

**TECHNICAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Tuesday, January 20, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Technical Planning Subcommittee (TPS) meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 10:08 a.m. by Vice Chair Margaret Park.

**MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Lauri Aylaian, Community Development Director  
Ken Lyons, Associate Planner  
Rudy Acosta, Assistant City Manager  
Greg Trousdell, Associate Planner  
Joseph Lim, Planning Manager  
Margaret Park, Planning Director

Barbara Burrow, Jr. Planner (Video-Conferencing)  
Bob Lyman, TLMA Regional Office Manager

**AGENCY:**

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

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Corrie Kates, Community Development Director  
Carmen Manriquez, Community Development Director  
Les Johnson, Planning Director  
Leisa Lukes, Planning Director

**AGENCY**

City of Indian Wells  
City of Coachella  
City of La Quinta  
City of Cathedral City

**ALSO PRESENT:**

None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Wohlmuth  
Aurora Wilson  
Katie Barrows  
Jim Sullivan  
Jacob Alvarez  
Carol Rayner

**2. FINALIZATION OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS & REVISIONS**

None

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**4. TECHNICAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Jim Sullivan, CVAG's GIS Program Director, stated an AICP Workshop will tentatively be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 in Room 119. The workshop would immediately

follow the TPS meeting. If held, the workshop would be a three hour class providing credit toward AICP's 32 hour requirement of annual training. The TPS Committee will be updated as soon as the information becomes available. Mr. Sullivan stated the October AICP workshop still has not been approved for accreditation.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2008 TECHNICAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**IT WAS MOVED BY LAURI AYLAIAN AND SECONDED BY JOE LIM TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2008 MINUTES.**

**A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SEVEN AYES AND FIVE MEMBERS ABSENT.**

7. **ADOPTION OF TECHNICAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS FOR THE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009**

Jacob Alvarez stated the committee was asked to resubmit the priority list with their top four goals. Committee members were provided with a revised priority list consisting of goals #1 through #8. Mr. Alvarez asked the members to look at Goal # 3 – Regional Transportation Plan & Coachella Valley Year 2035 Traffic Model and also Goal #4 – Regional Bike/ Trail Development for consideration and direction for CVAG staff.

Mr. Alvarez stated as of December 1, 2008, CVAG has an agreement with AFSHA Consulting, Inc. for on-call traffic and transportation engineering services to implement the Riverside County Subregional Traffic Demand Model.

Mr. Alvarez also stated as of September 29, 2008, CVAG has an agreement with Ryan Synder and Associates to update the Coachella Valley Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, as well as prepare an updated Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) for each of CVAG's jurisdictions.

With this information noted, Lauri Aylaiian, City of Palm Desert, suggested not eliminating Goal #5 – Affordable Housing Projects. Vice Chair Margaret Park suggested eliminating Goal #3 as a priority, keeping it as an informational item and adding Goal #5 to the top four priorities.

**IT WAS MOVED BY LAURI AYLAIAN AND SECONDED BY GREG TROUSDELL TO HAVE GOAL #3 AND AS AN INFORMATIONAL ITEM AND INCLUDED GOAL #5 AS ONE OF THE FOUR PRIORITIES.**

**A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE MOTION CARRIED EIGHT AYES AND FOUR MEMBERS ABSENT.**

8. **DISCUSSION & DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT OBJECTIVES FOR FOUR GOALS FOR**

## **THE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009**

Bob Lyman asked that updates to Green building codes be addressed. Executive Director Wohlmuth discussed a meeting that staff held with AQMD and SCAG respectively. Mr. Wohlmuth then asked for direction from the committee members regarding AB 32: what type of baseline for a Green House Gas (GHG) inventory are the cities looking at? Do we do the inventory as individual cities or do it as a region through CVAG?

In regards to SB 375, a significant issue is that SCAG is asking subregions to take implementation responsibility. We are not ready. Only OC is willing to take responsibility. SCAG has asked subregions to consider this by June 2009.

Mr. Wohlmuth also added that he was not comfortable taking it forward and noted that cleanup legislation is necessary. Cleanup legislation on SB 375 needs to identify funding to Sustainable Community Strategy or Alternative Planning Strategy.

Mr. Wohlmuth also added that we need Measure A exemptions clarified. SCAG at the SB 375 workshop held at CVAG on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 initially stated that the Measure A projects were exempt. However, Measure A projects were not identified. Now SCAG is saying that unless the project is identified, they are not exempt. Mr. Wohlmuth stated that since we have had a measure in place for over 20 years, he believes of all areas in the State of California, that we should have exempt transportation projects, because we have had one of the longest sales tax measures for transportation in any county of the State. Those projects identified in the transportation planning document should be exempt since CVAG has had them in place for years.

With regards to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), Mr. Wohlmuth doesn't think that the State will be prepared to request us to deliver RHNA numbers by 2010; and added that the RHNA should be rolled to 2012 to 2014. If the State is not ready to implement SB 375 very shortly, how can we start addressing RHNA 2010? It should be rolled back to be consistent with SB 375. Those Cities which have projects such as a "Transportation Center" or "Mixed Use" should get credit in the baseline but under the current SB 375 legislation; would not.

If these items are included in the cleanup legislation with the time to implement CVAG may take up implementation responsibility. However, CVAG staff cannot make the recommendation to implement because there are too many uncertainties with SB 375.

Mr. Wohlmuth asked the committee if they want CVAG to do a Regional Green House Gas Inventory of Baseline and, if so, perhaps recommend a year like 2005, to get the data needed or do it as individual cities. If so, what has the individual city done so far?

Lauri Aylaian stated that they have contracted the inventorying of GHG for a baseline number. She also stated that she believes that a subregional approach would be better. Even after SCAG has done clean up legislation, if the clean up legislations doesn't address our concerns, CVAG should still take up SB375 as a subregion.

Mr. Wohlmuth clarified that he will not throw out the option that CVAG would not attempt implementation responsibility for SB 375 if the cleanup legislation did not address CVAG's issues. His concern (e.g., like RHNA) is that if CVAG doesn't get what it wants, that SCAG

will assign CVAG a GHG reduction number.

Mr. Wohlmuth continued with an example of Western Riverside County versus CVAG. There are only 2 percent of Coachella Valley's trips leaving and coming to the valley. Given that, how would CVAG meet a reduction goal of 1 million metric tons of GHGs. Unlike Western Riverside County, CVAG can't implement a carpool program or programs like it because 66 % of our trips in the Valley are less than 15 minutes. A cost benefit analysis of a Metrolink type system in the Coachella Valley would prohibit its development.

When you look at Origin/Destination studies like the City Desert Hot Springs which has very few jobs but a lot of housing; their residents travel across the freeway to Palm Springs in 15 minutes.

Whereas, a city with roughly the same size community in western Riverside or San Bernardino County has a drive time of 45 minutes and can have significantly higher reduction in GHG's. As a region we need to identify Coachella Valley as a unique "Housing and Employment Center" and its "travel patterns" and make sure that the GHG number represent how Coachella Valley and Blythe can reduce GHG versus another California city. This is the reason why it would be difficult to accept a number from SCAG.

Both Mr. Wohlmuth and CVAG staff, Katie Barrows, reported that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) have finished their methodology on GHG inventorying in San Bernardino County. Mr. Wohlmuth added that AQMD is willing to provide technical expertise and that he did ask for help with funding.

Aurora Wilson, CVAG's Director of Community Resources, stated that the committee members should take this information back to their respective City Managers and come back with information. Mr. Wohlmuth stated that we have only three months for negotiations.

Lauri Aylaian asked to go back to Goal #2 - Alternative Energy Planning. Ms. Aylaian suggested developing a standard for wind energy and solar for residential zoning, develop a consistent model ordinance and provide informational updates on green building standards.

A discussion on Goal #4 – Regional Bike/ Trail Development Mr. Wohlmuth stated the cities have accepted the plan, but have not integrated it into their own cities general plan. Mr. Wohlmugh stated development and adoption of an implementation strategy and funding plan is necessary to move forward to the next step of connectivity.

A discussion on Goal #5 – Affordable Housing Projects ensued. Lauri Aylaian asked that information on current and pending legislation be available. Ms. Aylaian suggested the committee should work as a group to prioritize a location that would best serve the entire region. Mr. Wohlmuth stated that CVAG is looking at funding for the most cost effective locations for the Affordable Housing Projects.

Jacob Alvarez asked if the committee would like CVAG to list objectives for the Affordable Housing Goal. Mr. Alvarez will compile the objectives and present them at the next meeting. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program and the First-time Home Buyers Program will objectives included.

Vice Chair Parks suggested finalizing the entire Goals and Objectives item at the February

meeting. Consensus agreed.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of CVAG's **Technical Planning Subcommittee (TPS)** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2009.**

The next meeting of CVAG's **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 13, 2009.**

**Caltrans Grant Workshop** will be held on **Tuesday, January 27, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** in Room 119.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Rayner  
Senior Assistant