilmember Lee Weigel
Buford Crites (Proxy vote)
Board Member Nancy Wright
Board Member Anthony Sanchez

Agency

City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
County of Riverside, 4th District
Mission Springs Water District
Imperial Irrigation District

Members Absent

Mayor Larry Spicer
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Moller

City of Indian Wells
City of Rancho Mirage

Others Present

Pat Cooper
Joe Lim
Councilmember Richard Kelly
Pat Scully
Mark Greenwood
Andrea Oliver
Vikki Dee Bradshaw
Kay Hazen
Suzanne Seivright

Office of Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny
City of Indio
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Desert
IID
Citizen
Clean Cities Coachella Valley Region

CVAG Staff

Larry Parrish
Katie Barrows
Jim Sullivan

Aurora Wilson
Jacob Alvarez
Linda Rogers

4. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA & ADDITIONS & REVISIONS**

Chair Ben Godfrey added Item No. 9.1 to the agenda entitled: Update/Status Report on the Salton Sea and SB 51.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

6. **COMMITTEE MEMBER & DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Councilmember Russell Betts announced that he was appointed by the City of Desert Hot Springs as a fully appointed regular member to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.

Aurora Wilson passed out flyers announcing the upcoming Lawn Mower Exchange event taking place on May 16, 2009 at Cal State San Bernardino, Palm Desert campus. CVAG is working with AQMD in the 2009 Electric Lawn Mower exchange program. Residents can bring in their operable gas mowers and for \$100 receive a new electric lawn mower.

Katie Barrows reported as a point of information, the Local Government Commission is holding a series of workshops on implementing SB 375. The first event is on April 16, 2009 in Riverside. Information will be distributed to committee members regarding other upcoming workshops in Southern California.

Katie Barrows stated that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has suggested the potential for them make a presentation to CVAG regarding the Green Path North Project. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Green Path North Project. Buford Crites (representing the County of Riverside) asserted that if further discussion was going to take place on this the Green Path North Project, then it should be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Councilmember Betts and seconded by Councilmember Sniff to add the Green path North Project to the agenda as Item No. 7.1. The motion carried.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

7.1 **DISCUSSION OF GREEN PATH NORTH PROJECT – Katie Barrows**

Katie Barrows reported that staff would like to get more information about this project particularly in respect to the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the impact it would have. The Resolution that the Executive Committee passed in January opposing Green Path North actually called for the LADWP to meet with CVAG. Staff inquired of the committee regarding their interest in having a presentation from LADWP or whether the committee would prefer

deferring on the matter until after the environmental process goes forward.

Councilmember Betts was not in favor of having the LADWP to come in now and make a presentation outside of the involvement with the BLM and the Forest Service. Councilmember Betts also stated that there was some talk of CVAG becoming a cooperating partner in the process. Councilmember Betts suggested that before going further into the process, CVAG should consider offering some type of formal input in particularly with concerns surrounding the MSHCP areas. Councilmember Betts stated that the City of Desert Hot Springs will be going forward with their opposition to the Green Path North Project. CVAG's Interim Executive Director, Larry Parrish, raised the question of what was entailed in CVAG being a cooperative partner and the level of commitment necessary. Councilmember Betts responded that he felt that it was mainly entities being around the table and offering input to lead agencies: LADWP, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. Councilmember Betts stated that these three agencies will be working on the NEPA requirements and LADWP is their own lead agency on the CEQA. Further discussion ensued regarding the CEQA and NEPA process and the uncertainty of routes involved in the Green Path North Project.

Board Member Anthony Sanchez requested the vote count on passing the Resolution. Staff indicated that she believed it to be a unanimous vote to pass the Resolution. The Executive Committee's concerns had to do with potential impacts of the path. Discussion ensued regarding the vote and staff indicated that this was a preliminary Resolution recognizing that there was still an environmental process and a variety of alternatives to be looked at. Mayor De Rosa recommended that a copy of the Resolution be given to Board Member Sanchez. Mayor Garcia had a question in terms of the timeline for the EIR and then made a recommendation that we hold off on a presentation until after the EIR is complete. A much more productive discussion in terms on what position CVAG will be taking regarding the Green Path North project. Mayor Garcia added that until the committee has concrete information about the project and the environmental impacts in terms of how it affects the habitat plan.

Chair Ben Godfrey recommended that the Green Path North discussion be agendaized for May's meeting along with a more complete staff report.

8. UPDATE ON COACHELLA VALLEY ENERGY SUMMIT 2009

Katie Barrows reminded the committee that the Energy Summit is scheduled for next Friday, April 17 at the Palm Springs Convention Center. The committee was encouraged to participate in the Summit. The steering committee has worked very hard in putting together a great program and lineup of speakers. Buford Crites will be moderating the first panel discussion and Kay Hazen will be moderating the second panel. Further discussion ensued regarding the keynote speakers for the morning and afternoon sessions. Katie Barrows added that all of the Mayors are being asked to join in a pledge in the afternoon. The pledge will be focusing on clean air and energy conservation and the greenhouse gas reduction. At the end of the day, there will be a reception to provide an opportunity for people to speak with speakers and sponsors. Space is still available for those interested in having a booth at the summit.

9. **REPORT FROM CITY OF PALM DESERT ON SB663 REGARDING NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

Councilmember Richard Kelly addressed the committee asking for an endorsement or letter of recommendation of approval from CVAG in support of SB 663 regarding neighborhood electric vehicles. The electric vehicles are not allowed to drive on any street over 35 miles per hour. The City of Palm Desert would like to create a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle plan for all city streets within the City of Palm Desert. The City would pick out safe streets that are over 35 miles an hour and work on connectivity and safety to devise a plan allowing residents to get to where they need to go in a neighborhood electric vehicle.

Buford Crites added that South Coast Air Quality Management District has been looking at this and is wholeheartedly in support of SB 663.

It was moved by Buford Crites, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Finerty, that the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee recommend that the Executive Committee approve and send a letter of endorsement in support of SB 663. The motion was unanimously carried.

9.1 **UPDATE/STATUS REPORT ON THE SALTON SEA AND SB 51**

Pat Cooper representing Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny addressed the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee to seek CVAG's support of SB 51. Ms. Cooper discussed the Quantification Settlement Agreement ("QSA") created by the Salton Sea Restoration Fund stating the intent of the Legislature was that the State undertake the Restoration of the Salton Sea Ecosystem and the permit protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem. Further discussion ensued regarding the legislation's Preferred Alternative that incorporated the element of restoration of habitat, elimination of air quality impacts, and protection of water quality. Further, one of the major things that all of the stakeholders agreed on in order to move forward on the restoration of the Salton Sea was that there needed to be a government structure in place, Ms. Cooper stated that SB 51 is the Governance Bill to move forward with the Salton Sea. A packet was distributed to the committee along with a copy of SB 51, as well as a draft organizational chart of what the Salton Sea Restoration Council would look like.

It was moved by Mayor De Rosa, seconded by Board Member Wright, that the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee recommend that the Executive Committee send a letter in support of SB 51.

The motion carried with one abstention from Imperial Irrigation District.

10. **AMENDMENT THREE TO AB 2776 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Aurora Wilson asked for the committee's concurrence with the staff recommendation for a Third Amendment to the MOU CVAG has with the member jurisdictions to continue 45% of city allocation of AB 2766 funds to CVAG. Discussion ensued regarding the increase from 33% to 45% to help meet the local match requirement with the CMAQ federal funds we were using to

operate the Regional PM10 Street Sweeping Program. Staff went on to explain that the current contract with CleanStreet no longer uses federal funds but uses grants awarded from different agencies. Aurora Wilson added that because grants are not a steady revenue stream, there is a concern that returning the percentage to the original 33% would impact the bottom line of CVAG's Air Quality Programs. Discussion ensued regarding how funds are used and the contracts in place within the Air Quality Program to manage the programs along with the staff time associated with administering the projects. There was some discussion regarding using Measure A funds, however, discussion regarding this with RCTC has been tabled. Staff added that CVAG will need as much funding in place to maintain the street sweeping program at its current capacity as well as to continue our contracts and staff time.

It was moved by Councilmember Sniff, seconded by Mayor De Rosa, that the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee recommend that the Executive Committee approve Amendment Three to the AB2766 Memorandum of Understanding between CVAG and member jurisdictions and direct staff to distribute Amendment Three to the member jurisdictions for review and action.

The motion was unanimously carried.

11. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS' ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Jacob Alvarez reported that on March 9th, the Mayor Pro Tem from the City of Coachella, Steven Hernandez, submitted his resignation as CVAG's representative to the Southern California California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Energy and Environment Committee due to other work commitments. Jacob Alvarez stated that CVAG staff drive their own vehicles either to Los Angeles or to the San Bernardino MetroLink station once a month to attend the SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee. Staff indicated that once approved by CVAG's Executive Committee, the representative will be required to attend CVAG's SCAG Representative Group which meets here the Wednesday before each SCAG Regional Council meeting. The new representative will serve a two-year term commencing the date of the appointment by the SCAG President.

Mayor De Rosa made a recommendation that the be considered as CVAG's representative to SCAG, however, Chair Godfrey declined due to transportation issues. There were no further representatives nominated. It was recommended that this item move to the Executive Committee for their consideration of a nominee.

12. CONSIDERATION OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

Katie Barrows stated that the Goals and Objectives for FY 2009/2010 were circulated last month for the committee's approval. It was suggested by the County of Riverside that under item IV. Salton Sea Restoration that CVAG be more actively involved. The suggestion was that we change the language to

actively promote and participate in the Salton Sea Restoration planning effort. Mayor De Rosa asked for a clarification as to what that language meant. Buford Crites qualified that what this means is that we would have an opportunity to work with Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny to help with the legislation and to make sure that the County of Riverside participates and to do our best to be a part of this. We have a huge stake in the ongoing health of the Salton Sea. This would allow this body to have a positive influence on what is being passed and funded. Further discussion ensued regarding staff time involvement. Mayor Garcia added that it is essential that CVAG have some involvement. There was further comment about the level of staff participation required and that this be brought back to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee for their consideration.

It was moved by Councilmember Sniff, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Finerty, that the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee approve the Goals and Objectives for the Committee for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 with the amended change that CVAG actively promote and participate in the Salton Sea Restoration planning effort.

The motion passed with one abstention from Imperial Irrigation District.

13. OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS FROM THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

Katie Barrows reported there is a variety of funding sources coming forward through the Stimulus Package. Meetings have been ongoing over the last few months with the Technical Advisory Committee. When the first meeting was held, the County of Riverside specifically asked us to submit projects that could be eligible for Stimulus Package funding. A broad list of projects are included in the agenda packet. There have been some funds identified specifically for individual cities that are allocated to energy efficiency. There are a variety of funding sources and the recommendation from the TAC with regard to the Stimulus Package funding was that among a number of priorities: Transportation, Housing, Homelessness Program and the Energy and Environmental opportunities be considered. The request was that we look at the places where a regional cooperative program with CVAG working with all of our member jurisdictions could be put together with a regional approach would be very desirable and perhaps something along the lines of AB 811 or other things. Discussion ensued with respect to some regional opportunities with one relating to a batch of funding that the guidelines of which have not been issued in the amount of \$400 million in a competitive grant. Staff asked that the committee provide their input and direction but at this point we are still gathering information and an opportunity for a regional program in exploring available options.

Councilmember Sniff asked for a clearer definition of what these options are. Staff indicated that there is no request for action at this time but is being brought to the committee as a point of information. Larry Parrish added that the City Managers/TAC along with the County have put together a very exhaustive list of opportunities. Mr. Parrish commented that we are now waiting for the administrative details to follow. Mr. Parrish added that before going forward with

any details, information would first be brought back to this committee. Staff added that all cities have submitted their lists.

14. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval

14A Approve Minutes of the March 12, 2009 Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

The Minutes of March 12, 2009 will be submitted at May's meeting for approval by the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

Information

14B Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Attendance Roster

This item was received as an information item by the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Coachella Valley Energy Summit 2009, Palm Springs Convention Center, April 17th – Register Now! The registration fee for the event is \$75 per person prior to April 10th and includes lunch. After April 10th, and at the door, the fee will be \$90 per person. For more information go to www.cvagevents.org. Registration is being handled by Burke Rix Hines, please contact Josh at 760.327.9708 ext. 24.
- Energy & Environmental Resources Committee is scheduled for May 14, 2009 at 12:00 Noon.
- Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee is scheduled for May 21, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers
Program Assistant II