

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee was called to order by Chair Ben Godfrey at 12:10 p.m.

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. The Chair acknowledged and welcomed Mission Springs Water District to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.

Members Present

Beverly Mayes (via teleconference)
Mayor Kathy DeRosa
Mayor Eduardo Garcia
Councilmember Russell Betts
Mayor Larry Spicer
Councilmember Ben Godfrey, Chair
Councilmember Stanley Sniff
Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Mayor Steve Pougnet
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Moller
Supervisor Roy Wilson
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 Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
County of Riverside, 4th District
Mission Springs Water District
Imperial Irrigation District

Others Present

Margaret Park
Emily Nelson
Joe Lim
Dee Bradshaw
Todd Ward
Mohsen Nazemi
Kay Hazen
James Nelson
Lizette Romo
Richard Cromwell III

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Consultant
City of Indio
IID
SCAQMD
SCAQMD
Citizen
YAC
YAC
Clean Cities

CVAG Staff

Larry Parrish
Katie Barrows
Jim Sullivan

Aurora Wilson
Jacob Alvarez
Linda Rogers

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

There were no additions or changes.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Richard Cromwell representing the Coachella Valley Region of Clean Cities reported on his recent trip to Washington, D.C. and his meeting with the Department of Energy.

6. **COMMITTEE MEMBER & DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

On March 17, 2009 the Building Industry Association and CVAG will be hosting a California Green Builder, AB 32 and Title 24 Workshop along with SCE, IID, and the Gas Company at CVAG. The workshop is free and will provide good information on green building options.

There was some discussion regarding the Stimulus Package for infrastructure projects, shovel ready projects and energy efficiency, There are opportunities for potential funding to help support CVAG and programs for member jurisdictions for projects that could be completed in 12 to 24 months. Katie Barrows indicated that the list of potential projects must be ready by March 17th to go back to Riverside County Economic Development Agency which will forward it to the State. Katie asked the committee if there was interest in looking at these opportunities.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

8. **MORATORIUM ON ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN AIR PERMITS**

Aurora Wilson introduced Todd Ward who is the new Public Affairs Specialist for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). As indicated in the staff report, the SCAQMD is making significant changes to its permitting program as a result of recent court actions and this is critical information impacting businesses. Aurora Wilson introduced Mohsen Nazemi from SCAQMD. Mr. Nazemi presented a brief overview of some changes that have been made to the permitting program as a result of lawsuits filed by a number of environmental organizations. Some of the points covered by Mr. Nazemi included:

- 1) AQMD's Permitting Process
- 2) New Source Review under Federal Law, State Law
- 3) When are Emission Offsets required under Federal & State Laws
- 4) Exempt Sources from Offsets under AQMD's New Source Review
- 5) Sources of Offsets
- 6) Status of Environmental Organizations Lawsuit Against AQMD both in State and Federal Court
- 7) Result of the State Court Decision
- 8) Cost Trends from 2000-2008

9) Present Status of Permit Moratorium

AQMD staff proposed legislation to take to their legislative committee tomorrow for the AQMD's Board consideration, and a copy of the draft was distributed to the committee for their review. Discussion ensued regarding the legislation, and Mr. Nazemi explained that the focus of the legislation is to basically overrule the State Court Judge's decision with respect to the CEQA requirements.

Further discussion ensued regarding the legislation and how public services will be impacted. Mayor Spicer asked about what avenue is available for us to motivate our legislative representatives as all of our cities are affected negatively by this. Mayor Spicer suggested that perhaps CVAG's Executive Committee consider passing a resolution or something for all of the cities to be signatories as this sounds like a very important matter. Supervisor Wilson added that AQMD's Board will be meeting tomorrow and more information will be available after that meeting. A resolution from CVAG and the individual cities is very important.

It was suggested by Mayor Pougnet that this issue be made an item for the next Executive Committee along with a presentation. Supervisor Wilson added that the District can provide language for CVAG and hopefully by the next meeting the committee will have a draft of the bill by AQMD.

9. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

Katie Barrows asked the committee to consider the draft Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 which are very similar to last year's. Staff called the committee's attention to item VIII. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction. This is a potential opportunity to coordinate efforts in terms of greenhouse gas reduction and a greenhouse gas inventory. Mayor Spicer suggested that the goals and objectives need a grade in terms of how we are doing. Mayor Pougnet recommended taking a closer look at the Salton Sea and there might be some updates of things we need to do.

10. CONSIDERATION OF A COACHELLA VALLEY REGIONAL BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY CONSISTENT WITH AB 32 AND SB 375 AND AUTHORIZATION TO PREPARE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Katie Barrows stated that this item follows on the discussion from the last meeting regarding an opportunity for coordination of a greenhouse gas inventory. Staff added that CVAG will be considering coordinating with AQMD to do that. Katie Barrows indicated that some research has been done on the potential cost adding that staff has been working with Ted Flanagan, a consultant with the City of Palm Desert, on preparing both a sustainability plan and a greenhouse gas inventory. Mr. Flanagan is with EcoMotion and he has been helpful in providing us with some general cost estimates of what an inventory would like on a valley wide basis. Ms. Barrows stated that the general estimate could range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 to upwards of \$100,000. There was discussion of doing an inventory that individual cities could have and then a more regional approach. Discussion ensued regarding funding sources in terms of exploring Colmac funds. Information that would result from a greenhouse gas inventory would be

something that would be useful to all jurisdictions in terms of dealing with SB 375 and AB 32 and for those adopting goals for emissions reductions. Staff addressed the reason for the greenhouse gas inventory and how the information would be used. The inventory will identify now what cities are doing as a baseline so that there will be a way to measure the impacts in the future. Further discussion ensued regarding establishing information on travel and demand and setting goals for energy efficiency or greenhouse gas reduction. Staff added that right now the state has identified a protocol that is used.

It was moved by Councilmember Sniff, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moller, that the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee recommend that the Executive Committee:

- 1) Direct staff to develop a Regional Coachella Valley Baseline Greenhouse Gas Inventory**
- 2) Authorize staff to identify funding sources, and prepare a Request for Proposals to complete this inventory**

A roll call vote was taken:

City of Blythe	Aye
City of Cathedral City	Aye
City of Desert Hot Springs	Aye
City of Indian Wells	Aye
City of Indio	Aye
City of La Quinta	Aye
City of Palm Desert	Aye
City of Palm Springs	Aye
City of Rancho Mirage	Aye
Imperial Irrigation District	Aye
Mission Springs Water District	Aye

The motion carried with 11 Ayes. The City of Coachella and the County of Riverside left the meeting prior to the vote.

11. UPDATE ON APRIL 2009 ENERGY SUMMIT AND FAIR

Katie Barrows distributed a copy of the program for the April 17 Summit. There was some discussion regarding keynote speakers and the panelists lined up for the morning and afternoon sessions. Mayor Pougnet added that the summit is coming together in terms of the speakers adding that the moderators will be Buford Crites and Kay Hazen. Mayor Pougnet stated that although Senator Boxer could not be here, she will be doing a video presentation on the economic stimulus portion and how to access some of those funds. Invitations have been sent out to the Green Mayors. By the next Executive Committee meeting, we will have a Mayoral Pledge that Mayors will be asked to sign at the end of the Energy Summit. Due to the economy and vendors the decision was made not to have the fair, but to concentrate wholly on the Summit on the 17th. All jurisdictions were encouraged to participate in the Energy Summit.

12. **UPDATE ON WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE**

Katie Barrows noted that CVAG staff will be meeting with the Water Task Force next week and they will be bringing forward their draft Landscape Ordinance that will be circulated.

13. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Approval

13A Approve Minutes of the February 12, 2009 Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

It was moved by Councilmember Sniff, seconded by Mayor De Rosa, that the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

City of Cathedral City	Aye
City of Desert Hot Springs	Aye
City of Indian Wells	Aye
City of Indio	Aye
City of La Quinta	Aye
City of Palm Springs	Aye
City of Rancho Mirage	Aye
Imperial Irrigation District	Aye
Mission Springs Water District	Aye

The motion carried. The Cities of Blythe, Coachella, Palm Desert and the County of Riverside were not present for the vote.

Information

13B Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Attendance Roster

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

14. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee** is scheduled for **March 19, 2009** at 8:00 a.m.
- **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** is scheduled for **April 9, 2009** at 12:00 Noon.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers, Program Assistant II