

**ENERGY & WATER CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2009**  
**“Corrected”**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee was called to order by Mayor Stephen Pougnet, Chair, at 8:03 a.m. on January 15, 2009.

**In Attendance**

Tom Davis  
Tami Scott  
Lizzandro Diaz  
Gabriel Perez  
Supervisor Roy Wilson  
Susan Weisbart  
Robert Edwards  
Mayor Stephen Pougnet  
Marilyn McKay  
Gary Ambach  
Lin Juniper  
Tony Coonce  
Kathy De Rosa  
Gary Calhoun  
Connor Limont  
Brian Peulicke  
Joan Taylor  
Kay Kaufmann  
Dave Mourhess  
Chad Poorman

**Jurisdiction/Agency**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Coachella  
County of Riverside – 4<sup>th</sup> District  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio/Indio Water Authority  
City of Palm Springs  
Mission Springs Water District  
IID  
SCE  
SCE  
SCE  
Consultant  
Member at Large  
Member at Large  
Member at Large  
The Desert Sun  
Suntrek Solar Energy

**CVAG Staff Present**

John Wohlmuth  
Katie Barrows  
Linda Rogers

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Stephen Pougnet led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA & ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER & DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Lin Juniper announced that SCE would be hosting a free seminar entitled “*Fundamentals of Electricity and Energy Efficiency*” on January 29, 2009 at their Palm Springs Service Center, Cathedral City. More information regarding the seminar and registration will be sent out via e-mail to subcommittee members.

Katie Barrows circulated a publication released by the County of Riverside entitled Riverside County Sustainability in the Twenty First Century. The publication outlines the various things that the County has been doing along with other cities in terms of Water and Energy Conservation and Resource Sustainability. Copies of the publication can be obtained from Supervisor Wilson’s office.

Katie Barrows reported that an opportunity is available to apply for a “Flex Your Power Rural Outreach Grant” in the amount of \$12,000. CVAG’s Executive Committee will be requested to authorize submittal of the application at their February meeting.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

7. **UPDATE ON DESERT CITIES ENERGY PARTNERSHIP**

Tony Coonce provided an update on the Desert Cities Energy Partnership indicating that the partnership is ready to go and details of the agreement are being negotiated between SCE and CVAG. Tony Coonce explained what was involved for the 2009 - 2011 partnership. Bridge funding is being utilized this year to kick off the partnership. Mr. Coonce addressed the following points as to how the partnership works:

- 1) Commercial direct installation program – blanket commercial districts and change out light fixtures, perform some tune-ups for air conditioners all at no charge to the businesses.
- 2) Lamp exchange, appliance recycling, training regarding SB 32 to benefit the entire valley.
- 3) Title 24 will be changing and there will be new codes for energy efficiency. Educate city engineers and staff in code enforcement departments.
- 4) Sponsor workshops and energy summits
- 5) SCE will bring mobile education unit to CVAG events
- 6) Municipal retrofits and audits

Resources from the cities were identified for planning and coordinating with SCE and CVAG to get the word out about events but monies will not be required from the cities. Discussion ensued regarding meeting with cities regarding outreach to the communities. Lin Juniper indicated that SCE has met with some of the cities and tribes: Cathedral City, Palm Springs, Indian Wells. Meetings will be set up with the Cities of Rancho Mirage and Desert Hot Springs. Lin Juniper indicated that SCE will help the cities to understand the scope of the project and it will not take a lot of the city’s staff time. Each city will be required to designate an energy champion that SCE can work with. Lin Juniper added that after meetings occur with the cities, an overall

marketing plan will be put together for the entire region. Tony Coonce stated that at the next meeting he would like to continue this discussion and asked for:

- (i) ideas from the cities in terms of what events and outreach events your cities and communities might want to do;
- (ii) ideas for the name of the partnership (show presence in the valley).

Katie Barrows indicated that CVAG will also be working with SCE and IID to talk about opportunities for marketing and outreach.

Gary Ambach updated the committee on IID's continuing work with the City of La Quinta. IID has been networking with all of La Quinta's city facilities and reported back to them as to what they can do. The City of La Quinta will be looking at this report at their next council meeting for implementation this year. An AB 811 funding program was also presented to the City of La Quinta for their consideration.

Gary also discussed a workshop that was held in December in conjunction with Coachella Valley Water District, the Gas Co. and Burrtec. A power pledge website has been launched as well. A meeting will be held with Desert Sands Unified School District to determine the next three schools they would like to target for energy efficiency. Gary Ambach stated that there was a check presentation made at the school board meeting. The school district had done some air conditioning replacement projects at three of their schools, and the total rebate from IID was \$54,490. Gary stated that the school district will save 189,000 kilowatt hours a year which equates to savings of approximately \$25,000 on their electric bill.

Gary Ambach added that arrangements are being made to meet with the City of Indio next to discuss energy audits at their facilities. IID has been talking to the CEC and others about bridge funding for AB 811.

## **8. 2009 ENERGY SUMMIT**

Katie Barrows reported on progress of the 2009 Energy Summit Steering Committee and identified April 17 and 18 for the 2009 Energy Summit to be held at the Palm Springs Convention Center. Plans are underway for bringing an event coordinator on board. There was discussion about keynote speakers for the event: a mayor from a sustainable city (the City of Long Beach is being looked at); we are looking at inviting Mary Nicols from the Air Resources Board who has been very involved with AB 32 and implementation of the greenhouse gas issue. At last year's Energy Summit there was an emphasis of coming up with goal statements and a course of action to look at for this year's summit. Discussion ensued regarding the summit format, keynote speakers, sponsorships and looking at social marketing to effect behavioral change. Right now the working group is negotiating with a marketing firm that will help with the Energy Summit.

## **9. REPORT FROM AB 811 WORKING GROUP**

Katie Barrows indicated that she would like to set up a meeting with County staff and will be asking for a meeting schedule. Steve Pougnet added that we are trying to figure out ways to allow more people to take advantage of AB 811. Supervisor Wilson indicated that the County has been trying to find funding resources through their incorporated areas. Supervisor Wilson stated that at the AQMD Board meeting

AB 811 is now catching on with other cities, especially, as it relates to energy efficiency and air quality issues. There was some discussion about doing a collective effort and finding funding and reserves to fund the program. The County is working on being able to identify some low to moderate income housing money to be used. Tony Coonce added that there are efforts to change the legislation on the tax code. There is a considerable amount of effort in Sonoma County, Palm Desert and some other states that are trying to latch on to the Obama Stimulus Package to change the tax code so that cities and municipalities can issue tax free bonds for AB 811 type loans. Under this program, citizens would be able to take advantage of the tax credit. Pat Conlon has stepped up taking the charge in this area and the City of Palm Desert has been coordinating with Sonoma County. Sonoma County has been taking the lead in working with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office.

#### **10. UPDATE FROM BASELINE ENERGY USE WORKING GROUP**

Katie Barrows stated that we have the approval form that all the City Managers have prepared. The baseline energy use information is being distributed by IID in meetings with individual cities as well as by Edison. Tony Coonce and Lin Juniper are hoping to get the information distributed to SCE cities. SCE will be monitoring energy use and presenting information to the subcommittee on an annual basis. Katie Barrows indicated that the goal will be to start with the 2005 data as a baseline to measure our success over time. The data is broken down into categories by jurisdiction; i.e., hotels, small businesses, residences. Once each city has their breakdown, the data will then be brought together for valley-wide use. Gary Ambach volunteered to help prepare the information into a package for the subcommittee.

Tony Coonce indicated that the City of Palm Desert was close to 30% of their five year goal to reduce consumption by 30%, almost 60,000,000 kilowatt hours. John Wohlmuth stated on February 10th, the City of Palm Desert would be having a meeting that will identify kilowatt savings and set goals for the year. According to Mr. Coonce, the savings now for the City of Palm Desert is at 28%. Lin Juniper added that one of the programs that has worked very well is the Pool Pump Program.

Supervisor Wilson stated it would be helpful to have an education program among people who sell pool pumps and air conditioners in terms of pushing them to sell the best technology; i.e., 18 SEER units. Tony Coonce indicated that SCE is meeting three to four times a year with all the HVAC contractors in the valley. There is quite a bit of education being done with both licensed HVAC contractors and pool pump installers.

Further discussion ensued regarding targeting an outreach to contractors. The general public needs to see cost recovery in upgrading or retrofitting. Gary Ambach indicated that IID actually lists out cost benefits and walks through that. IID conducts a training program requiring that HVAC technicians doing air conditioning diagnostics go through their training in air conditioning diagnostics. Upon completion of the training, technicians receive certification.

Susan Weisbart indicated that the City of Indian Wells would be interested in identifying specific costs for HVAC and inquired if some type of pricing could be made available throughout the Coachella Valley. Kathy De Rosa added that with Palm

Desert's program, vendors have not been asked to set up price points. Setting pricing is up to the individual businesses.

**11. UPDATE ON AB 32 – FOLLOW-UP COORDINATION WITH SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SCAQMD)**

Katie Barrows stated that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as of December has adopted their Plan for implementation. Discussion ensued regarding the opportunity for a workshop in the Coachella Valley. A meeting is scheduled with CVAG staff and AQMD to discuss potential issues with greenhouse inventories and how that might be done on a regional basis with their help. AQMD is working with the County of San Bernardino on a county wide effort. An update of information will be brought back to the next meeting.

**12. WATER CONSERVATION ISSUES**

Katie Barrows indicated that CVAG is working with the cities and the Riverside County Water Task Force in developing a Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance. A consultant working with the Riverside County Water Task Force will then compile all city ordinances to come up with a model matrix for Riverside County. The timeline for this process is sometime in April. The model ordinance will then go to the cities to be considered by all jurisdictions. The goal is to get our jurisdictions to have an ordinance better than the state's, and then Riverside County will submit the model ordinance to the state. Katie Barrows reiterated that this process benefits both Riverside County and all jurisdictions so that each city does not have to go through this process individually with the state.

**13. REVIEW OF SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS**

Katie Barrows indicated that as the subcommittee reviews the goals the initial focus was originally on energy efficiency, but we must now also focus on water.

Bob Edwards added that Indio Water Authority will be kicking off a Satellite Smart Timer program where watering will be adjusted by the satellite. The program will include participation by both residential and business customers in the service territory of Indio Water Authority.

**14. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 14A Approve Minutes of the November 20, 2008 Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee.

**The consensus of the subcommittee was to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2008.**

**15. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next meeting of the Energy and Water Conservation Subcommittee is scheduled for February 19, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at CVAG, Conference Room 119.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers  
Program Assistant II