

**Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2008**

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee was called to order at 8:07 a.m. on November 20, 2008 by Chair Steve Pougnet.

In Attendance

Tom Davis
Susan Weisbart
Bob Edwards
Mayor Stephen Pougnet, *Chair*
Gary Calhoun
Lin Juniper
Tony Coonce
Kathy De Rosa
Connor Limont
Kay Hazen
Joan Taylor
Jane Udall
Kay Kaufmann

Agency

Agua Caliente Tribe of Cahuilla Indians
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of Palm Springs
Consultant, City of Palm Springs
SCE
SCE
SCE
Member at Large
Member at Large
Member at Large
Member at Large
The Desert Sun

CVAG Staff Present

John Wohlmuth
Katie Barrows
Linda Rogers

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Steve 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

6. Correspondence

Katie Barrows indicated that there was no official correspondence on the agenda. However, Katie Barrows commented that CVAG has received a request from the Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) to become a voting member of the Energy

& Environmental Resources Committee. Last month, the Executive Committee added the Imperial Irrigation District to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee. The request from MSWD was forwarded to the Executive Committee for their consideration in January.

7. Report from AB 811 Working Group

The first meeting of the AB 811 Working Group was held last week to look at opportunities for coordination valley wide. Katie discussed the current models that exist, citing the City of Palm Desert and the City of Berkeley. Some of the points discussed were the potential for cooperative funding opportunity and what options there are for upfront funding to cities. Some of the ideas discussed were:

- Private funding
- Bond funding
- Sonoma County is working on a program where they would provide a financing authority that other jurisdictions could participate in.
- Pat Conlon also attended the meeting and indicated that the City of Palm Desert is trying to change the Tax Code and working with Speaker Pelosi's office and with Congresswoman Bono-Mack's office working towards tax exempt bonds if it were to pass. They are moving forward with that to try to change the Tax Code.
- Discussion of bringing jurisdictions under a county loan program and the possibility of shared administration of the program overall and a level of inspection.
- Discussion of assessment districts.
- What qualifies in each jurisdiction is energy conservation; i.e., solar, air conditioning is up to the criteria that that jurisdiction sets.

A meeting will be followed up with Supervisor Wilson and work will be continued with Speaker Pelosi's office regarding the Tax Code changes.

8. Initiation of Desert Cities Energy Partnership in January 2009

Lin Juniper commented that SCE has come up with a solution regarding funding so that the Partnership could be started in the January time frame. The California PUC was able to provide some bridge funding for the new energy partnerships beginning in January 2009. SCE's Energy Efficiency Department is supporting the efforts in the Coachella Valley and was able to use another program funding mechanism to get us started until the 2009-2011 program is approved.

Tony Coonce, Project Manager for the Desert Cities Energy Partnership, addressed the subcommittee indicated that funding is now available to move forward. The Cities will approach the utilities with a sustainability plan and then the utility will partner with a city, or group of cities, in this case, CVAG will be our partner and represent the valley. Tony indicated that the utility will ask for a representative from each city and discussed two components to the partnership:

- 1) municipal retrofit component.
- 2) marketing, education and outreach to constituents.

The cities will be able to show leadership with their own facilities as well as getting energy efficiency and sustainability to their community. Cities will be asked for any events where they would like SCE to be present. Further discussion ensued regarding events that SCE will participate in, help sponsor, and the need to move forward with municipal retrofits. Mr. Coonce also discussed a pool pump program for residents in 2009 which could generate a huge energy savings. SCE would like to begin auditing municipal facilities to determine opportunities with municipal retrofits. Although budgets are stretched, Mr. Coonce identified a proposal for on-bill financing at zero percent financing for municipalities. When this funding becomes available, Mr. Coonce would like to have those municipalities identified and in place in order to take advantage of the funding before other partnerships do. This funding is only available to cities within SCE territories and in partnerships. This funding is expected to be available sometime after June. SCE would like to have the city input with SCE Account Executive, Cynthia Garcia, right away in what events cities would like to host.

Questions and answers were opened up to the group. Mr. Coonce commented that again the program money is geared to marketing, education and outreach with an emphasis on municipal retrofits to help out the cities to begin with. Lin Juniper added that if there is an opportunity to help our community bring savings, we can bring those items to the table. A pool pump program is currently in place in the City of Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage. Further discussion ensued regarding other private entities that may potentially qualify; i.e., water district facilities. Mr. Coonce reiterated that cities need to show leadership and begin with their own facilities.

Katie Barrows indicated that a calendar of events is being put together for outreach opportunities on energy efficiency, conservation and sustainability. Katie asked for a working group of this subcommittee to put a calendar a 2009 together. A kickoff meeting is being planned on January 15 after this subcommittee meets. Volunteers were requested to participate in planning and kicking off this working group. Volunteers included: Joan Taylor, Lin Juniper, Gary Calhoun, Kathy DeRosa, and a representative from the City of Palm Springs.

Some of the themes that will be put together for the cities are:

- Title 24 workshops for cities for new construction and retrofits
- AB 32 and SB 375
- Bringing in speakers
- Bringing in consultant contractors to identify problems in municipal facilities

Katie Barrows requested that cities provide a list of contacts and identify an "energy champion". Meetings have been scheduled with cities, and cities will be asked to put the following items together:

- A municipal facilities plan, what are those facilities and what the status is in terms of energy efficiency.
- When was the last time an audit was done and working to get audits done.
- SCE will be contacting cities in the Partnership to obtain that information.

Katie Barrows reported on IID's activities – the funding is different for IID in that they are not regulated by the PUC. Our partnership is designed to include IID,

SCE and the Gas Company. The Gas Co. will be unofficially assisting us. IID will be providing the availability of energy staff to the cities in IID territory and they are tracking very closely in terms of performing energy audits in municipal facilities in their service territory and targeting the 10% energy goal that was set. The City of La Quinta was presented with this proposal from IID. Katie indicated that IID has done an energy audit and a preliminary green house gas inventory for the City of La Quinta. A green and sustainable workshop will be held on December 4th for La Quinta residents where they will learn more about energy conservation. As part of those events, residents will be making a power pledge to conserve or cut back energy use by 10%. An update was also given regarding IID's work with Desert Sands Unified School District.

IID has offered to provide the staff and support on the administrative side for the AB 811 program to cities in their territory. Gary Ambach is also a part of the AB 811 working group and they are also interested in taking a look at the funding opportunities.

9. Update from Baseline Energy Use Working Group

Tony Coonce provided an update on this data indicating that initially there was a problem with providing such customer data information. Mr. Coonce explained that the data was obtained by SIC code and SCE will be entering into a Confidentiality Agreement with CVAG in order to provide the data and how it can be used in the partnership. At this point it is just between CVAG and SCE. If the cities would like this data, it can be obtained by sending a note to Tony Coonce. Further discussion ensued regarding Confidentiality Agreements with all of the cities. Verbal requests were made at the meeting for this information by the City of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, and Indian Wells. Mr. Coonce indicated that information would be sent to the individual cities.

10. Update on AB 32 and SB 375: Greenhouse Gases, Land Use and Transportation

Katie Barrows distributed a copy of a brief summary of AB 32. The Air Resources Board (ARB) is in the midst of their Final Scoping Plan for implementation of AB 32. That Plan will go to the ARB Directors on December 11 and it is anticipated that they will sign off on the Plan. This is the Climate Plan Scoping Plan that would be adopted by the State.

SB 375 is a companion piece of legislation that helps implement AB 32, focused primarily on transportation planning, regional housing and on land use. There will be an SB 375 workshop held by SCAG on Monday, November 24th, starting at 9:30 a.m. in Riverside. Arrangements have been made to have the workshop video-conferenced at CVAG in Room 119. Interested members were encouraged to attend. At the last week's Energy & Environment Committee, Executive Director Barry Wallerstein with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) gave an update on AB 32 and the implementation of this greenhouse gas legislation. Mr. Wallerstein was extremely supportive of helping CVAG cities in getting more support from AQMD in terms of helping to understand AB 32 and the greenhouse gas inventory. It is anticipated that an AB 32 Workshop will be hosted

in early 2009 involving AQMD involvement. Further discussion ensued regarding SB 375 and SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan.

John Wohlmuth indicated that this meeting is a subregional meeting and the City Manager or the staff has been invited. The intended audience is the City Manager or Assistant City Managers or their Planning or Public Works Directors.

John Wohlmuth indicated that Mr. Wallerstein was encouraged about the Coachella Valley's participation and maybe doing some type of demonstration project. The Coachella Valley historically works well together whether it is air quality as well as regional projects that we have had from Transportation, the MSHCP leads right into being able to develop sustainable communities. This is great opportunity to look at the Coachella Valley from the standpoint of jobs, housing balance that we face. Will jobs be available in the Coachella Valley to sustain our economy and that is a big part of SB 375. CVAG may actually benefit from SB 375 as we grow in the future. Tom Davis commented that this a great opportunity to be proactive and and to leverage the language in SB 375 towards the Coachella Valley.

11. Water Conservation Issues

Katie Barrows stated that the Coachella Valley Water District is holding some informational meetings on their proposed tiered rate structure. Those meetings are scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at Palm Desert City Council Chambers and also on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at CVWD's Coachella office.

There is also a program through the Riverside Water Task Force to evaluate the Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinances that have been developed, and the State has a Model Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance that they are soon to release requiring that every jurisdiction have a model ordinance. CVAG has been working with Western Riverside Council of Governments and the Water Task Force on putting together a matrix. Joan Taylor commented that perhaps we could push this ordinance more towards conservation.

Bob Edwards indicated that the Water Managers meet once a month to discuss common issues and there is another water group that the agencies belong to for water conservation and outreach. Kay Hazen suggested asking for a briefing from the water agencies on conservation strategies. Water agencies in the Coachella Valley include: Indio Water Authority, Coachella, Desert Water Agency, Coachella Valley Water District and Mission Springs Water District.

Bob Edwards commented on the issue of nuisance water in the streets. The water agencies have special events where the agencies all work together. Bob Edwards also commented on a rebate program for the City of Indio in terms of replacing turf with desert landscaping. Beginning in January or February, the Smart Timer Program will be kicked off. All funding for each agency has to be done within that agency. Chair Pougnet added that perhaps the water groups could be brought together in their community strategies.

12. Consent Calendar

- 12A Approve Minutes of the October 16, 2008 Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee.

The consensus of the subcommittee was to approve the minutes of October 16, 2008.

13. Announcements

- The next meeting of the Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee will be on January 15, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at CVAG, Conference Room 119.
- SCAG is offering a workshop for the Riverside County area regarding SB 375 – Transportation Planning and Sustainable Communities Strategy. The workshop will be held on Monday, November 24, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the SCAG Riverside office. Video-conferencing for this workshop will be available at CVAG in Room 119 on November 24.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers
Program Assistant II