

**ENERGY & WATER CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee was called to order by Chair Steve Pougnet at 8:10 a.m. on September 17, 2009.

**In Attendance**

Tom Davis  
Mayor Steve Pougnet  
Deanna Pressgrove  
Gabriel Perez  
Susan Weisbart  
Jane Udall  
Kay Hazen  
Marilyn McKay  
Gary Ambach  
Mark Weber  
Larry McLaughlin

**Jurisdiction/Agency**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Coachella  
City of Indian Wells  
Member at Large  
Member at Large  
Mission Springs Water District  
IID  
IID  
College of the Desert

**CVAG Staff Present**

Katie Barrows  
Linda Rogers

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Steve Pougnet 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**

None.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**7. ADOPTION OF NEW GRAYWATER STANDARDS**

Marilyn McKay with Mission Springs Water District explained the release from the California Department of Housing and Community Development recommending the adoption of new graywater standards. A copy of the news release was included in

the agenda packet. The new standards became effective on August 4, 2009. This action will allow for Californians to install a very simple unit to capture graywater from a washing machine to be used for irrigation purposes and does not require a permit, inspection. Now a plumber can install this unit for a homeowner without a permitting process. The standards now allow for the installation of a very simple unit. Anything more complex, will need a permit and inspection. The work we do today is conservation, but the work we will be doing in the future is water use efficiency – water use and reuse. Marilyn McKay referred the subcommittee to the following website: [www.oasisdesign.net](http://www.oasisdesign.net). Further discussion ensued regarding the sources of graywater in the home and the processes for the best uses of diverting graywater. There was more discussion regarding the legislation and the issue of dual systems. Marilyn McKay cited the Panorama Project in CVWD's territory that requires double plumbing for graywater. Marilyn McKay stated that the Panorama project includes COD, East Valley Campus.

Kay Hazen stated that perhaps the subcommittee should look at what the new legislation allows vs. what is a little more complicated so that we can have a clearer picture and can communicate what the local affect would be. Kay Hazen added that maybe this could be a future agenda item.

## **8. REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Pougnet introduced and welcomed Larry McLaughlin, Director, College of the Desert, Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Center. Mr. McLaughlin discussed the programs that have been established to focus on developing curriculum and delivering training to emerging technology areas: advanced transportation and renewable energy. Mr. McLaughlin also addressed the transitioning of workforce programs into academic programs and establishing shorter term academic certificate programs. COD will also be developing a solar energy program. Most recently SCE and First Solar announced a big project in Desert Center, 250 megawatts of solar electric energy to be produced at that facility. The Department of the Interior has designated the corridor along I-10 as the renewable energy corridor for solar generation. COD will get the training programs in place for the needs of the area. Mr. McLaughlin asked for the subcommittee's help in establishing relationships because it will help bring resources to the area. Mr. McLaughlin discussed the Clean Work Force Energy Training Program. COD has applied for an \$815,000 grant to be used for training for the utility scale solar energy industry in East Riverside County. Mr. McLaughlin also discussed the Pathways out of Poverty Program that COD will be applying for. It is a Department of Labor Grant focusing on green technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency related jobs that people can be trained or retrained for. Differences between the programs were explained by Mr. McLaughlin. Partnerships are needed to put these programs in place in terms of industry, government, service organizations and community outreach. The Pathways out of Poverty Program will be targeted at east valley communities such as Coachella, Thermal, Mecca and possibly Indio. One of the goals will be to provide a pathway to take people to higher occupations and learning leading to an A.S. Degree and launch them into a Bachelor's degree.

Mr. McLaughlin requested letters of support from the cities they are planning to serve. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he would need to contact the Mayors from cities

asking them for a letter of support; i.e., Indio, Coachella, Thermal. The other thing that will be needed is demographic data that demonstrates that this is an economically depressed region that we serve. Gary Ambach stated that IID has low income programs in their utility and can provide demographic data. IID is also working on a program grant application for the Energy Commission for a central air conditioning replacement program. Gary Ambach discussed the potential for coordinating efforts for these programs.

There was some discussion about how to include the City of Desert Hot Springs in the College's program. Larry McLaughlin stated that there is an allowance in the grant that will commit COD to serving 10% of their participants outside of the statistical area.

There was further discussion about the turnover locally in the wind turbine field and interest from people who want to be trained for these jobs. A contract will be forthcoming with EDA for training. The training would be paid for those coming in under the contract with EDA. Mayor Pougnet stated that it would be helpful to have a separate meeting to help identify people to make connections with. COD will also be having an open house to invite people in to talk about the program.

There was more discussion about new green business coming to the Coachella Valley and an excellent opportunity to support economic growth.

Gary Ambach stated last year IID had an air conditioning quality maintenance program encompassing approximately 8,000 air conditioning systems throughout IID service territory and cited 40% of the work was done by people outside of our service territory. Kay Hazen raised the issue of why this was done and addressed the issue of local preference. Further discussion ensued regarding cities developing and adopting local preference guidelines. The issue was also raised that skilled workers or contractors are not in the area or there are not enough of them. Therefore, outside contractors or workers are brought in to do the work. Katie Barrows posed the question about the role of local government in terms of encouraging local green jobs. Larry McLaughlin stated that having CVAG as a partner facilitating and supporting our efforts is a value.

Mr. McLaughlin commented that the local preference issue might be important to CVAG with the solar energy efficiency to be done as the Regional AB 811 program is implemented. We may see the kind of market stimulation that we are seeing in the City of Palm Desert county-wide. The cities will be where most of that work will be done and we should consider how this could best benefit the local contractors. Chair Steve Pougnet stated that he, along with Tom Kirk and Katie Barrows, would follow up on that issue and how CVAG could help to move this forward.

## **9. DESERT CITIES ENERGY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP**

Katie Barrows stated that the Desert Cities Energy Partnership is working on setting up a working group made up of at least one representative from each jurisdiction involved in the energy partnership. The city managers have been notified that we would like to have those staff level representatives designated. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we

will be having a breakfast at CVAG to introduce everyone to what the Desert Cities Energy Partnership is about and what the benefits are to the cities. The working group will be meeting on a limited basis. Staff representatives will have the chance to communicate on what they are doing in their own cities and the types of programs that are successful, and generate ideas about what the partnership can do that would be helpful to them. Katie Barrows added that the incentive program that the Partnership offers is for municipal facility energy efficiency. There was discussion about the cities that have identified projects or are in the process of doing so. Katie Barrows stated that this information on status of the program would be shared at a future meeting.

A flyer was distributed concerning a Solar Workshop being conducted at the City of Indian Wells on October 5. IID customers are also invited to attend. Susan Weisbart indicated that there will be selected solar providers there so that participants can collect material and information from local vendors; these vendors are not endorsed by the City or by the utilities.

**10. UPDATE ON THE WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE**

Katie Barrows stated that there is a working group of cities and utilities working on an ordinance that is specific to the Coachella Valley and is consistent with the State Model Ordinance. CVWD has provided a draft which was attached to the last agenda. Katie stated that the final is expected by the end of October. There was discussion about the cities that have an ordinance in place already. The working group will meet one more time and then there will be a public workshop sometime in October that will provide public outreach on the ordinance. The intent will be to invite landscape professionals and the public; CVWD has a list of those landscape professionals. The cities will then consider and adopt the ordinance.

**11. GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY STATUS REPORT**

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is making progress in completing a regional greenhouse gas inventory. Katie Barrows stated that right now we are using the 2005 as a baseline year. SCAQMD is doing most of the analysis and we will be getting the projections on that. SCAQMD is breaking the information down so there will be an overall inventory reporting greenhouse gases for the Coachella Valley (Salton Sea Air Basin), and then it will be broken down by each jurisdiction. There was some discussion about how tribal lands will be included. Tom Davis indicated that there are different rules and the tribe is subject to the Clean Air Act. Chair Pougnet added that he would like to keep this issue at the forefront of the Mayors and the Executive Committee so that we are talking about it. Katie Barrows provided some information about the Colmac facility that provides funds to Riverside County for air quality programs. Katie Barrows stated that CVAG staff will be submitting a Colmac grant application, and a portion of the funding would be used to bring in a consultant to help us on a framework for a climate action plan.

**12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF 2009/2010 SUBCOMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

Staff distributed a copy of the Goals and Objectives and Model Resolution of the subcommittee and requested feedback as to where we are going and the kinds of

things that the group should be focused on. The subcommittee continues to look at the water issue and identified the interest in having the water districts come and discuss what is being done. Good progress has been made in putting together the Energy Partnership and the overall goals of the subcommittee. Chair Pougnet added do we want to continue, how often do we want to meet, and what do we want to focus on. Mark Weber stated that there is a need for an additional push to accomplish valley-wide goals. There was some discussion about doing an annual report card. Kay Hazen commented that we have a baseline and should look at our framework to determine and assess where we are to date. Many cities have taken some aggressive action in sustainability and climate change plans, and it might be helpful to have them come and make presentations. Kay Hazen commented that we look at what has happened, what has been the result, what are the near term action plans. If we look valley-wide, a picture will emerge in terms of what is happening throughout the valley. Katie Barrows stated that we could certainly sample a valley wide report card to track our progress. Chair Pougnet added that initially the group was formed to focus on energy and water and provide a forum to exchange ideas, and some great things have come out of the subcommittee, including a greenhouse gas audit. Chair Pougnet stated it was a good idea to take a look at where we are specifically and what we can do and try to figure out a way to make the sustainability plans come together and give it a push. Chair Pougnet added that there is value in continuing the committee and stated that discussion is open to meeting in a monthly format or going to every other month. This group is a recommending body to the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee. Subcommittee members provided feedback concerning the value of the subcommittee as a discussion group and forum among the various water agencies and jurisdictions.

The frequency of meetings was discussed in terms of continuing to meet every month, every other month, or quarterly. Katie Barrows stated that we will definitely plan on meeting in October and staff will bring back a status update on what we have set out to do, where we are and highlight what we need to do.

**13. CONSENT CALENDAR**

13A Approve Minutes of the June 18 and July 16, 2009 Energy and Water Conservation Subcommittee.

**It was the consensus of the subcommittee to approve the minutes of the June 18 and July 16, 2009 Energy and Water Conservation Subcommittee.**

**14. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next meeting of the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee is scheduled for October 8, 2009 at noon.
- The next meeting of the Energy and Water Conservation Subcommittee is scheduled for October 15, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers  
Program Assistant II