

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JUNE 2, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The June 2, 2008 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Eduardo Garcia, Mayor of the City of Coachella, at the CVAG Conference Room, # 119 in Palm Desert.

2. CALL TO ORDER OF COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CVCC)

Mayor Kathy DeRosa, City of Cathedral City and Vice Chair of the CVCC, called the Commission meeting to order and stated that the meeting would be adjourned in honor of Sharon Kite, wife of Councilmember Richard W. Kite, who passed away that day after a long illness. Mayor DeRosa asked that everyone keep Councilmember Kite and Sharon in their thoughts and prayers.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Carlos Ortega, City Manager of the City of Palm Desert, led the Executive Committee, the CVCC and members of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Vice Mayor Beverly Mays
Mayor Kathy DeRosa
Mayor Eduardo Garcia
Mayor Yvonne Parks
Mayor Mary Roche
Councilmember Ben Godfrey
Mayor Jean Benson
Mayor Stephen Pougnet
Mayor Ron Meepos
Supervisor Roy Wilson
Supervisor Marion Ashley
Tribal Chair Richard Milanovich

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 Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
County of Riverside
County of Riverside
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mayor Don Adolph
2nd Tribal Vice Chair David Roosevelt
Tribal Chair Raymond Torres

AGENCY

City of La Quinta
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Russell Betts
Don Bradley
Tim Brown
Rick Daniels
Greg Johnson
Glenn Southard
Carlos Ortega
David Ready
Patrick Pratt
Dan Martinez
Tom Davis

AGENCY

City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
County of Riverside
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

5. ROLL CALL OF COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

A roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Kathy DeRosa
Mayor Eduardo Garcia
Mayor Pro Tem Larry Spicer
Councilmember Ben Godfrey
Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Councilmember Chris Mills
Mayor Ron Meehos
Supervisor Roy Wilson
Supervisor Marion Ashley
Board Member Tellis Codekas

AGENCY

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
County of Riverside
County of Riverside
Coachella Valley Water District

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Councilmember Stanley Sniff
Board Member Anthony Sanchez

AGENCY

City of La Quinta
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

OTHERS PRESENT

Leslie Andrews
Ali Baba
Fred Bell
Richard Contreras
Rosa Maria Gonzales
Todd Hooks
Mary Justice
Janet Laiblin
Chuck Nisbet
Harvey Niskala
Therese O'Rouke
Alan Pace
Alvaro Sandoval
Olga Sandoval
Erica Solvig

Desert Local News

Building Industry Association

Imperial Irrigation District
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Property Owner
South Coast AQMD
Desert Trails
Glorious Land Company
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Petra Geotechnical
Property Owner
Property Owner
The Desert Sun

John Soulliere
Carolyn Syms Luna
Valerie Van Winkle
Andy Vossler
Larry Ward
David Willmon

Coachella Valley Economic Partnership
County of Riverside
Canyon National Bank
Landmark
County of Riverside
League of California Cities

STAFF PRESENT

John Wohlmuth
Allyn Waggle
Gary Leong
Aurora Wilson
Katie Barrows
Jim Sullivan
Catherine McMillan
Carol Clapper
Amanda Keil
Joanna Stueckle
Toni Eggebraaten

CVAG Legal Counsel

6. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None.

9. CONSIDERATION OF THE SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE USFWS PERMIT FOR THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (CVMSHCP) - Katie Barrows

Katie Barrows reported that since the April 28th meeting of the Executive Committee staff has continued to work on the conditions with the agencies. The draft conditions are now being brought back to the CVCC and Executive Committee for consideration.

Ms. Barrows reported that when this item was last presented, staff indicated that the comment period ended on May 15th in order for staff to incorporate any potential comments. Ms. Barrows indicated that the County of Riverside, the City of La Quinta, and CVAG had some changes that were incorporated into the list of conditions and that the concerns have been addressed.

Meetings also took place with the trail users, where their concerns were discussed. Changes

were incorporated which were made by members of the Coachella Valley Trails Coalition. Ms. Barrows reported that changes made to condition number 37 would not be recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), however once the Plan is implemented, we can work with this issue.

Ms. Barrows reported that the City of Palm Springs previously requested that no action be taken on the draft conditions by CVAG until the City Council had an opportunity to meet and discuss the conditions. That meeting took place and staff is now requesting consideration by both the Executive Committee and the CVCC. Ms. Barrows briefly outlined a few of the modifications made to the draft conditions and reported that once the conditions have been accepted, the USFWS and the Department of Fish and Game would work to finalize them in order for the permitting to occur. This process could take up to eight weeks.

Mayor Stephen Pougnet stated that he appreciated the delay in consideration and vote. Councilmember Chris Mills also thanked CVAG staff and the staff from the wildlife agencies, adding that the City has seen a major change in the way the agencies have worked with CVAG and the City over the last three years. Ms. Barrows acknowledged Therese O'Rourke and thanked her for coming to the meeting to show her support.

Public comments were taken.

Mary Justice, property owner, stated that she is opposed to the approval of the conditions, insisting that there were no named species on her property. Ms. Justice also discussed the blow sand conditions, as well as the PM10 issues that exist on her property. Ms. Justice concluded by stating that several years ago, promises were made to her that her property would be taken out of the plan, but that her land was not taken out.

Theresa Dobrev, property owner in the Plan area and Cathedral City resident, addressed the elected officials about her property. Ms. Dobrev explained that she intended to leave the property as an inheritance for her decedents and is opposed to the Plan.

Chuck Nisbit, member of the trails coalition, thanked CVAG for listening to the trails coalition and working with the members on their concerns regarding the conditions. Mr. Nesbit described the trails users as anxious, ready, and excited. Mr. Nesbit concluded by thanking John Wohlmuth, Katie Barrows, Jim Sullivan, Mary Godfrey, Linda Rogers and the rest of CVAG staff individually.

Member comments included a statement read by Tribal Chairman Richard Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. Chairman Milanovich explained that he would abstain from the vote as the Tribe is currently in the process of writing their own Tribal HCP. Chairman Milanovich also stated that the two Plans complimented each other.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR WILSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GODFREY FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE USFWS PERMIT FOR THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (CVMSHCP). THE MOTION CARRIED WITH THE AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE. IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER FINERTY AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR ASHLEY FOR THE COACHELLA VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO ACCEPT

THE DRAFT SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE USFWS PERMIT FOR THE COACHELLA VALLEY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (CVMSHCP).

A roll call vote of Coachella Valley Conservation Committee was taken with the following results:

CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY	AYE
CITY OF COACHELLA	AYE
CITY OF INDIAN WELLS	AYE
CITY OF INDIO	AYE
CITY OF LA QUINTA	ABSENT
CITY OF PALM DESERT	AYE
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS	AYE
CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE	AYE
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 4TH DISTRICT	AYE
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 5TH DISTRICT	AYE
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT	AYE
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT	ABSENT

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH TEN AYES AND TWO MEMBERS ABSENT.

10. CVCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Coachella Valley Conservation Commission** meeting will be held at **11:00 a.m.** on **Thursday, June 12, 2008** at the **CVAG Offices**, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert.

The **CVAG General Assembly** will be held on **Monday, June 30, 2008** at the **Agua Caliente Resort & Spa, 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage**. The dinner meeting will begin at **6:00 p.m.**

11. CVCC ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. in memory and honor of Sharon Kite.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Stueckle
Executive Assistant