

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
October 19, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Public Safety Committee (PSC) meeting was called to order on Monday, October 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Gene Gilbert, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Indio, at CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 119, Palm Desert, California 92260-2516.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mayor Eduardo Garcia, City of Coachella, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Vazquez
Mayor Eduardo Garcia
Mayor Pro Tem Scott Matas
Councilmember Patrick Mullany
Mayor Pro Tem Gene Gilbert (*Chair*)
Mayor Pro Tem Terry Henderson
Councilmember Richard Kelly
Councilmember Lee Weigel (*Vice Chair*)
Stan Sniff, Sheriff

AGENCY

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
County of Riverside

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember Alan Seman

City of Rancho Mirage

EX-OFFICIOS PRESENT

Stan Henry, Chief
Patrick Williams, Chief
Matt Jimenez, Chief
Rod Vigue, Police Chief
Dave Dominguez, Chief
Blake Goetz, Chief
Ignacio Otero, Deputy Fire Chief
Michael Singh, Patrol Agent-In-Charge
Sara Danville, Assistant District Attorney
Christina Martinez, Division Director

AGENCY

Cathedral City Police Department
Desert Hot Springs Police Depart.
Indian Wells Police Depart.
Coachella & La Quinta Sheriff
Palm Springs Police Department
Palm Springs Fire Department
Riverside County Fire
U.S. Border Patrol – Indio
County District Attorney Office
County Probation Department

EX-OFFICIOS NOT REPRESENTED

Brad Ramos, Chief
Dan Wilham, Chief
Sherrell Sutherland, Commander

Indio Police Department
Riverside County Sheriff – PD & RM
California Highway Patrol

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Sundlee, Energy Svc Mngr.
George Wetjen, Asst. Patrol Agent-In-Charge
Mel Windsor, Personal/Public Safety Dir
Barbara Cole, Dir of Disease Control
Gary Rosenblum, Risk Manager
Kevin Brown, Emergency Svc's Coord
Dennis Green, Public Affairs Officer

AGENCY

City of La Quinta
U.S. Border Patrol
City of Indian Wells
Riverside County DOPH
City of Palm Desert
Riverside County Fire
Riv Cty Trans Dept

CVAG STAFF PRESENT

Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Aurora Wilson, Community Resources Director
Jacob Alvarez, Management Analyst
Diana Paz, Interim Program Assistant

4. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA & ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS – None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Green, Riverside County Transportation Department Public Affairs Officer, invited the Committee and staff to attend the November 4th meeting regarding coordination of I10 construction projects. At the November 4th meeting Mr. Green will be meeting with Safety Task Force, contractors, construction management firms, Caltrans Public Affairs and Construction Oversight, to ensure the coordination of the construction activities to minimize the impact on the motoring public and businesses. The meeting is open to the public and will be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the CVAG offices in Conference Room #115.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS - None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Jacob Alvarez noted the Resolution of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) regarding the support of the California Great Shakeout 2009 was approved by the Executive Committee on September 28th, 2009 and could be found in the agenda packet on pages 4 and 5.

Mr. Alvarez also noted a letter was sent to Sid Jones, Special Agent Supervisor of the Coachella Valley Gang Task Force, thanking him on behalf of CVAG and the Public Safety Committee for providing a presentation on the Gang Task Force's activities for fiscal year 2008/2009 and that the letter could be found in the agenda packet on page 6.

8. MEETING MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER LEE WEIGEL, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK MULLANY, CITY OF INDIAN WELLS, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MAYOR BOB SPIEGEL, CITY OF PALM DESERT, AND MAYOR EDUARDO GARCIA, CITY OF COACHELLA, ABSTAINED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

9. H1N1 (SWINE FLU) PRESENTATION

Barbara Cole from the County's Community Health Agency gave a brief update on the H1N1 Virus and impacts to Riverside County as well as prevention efforts. The H1N1 virus is a type A Influenza virus that causes respiratory disease in pigs. Human infections can occur which can spread from person to person through coughing and sneezing. A person can be infectious 1 day before and up to 7 days after onset of symptoms. The case definition for the H1N1 virus is that of a person under 60 years of age with fever higher than 100°F and cough.

Ms. Cole reported 105 probable cases, 607 confirmed cases, and 10 deaths with 4 in the East County, 4 in the South County, and 2 in the Pass County. Currently there are over 700 cases County wide with an age range from 17 to 63 years old. Preventive efforts include the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine clinics which took effect on October 13, 2009. The H1N1 Vaccine campaign includes the H1N1 nasal spray vaccine which is being offered to children primarily. Injectable vaccine is expected later this month. DOPH is sponsoring flu clinics in the City of Palm Springs and the City of Indio. For resource information contact the California Department of Public Health-Swine Flu Public Hot Line at 1-888-865-0564 or on the web at www.cdph.ca.gov, www.rivcopg.org, or www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org.

10. COACHELLA VALLEY REGIONAL EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS PROJECT

Mr. Alvarez reported CVAG staff has met with Chief Goetz, Fire Chief for the City of Palm Springs, Coachella Valley Emergency Managers Association (CVEMA) and the three desert school districts; Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD), Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD), and Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD); in order to form a collaboration in the ongoing efforts to provide a Coachella Valley Regional Earthquake Early Warning System (CREWS).

Chief Goetz noted members of the CVEMA were present and that the three school districts are greatly supportive of the efforts for CREWS. Chief Goetz provided presentations on scenarios of a 7.8 earthquake starting in Bombay Beach, located at the Salton Sea, which indicated the amount of warning time a stand alone unit gives versus the warning time given by networking units. Currently there are 12 fire stations with sensors installed but none are networked or linked to signal other sensors in the area. The plan is to install an additional 40 master sensors, to the already existing 12 sensors, and have 30-40 additional affiliate sites in order to keep every school alerted. As the 40 additional units are installed they will be networked together so that when one sensor is triggered the rest of the other sensor will be set off as well.

Chief Goetz reported that the project cost is at \$2.6M and needs CVAG support to apply for stimulus grant funding since CVEMA is not permitted due to it being a non profit organization. Chief Goetz reported an individual site cost about \$25K but the cost will be reduced since only 40 sites will be master sites and the remainder 30-40 affiliate sites will not require the same amount of sensing equipment as a master site. Thus, a certain percentage of the \$2.6M will be set aside to purchase a shake cottage so that

emergency managers and schools can provide public education and outreach from this unit. Chief Goetz stated there are stations in Temecula over the San Jacinto Fault, as well as in San Bernardino and the cost to network with San Bernardino County would only take them buying the equipment and networking with Riverside County. Mr. Alvarez added that the standalone units are beneficial in providing early warning for after shocks.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM TERRY HENDERSON, CITY OF LA QUINTA, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LEE WEIGEL, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, THAT THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVE CVAG'S PARTICIPATION TO CO-LEAD THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A COACHELLA VALLEY REGIONAL EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (CREWS) WITH THE CVEMA AND LOCAL LEGISLATORS. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER UPDATES

11.1 SHERIFF/POLICE CHIEFS

Sheriff Stan Sniff, County of Riverside, thanked all Law Enforcement involved in the mutual aid on the prisoners escape. Sheriff Sniff reported one traumatized employee and no other reported casualties. Sheriff Sniff stated the first priority was to capture the violent suspects and thanked Border Patrol, Police forces, and the Gang Task Force for all their help.

11.2 FIRE CHIEFS

Deputy Fire Chief Ignacio Otero, Riverside County, reported on the Mexico Fire Fighter Program. Chief Otero stated hot meals were donated and a total of 56 Mexican Fire Fighters attended this year's program held in Southern California.

11.3 CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL – None.

11.4 BORDER PATROL

Michael Singh, Agent-In-Charge, reported Heroin is being transported and wants people to be aware.

11.5 DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Sara Danville, Assistant District Attorney, reported October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and would much appreciate old cell phone donations which they will take to Verizon and will be given new cell phones to be given to victims of Domestic Violence.

11.6 COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT – None.

12. INFORMATIONAL

12.1 COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD - An attendance record was included in member's agenda packet as an informational item.

12.2 COMMITTEE GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 09/10

Goal #1	Support & Encourage Collaboratives- To work as a united front and leverage resources on Regional issues.
Goal #2	Promote Youth Intervention & Prevention- To target "At Risk Youths" and provide programs that are sustainable.
Goal #3	Regional Reform & Re-entry Programs for Parolees- To help parolees to become productive citizens.
Goal #4	Support Regional Community Engagement- Public Safety Outreach to the Community through education, awareness and Community based programs.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gilbert reviewed the following announcements:

The next regularly meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** on **Monday, November 9, 2009** at the CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert. (The Public Safety Committee has a standing meeting date and time of 10:00 a.m. the second Monday of each month, with the exception if it falls on a Holiday, and for the months of August and December when CVAG Committees are dark.)



Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household in the United States in March 2010. The Census questionnaire asks the population to provide information that is accurate for their household as of April 1, 2010. The Census Bureau must count everyone and submit state population totals to the U.S. President by December 31, 2010.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Public Safety Committee was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Paz, Interim Program Assistant
Department of Community Resources (DCR)
COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS