

**ENERGY & WATER CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee was called to order by Katie Barrows at 8:00 a.m. on July 16, 2009.

**In Attendance**

Tami Scott  
Gabriel Perez  
Pat Conlon  
Marilyn McKay  
Gary Ambach  
Tony Coonce  
Kathy De Rosa  
Connor Limont  
Joan Taylor  
Gary Calhoun  
Richard Cromwell II

**Jurisdiction/Agency**

City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Palm Desert  
Mission Springs Water District  
IID  
SCE  
SCE  
Member at Large  
Member at Large  
Consultant  
Consultant

**CVAG Staff Present**

Tom Kirk  
Katie Barrows  
Linda Rogers

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Katie Barrows led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No additions or changes.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. COMMITTEE MEMBER & DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Marilyn McKay indicated that the water agency planning region made a submittal to the Department of Water Resources and the submittal has been accepted. The region has been accepted as defined as roughly from San Gorgonio Pass down to but not including the Salton Sea. The group is preparing an RFP to hire a consultant to prepare the Water Management Plan. Early drafts of the RFP and Scope of Work are completed, and there will be a public meeting in the fall to solicit comments from groups on the RFP and Scope of Work. As soon as the date and time is finalized for the public meeting, that information will be shared with the group. Marilyn McKay stated that since the Department of Water

Resources has accepted the region, that now sets up the region for planning locally and for Prop 84 Grants with the State.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

7. **PRESENTATION ON PALM DESERT ENERGY PROGRAM: CHANGING OUR ENERGY BEHAVIOR**

Pat Conlon addressed the importance of behavioral changes as it pertains to the community and energy usage. Addressing behavior was cited as an important part of initiating a successful energy program. Pat Conlon discussed the Set to Save Program and the behavioral component of the program in Palm Desert. It was estimated that behavioral changes could potentially generate anywhere between 10% to 20% of energy savings. A handout was distributed and Pat Conlon discussed the two components used in Palm Desert's program consisting of an energy survey and report. There was further discussion about initiating the survey and compiling the data to come out with an energy report for the specific home or business. This process is the first step in helping property owners to know where their energy is going and to assist them in making informed decisions. Once the survey report is printed, the energy technician can then explain to the homeowner or business owner the incentives that are available in the loan program. There was some discussion about accessing water district customer files. Access to water districts customer files is not available at this time. The survey focuses directly on the structure and not on water or landscaping. Once access is made available to the water districts records online, it would be very important to do a landscaping inspection. Discussion ensued about incorporating water, irrigation and landscaping to establish a comprehensive report. Further discussion ensued regarding accessing customer water usage and protecting confidentiality.

Marilyn McKay stated that next year all water districts are obligated to prepare an update to Urban Water Management Plan. The Plan is circulated in draft to cities and public agencies and they are asked to comment on it. This would be a great opportunity for cities to comment along the lines of the energy survey.

Pat Conlon indicated that after the survey is done, follow-up calls are made to homeowners and business owners to determine whether or not improvements been made to the home or business. There are instances where it is difficult for residents or business owners to make major investments due to financial constraints. The AB 811 program came about from the follow-up surveys, and financing was identified as the number one hurdle why residents had not made substantial improvements. Good feedback has come back from the surveys and it is a powerful tool. Survey is online for anyone who would like to take advantage of this.

Marilyn McKay inquired if a landscaping or irrigation system would qualify under AB 811. Pat Conlon responded that AB 811 is geared to energy efficiency improvements permanently affixed to a dwelling.

Pat Conlon discussed the Home Electricity Report comparing an individual's energy usage with their neighbor's (same size home) within a one mile radius of the home. It also compares them with the most energy efficient neighbors of the same size home. The

report shows a resident where they stand in relation with their neighbors. Pat Conlon went over a sample report and discussed it with the subcommittee. Pat Conlon also covered a customized report to zero in on specific Set to Save program incentives or offerings that can be tailored for an individual's home. This is currently a pilot program in Palm Desert and residents are given the option to opt out from receiving the energy report.

There was some discussion in connection with requiring pool contractors to go through specialized training for installing energy efficient pool pumps in order to obtain business licenses in the City of Palm Desert. Pat Conlon added that quarterly meetings are held with contractors. Pat Conlon stated that training videos are available online to train the pool service industry on pool pumps. Training information will also be put on DVD and it will be translated into Spanish as well. There was some discussion relative to requiring training or educational courses for contractors through the Desert Cities Energy Partnership and CVAG. The reseeding/scalping course was cited as a model as an effective way to educate landscapers and could also be effective with pool contractors valley wide.

## **8. UPDATE ON THE WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE**

Katie Barrows that there was a very positive meeting with a working group of planning and other staff from the cities with the water agencies to talk about the Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance. The intent at this time is that Mission Springs Water District (MSWD), Indio Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Desert Water Agency have all been participating in these meetings. Indio, MSWD and CVWD all have water ordinances in place that are fairly close to what is required under the state model. CVWD will be updating their model and those cities that do not have an ordinance in place would be willing to adopt CVWD's version of the ordinance and use that as a basis for the state model requirement. Desert Water Agency indicated that they would be willing to do the plan check and inspections that are necessary to meet the state model. The CVWD ordinance would essentially be the valley-wide model with the exception of the other agencies that already have ordinances that are close to being there.

Katie Barrows addressed another element dealing with the ability to have an affect on existing landscapes where much of our energy and water use goes. Katie Barrows covered the tiered water rates that are being used. The committee is interested in working on that aspect and coming back with ideas on how to appropriately implement a program that could help with existing landscape. In September the water districts expect to have their versions updated with the state model issue. CVWD plans to hold a public workshop and circulate to individual jurisdictions for their review and adaptations. It is anticipated that the ordinance will be in place by January 30, 2010 as required by state law. There was an interest from the working group to go beyond adopting the ordinance to look at other ways water efficiency and conservation can be promoted. This may be an ongoing working group.

## **9. UPDATE ON DESERT CITIES ENERGY PARTNERSHIP**

### **9A Discussion of Partnership Working Group**

DCEP meetings have been occurring following this meeting. The Partnership would like to have a working group incorporating a representative from each of the participating jurisdictions who would be an energy champion from each city. Katie Barrows indicated

that the group proposed going to CVAG's Technical Working Group in September to ask the city managers to designate an individual to participate in the working group. The focus of the partnership would make it most practical to have the facilities manager involved.

Katie Barrows stated that energy audits are being done now at all of the cities and will be finished within a month or so. Each of the cities will have an energy survey or audit done on all of their facilities.

**10. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2009/2010 SUBCOMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

Katie Barrows expressed an interest in getting feedback from the subcommittee regarding other issues that the subcommittee might want to consider. There was some discussion about Title 24 and the original implementation was August and now it has been extended to the end of the year. The state model goes a little above Title 24. Katie Barrows addressed incentive type mechanisms that some of the cities are using to streamline processing. Further discussion ensued.

**11. UPDATE ON ENERGY FUNDING - THE STIMULUS PACKAGE**

Katie Barrows updated the subcommittee on the application for the Energy Efficient Vehicles and Alternative Technology; the notification date for that is in late August or early September. Recent information has been released for small cities on the Energy Block Grant Funding that is becoming available through the state.

Gary Ambach stated that IID has been working on an AB 811 program including a proposal to the California Energy Commission (CEC) under the State Energy Program (not the community block grant program). The state allocated \$213 Million and there will be a fully competitive process unlike the community block grant. The State Energy Program is fully competitive. Gary Ambach indicated that in discussions with the CEC, guidelines would be available sometime in November. There are a series of workshops on July 28, 29 and 31 where there will be some proposed guidelines given. IID proposed to the CEC that IID would administer and provide bridge funding for \$25 Million over five years for AB 811 financing and they are looking to the state to come up with another \$15 million.

The City of La Quinta just passed a resolution for an AB 811 financing program and to work with IID on the partnership. It appears that Indio will be trying to do something in August and discussions have been underway with the City of Coachella. Gary Ambach stated that IID is accumulating all of their support to go to the CEC and has been talking to Assemblyman Perez.

**12. CONSENT CALENDAR**

12A Approve Minutes of the May 21, 2009 Energy and Water Conservation Subcommittee.

Minutes of the May 21, 2009 meeting will be deferred for approval until September.

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- CVAG goes dark in August.
- The next meeting of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee is scheduled for September 10, 2009 at noon.
- The next meeting of the Energy and Water Conservation Subcommittee is scheduled for September 17, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at CVAG, Conference Room 119.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers  
Program Assistant II