

ATTENTION: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

**MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 18, 2020), the Public Safety Committee meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81112328713?pwd=SmpuaWtDTHFCMzB5RWp1enVzWFJrUT09>

Password: 330951

One Tap Mobile: +16699009128,, 81112328713#

Dial In: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 811 1232 8713

Password: 330951

*This will provide listening access and ability to address the
Public Safety Committee when called upon.*

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127.

Public comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Public Safety Committee meeting prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Comments intended to be read aloud should be no more than 300 characters.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Waymond Fermon, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Indio

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. **Member Roster**

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3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on agenda items. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

5. **CHAIR /COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS**

6. **EX-OFFICIO UPDATES**

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve the February 8, 2021 Public Safety Committee Minutes**

P5

8. **DISCUSSION/ ACTION**

A. **Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis – Juan Perez, Riverside County**

B. **CV Housing First: Coordinated Response to Helping the CV 200 – Tom Kirk**

P9

Recommendation: Information

C. **CVAG Representative on Riverside County’s Emergency Medical Care Committee – Erica Felci**

P11

Recommendation: Nominate a city manager to serve as CVAG’s representative on Riverside County’s Emergency Medical Care Committee for the remainder of the term, which ends on June 30, 2022

D. **Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority, Public Safety Enterprise Communications and the Coordination Radio Communications – Erica Felci**

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Recommendation: Information

9. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

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B. **Meeting Reimbursements for Elected Committee Members**

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10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the time and place for members of the public to address the Public Safety Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this committee. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming Zoom Meetings:

Public Safety Committee – Monday, June 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Executive Committee – Monday, June 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item 2A

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
Member Roster
2020-2021**



Voting Members		
City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriquez	
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale	
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto – VICE CHAIR	
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez	
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders	
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon - CHAIR	
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Pena	
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Christy Holstege	
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich	
County of Riverside	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Vacant	
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	Vacant	
Ex-Officio Members		
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Margaret Muhr, Emergency Services Manager	
Cathedral City Police	George Crum, Chief of Police	
Cathedral City Fire	John Muhr, Fire Chief	
Desert Hot Springs Police	Jim Henson, Chief of Police	
Thermal Sheriff Station	Herman Lopez, Captain	
Indio Police	Mike Washburn, Chief of Police	
Riverside County Sheriff's Department	Sheriff Chad Bianco	
Palm Desert Sheriff Station	Dean Agnoletto, Captain	
Palm Springs Police	Bryan Reyes, Chief of Police	
Palm Springs Fire	J. Kevin Nalder, Fire Chief	
Riverside County Fire Department	Eddy Moore, Division Chief	
California Highway Patrol	Dennis Woodbury, Commander	
U.S. Border Patrol	David Kim	
District Attorney's Office	Michael Hestrin, District Attorney	
Riverside County Probation Department	Ron Miller, Chief Probation Officer	
Staff		
Tom Kirk, Executive Director	Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director	Tom Cox, Management Analyst

ITEM 7A

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2020



The audio file for this meeting can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chair Waymond Fermon, City of Indio, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom videoconference, pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **ROLL CALL** - Roll call taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Mark Carnevale
City of Coachella	Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, Vice Chair
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Roger Nuñez (<i>Arrived in Item 8A</i>)
City of Indian Wells	Councilmember Greg Sanders (<i>Left during Item 8B</i>)
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon, Chair
City of La Quinta	Councilmember John Peña
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Karina Quintanilla
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Christy Holstege (<i>Arrived in Item 6</i>)
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Iris Smotrich
Riverside County	Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen

Ex-Officio Members Present

City of Desert Hot Springs Police	Chief Jim Henson
City of Indio Police	Chief Mike Washburn
City of Palm Springs Police	Chief Bryan Reyes
City of Palm Springs Fire	Chief J. Kevin Nalder
Riverside County District Attorney	ADA Gerald Fineman
Riverside County Fire Department	Division Robert Fish
Thermal Sheriff Station	Captain Herman Lopez
California Highway Patrol	Captain Dennis Woodbury
Riverside County Probation	Christine Castro

Members & Ex-Officios Not Present

City of Blythe	Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez
Aqua Caliente	Margaret Muhr
City of Cathedral City Fire	Chief John Muhr
City of Cathedral City Police	Chief George Crum
Riverside County Sheriff	Sheriff Chad Bianco
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	Assistant Chief Patrol Agent David Kim
Palm Desert Sheriff's Substation	Capitan Dean Agnoletto

Others Present

CVAG	Tom Kirk
CVAG	Erica Felci
CVAG	Tom Cox
CVAG	Oscar Vizcarra
CVAG	Joanna Stueckle
Riverside County District 4	Patricia Cooper
SoCal Gas	Deborah McGarrey
SCAG	David Salgado
Additional participants	Joe DelGiudice
	3 others by phone

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember John Peña led the committee in the pledge.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER/CVAG STAFF COMMENTS

Chair Fermon welcomed the new members of the Public Safety Committee: Councilmember Greg Sanders, Councilmember Karina Quintanilla, and Councilmember Roger Nuñez, who arrived later in the meeting. Councilmembers Sanders and Quintanilla made brief introductory remarks.

Vice Chair Megan Beaman Jacinto discussed the change at the Thermal Sheriff's Station, highlighting Captain Herman Lopez, and the ongoing conversation in the community as Coachella considers its own police department.

6. EX-OFFICIO COMMENTS

Chief Bryan Reyes, City of Palm Springs, congratulated Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen on the news he will become the County's Chief Executive Officer.

Chief Mike Washburn, City of Indio, also congratulated Mr. Van Wagenen and then provided an update on the impact that COVID-19 has had on the department, including managing stress on personnel.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER PENA AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SMOTRICH TO:

A. Approve the November 9, 2020 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 10 AYES AND 1 ABSENT

Councilmember Johnny Rodriguez	ABSENT
Councilmember Mark Carnevale	AYE
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	AYE
Councilmember Roger Nuñez	AYE
Councilmember Greg Sanders	AYE
Mayor Pro Tem Waymond Fermon	AYE
Councilmember John Peña	AYE
Councilmember Karina Quintanilla	AYE
Mayor Christy Holstege	AYE
Councilmember Iris Smotrich	AYE
Assistant CEO Jeff Van Wagenen	AYE

8. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Update on COVID-19 Public Health Crisis

Jeff Van Wagenen, Riverside County Assistant CEO, provided an overview of the COVID-19 current conditions, particularly the availability of the vaccine. Member discussion ensued, and Mr. Van Wagenen addressed questions on logistics of distributing both doses, data tracking in hospitals and the availability of vaccines to essential workers and restaurant workers.

There was no action taken as this was an information item.

B. Continued Conversation on Race, Diversity and Policing

Erica Felci provided a brief background on the steps the CVAG Public Safety and Executive Committees have taken to continue the conversation regionally. Mr. Van Wagenen provided an update on the countywide listening sessions, the feedback received during those sessions and previewed the next steps the Board of Supervisors will consider.

Member discussion ensued and both Chair Fermon and Vice Chair Beaman Jacinto indicated they would be continuing to ask the committee to consider additional steps in the future. There was no action taken as this was an information item.

C. Legislative Update

A presentation was provided by Gerald Fineman, Riverside County Assistant District Attorney, on key California laws that take effect in 2021 to impact sentencing guidelines, probation as well as the Attorney General's role in reviewing officer involved shootings when the victim is unarmed.

In the interest of time, Chair Fermon asked that the presentation be shared with Committee members instead of a discussion.

9. INFORMATION – The following items were provided for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. CV200 Coordinated Approach to Addressing Unsheltered Homeless

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS –Upcoming Meetings via Zoom videoconference:

- Public Safety – Monday, May 10, 2021 at 9 a.m.
- Executive Committee – Monday, February 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – At 10:21 a.m., Chair Fermon adjourned the meeting in memory of the following public safety officers:

- Terrell Young, Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy;
- David Werksman, Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy;
- Julio Beltran, Riverside County Deputy Probation Officer;
- Jose Delgado, Calipatria state prison Correctional Officer; and
- Brian Sicknick, U.S. Capitol Police Officer.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci

Assistant to the Executive Director

ITEM 8B

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
May 10, 2021**



Staff Report

Subject: CV Housing First: Coordinated Response to Helping the CV 200

Contact: Tom Kirk, Executive Director, (tkirk@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: CVAG has overseen the CV Housing First program since 2017, which has had proven success in helping homeless individuals and families across the Coachella Valley. At the September 21, 2020 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee considered options for operating the program after the previous contract expires. Following a thoughtful debate, the Executive Committee authorized the CVAG Executive Director to take steps necessary to transition the CV Housing First program from an outsourced program to one operated by CVAG staff, for a one-year period starting January 1, 2021, including hiring additional program staff.

As outlined in the Public Safety Committee's February agenda, the transition to an in-house program has also given CVAG an opportunity to focus its efforts on clients who might not be able to get help elsewhere. CVAG had previously launched a CV 100 initiative, which used teamwork between service providers and public safety officers to actively help the 100 top utilizers of first responders time by connecting those individuals to needed housing, medical, mental health, and substance abuse services. CV100 led to a by-name list of 100 individuals with public safety officer assistance and coordinated street outreach in Coachella Valley cities.

This program has already brought about increased responsiveness and capacity in the Coachella Valley, as CVAG is working directly with public safety to help those who are homeless.

Moving forward, this approach will become a cornerstone of the CV Housing First program. To shape the program this year, CVAG has continued to work with law enforcement, member jurisdictions and healthcare resources to identify those who most frequently use first responder and hospital resources. This built upon the previous work, and all told has 200 individuals on it. The new program – CV 200 – will allow CVAG to engage these individuals, who are on the streets and in encampments, with coordinated and consistent scheduled outreaches with public safety and homeless service providers. These are the chronically homeless individuals who are most creating costs to public social services because they are frequently engaged with public safety and healthcare services.

The CV Housing First team uses two primary methods to get clients to housing solutions: rapid resolution and crisis stabilization units:

- Rapid Resolution is an urgent, cost-saving solution that the staff at the Homeless Access Center in Palm Springs, and soon with the Mobile Access Center, use to help overcome the barriers that keep people from getting housing. This could include options such as helping them secure their identifying paperwork, which then can help them qualify for

benefits. It also includes sorting out the process for housing, medical, mental health, substance abuse, employment, and mainstream benefits.

- The Crisis Stabilization Units allow CVAG to connect CV 200 individuals to housing. These are apartments and hotel rooms where clients stay, up to 90 days, that keep them off the streets. Through case management and frequent interactions with the team, CVAG is helping them achieve the goal of permanent housing, programs, and family reunifications.

In 2021, CVAG staff has set a goal to get 90 of these individuals off of the CV 200 list by securing them permanent housing, programs, and family reunifications. On a quarterly basis, CVAG staff intends to provide its committees with a recap of the progress being made to help the CV200 and other clients who enter the CV Housing First program. CV 200 statistics are detailed on an individual basis and, because non-CV 200 clients are often family units, the non-CV 200 statistics are described on a household basis, but represent a larger number of individuals (partners and children).

CV 200 Clients – By the Numbers for January 1 through March 31, 2021

CV 200	
Clients Checked in to Crisis Units	50
Clients checked out and in permanent housing	20
Clients returned to the street (failure)	6
Clients in permanent housing due to Rapid Resolution	5
TOTAL HOUSED FROM LIST OF 200	25
CV 200+	
Households Checked in to Crisis Units	5
Households checked out and in permanent housing	3
Households returned to the street (failure)	0
Households in permanent housing due to Rapid Resolution	2
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS HOUSED FROM BEYOND LIST OF 200	5

CVAG staff is also tracking additional metrics, such as the length of stay in the units, as part of the program. For the first quarter, the CV 200 clients who successfully exited the program into permanent housing stayed in a crisis stabilization unit for 74.6 days. Those CV 200 clients who exited the program unsuccessfully had stayed 91.5 days.

Fiscal Analysis: The CV Housing First program, including the staffing and CV 200 program, is incorporated into the 2021 CV Housing First budget, which has been funded by contributions from cities, Riverside County, the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation, and grants.

ITEM 8C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
May 10, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: CVAG Representative on Riverside County's Emergency Medical Care Committee

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Nominate a city manager to serve as CVAG's representative on Riverside County's Emergency Medical Care Committee for the remainder of the term, which ends on June 30, 2022

Background: The 17-member Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) advises the Board of Supervisors on all aspects of emergency medical care within the County and reports to the Board on observations and recommendations concerning the feasibility and content of emergency medical care programs within the County. Committee members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for staggered three-year terms. Members serve without compensation.

EMCC meetings are usually held quarterly. Per Riverside County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2013-062, CVAG shall nominate a city manager to represent the organization on the EMCC. Randal Bynder, then-City Manager from the City of Rancho Mirage, served as the CVAG representative starting in 2013. After Mr. Bynder retired, Indio City Manager Mark Scott became the representative. Mr. Scott is now retiring, which will leave a vacancy.

The current term goes through June 30, 2022. CVAG staff is requesting recommendations from the CVAG Public Safety Committee on who should be the next appointee. The recommendation will be provided to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

Fiscal Impact: None

Attachment: Riverside County EMS Agency Administrative Policy 8201



Administrative Policy		8201
Effective April 1, 2019	Expires March 31, 2020	
Policy: Emergency Medical Care Committee	Approval: Medical Director Reza Vaezazizi, MD	Signed
Applies To: EMS System	Approval: Deputy EMS Administrator Trevor Douville	Signed

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the membership, rules of operation, and functions of the local Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC).

AUTHORITY

[California Health and Safety Code - Division 2.5, Chapter 4, Article 3, Sections 1797.270 - 1797.276](#)
[Resolution 2013-052 of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside](#)

Emergency Medical Care Committee

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside originally established the local EMCC on October 15, 1985. The composition of the EMCC was last amended by Resolution 2013-052, dated March 12, 2013.

The Riverside County Emergency Medical Care Committee shall consist of seventeen members, all nominated members are to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and the composition of this committee is as follows:

1. One Emergency Department Physician, practicing in a hospital located within Riverside County nominated by the Prehospital Medical Advisory Committee (PMAC);
2. One representative from the [Hospital Association of Southern California \(HASC\)](#) to be the Vice President of the Inland Regional Office;
3. One Physician representative of the [Riverside County Medical Association \(RCMA\)](#) nominated by that organization;
4. One representative from the County contracted emergency ground ambulance provider that serves a majority of the County’s Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs);
5. One representative from the Ambulance Association of Riverside County nominated by that organization;
6. One representative from the County’s permitted air ambulance providers nominated by the air ambulance permitted providers;
7. One Fire Chief representing the [Riverside County Fire Chiefs Association \(RCFCA\)](#) nominated by that organization;
8. One city manager from the [Coachella Valley Association of Governments \(CVAG\)](#) nominated by that organization;
9. One city manager from the [Western Riverside Council of Governments \(WRCOG\)](#) nominated by that organization;
10. One representative of the Riverside County Law Enforcement Agency Administrators’ Association (RCLEAAA) nominated by that organization;
11. One prehospital representative of PMAC nominated by that committee;
12. One representative of the [Riverside County Fire Department](#); appointed by the Riverside County Fire Chief; and
13. One member-at-large from Riverside County Supervisorial [District 1](#);
14. One member-at-large from Riverside County Supervisorial [District 2](#);
15. One member-at-large from Riverside County Supervisorial [District 3](#);
16. One member-at-large from Riverside County Supervisorial [District 4](#);
17. One member-at-large from Riverside County Supervisorial [District 5](#).

Nominated members and members-at-large shall serve a three year term with staggered expiration dates so that no more than one-third of the membership may require replacement or reappointment at any one time. The Committee shall choose its chairperson and vice-chairperson annually, and shall determine the time and place for regular meetings of the Committee.

A quorum shall consist of one more than half the number of filled committee positions. Action taken shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of those present. The Chairman votes only in case of a tie.

The Committee shall perform the functions of an Emergency Medical Care Committee defined by the California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4, Article 3, Sections 1797.274 and 1797.276:

The emergency medical care committee shall, at least annually, review the operations of each of the following:

- a. Ambulance services operating within the county.*
- b. Emergency medical care offered within the county, including programs for training large numbers of people in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and lifesaving first aid techniques.*
- c. First aid practices in the county.*

Every emergency medical care committee shall, at least annually, report to the authority, and the local EMS agency its observations and recommendations relative to its review of the ambulance services, emergency medical care, and first aid practices, and programs for training people in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and lifesaving first aid techniques, and public participation in such programs in that county. The emergency medical care committee shall submit its observations and recommendations to the county board or boards of supervisors which it serves and shall act in an advisory capacity to the county board or boards of supervisors which it serves, and to the local EMS agency, on all matters relating to emergency medical services as directed by the board or boards of supervisors.

The Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity for the Board of Supervisors concerning all aspects of emergency medical care within the County and report to the Board in conjunction with its review of the various aspects of the emergency medical care within the County. The Committee shall report to the Board of Supervisors its observations and recommendations concerning the feasibility and content of emergency medical care programs within the County in conjunction with cities within the County, other counties, the State and the United States.

Except for Supervisorial appointees, each organization may designate an alternate to serve in the event of an absence by that organization's primary member.

The EMCC shall prepare an annual report to the Board of Supervisors on the current and anticipated condition of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and EMS system operation within the County.

ITEM 8D

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
May 10, 2021**



Staff Report

Subject: Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority, Public Safety Enterprise Communications and the Coordination Radio Communications

Contact: Erica Felci, Assistant to the Executive Director (efelci@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In the mid-2000s, CVAG and its Public Safety Committee led regional conversations about how to improve the communications among member cities in order better coordinate the emergency responses. Not only was there a desire for cities to be able to communicate in a seamless manner, but local leaders were interested in upgrading the radio systems to an 800 MHz system. This helped lead to the establishment of the Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority, or ERICA, which is a separate Joint Powers Authority that started in 2008. ERICA currently operates the encrypted radio channels used by police departments in four Coachella Valley cities – Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indio and Palm Springs – as well as in the City of Beaumont.

With the exception of ERICA cities, and the City of Blythe’s Police Department, the remainder of Riverside County is using the Public Safety Enterprise Communications (PSEC) system. ERICA cities use a radio bandwidth which uses more capacity while transmitting, which has made it difficult to add the Riverside County Sheriff’s Office radio channels into the platform. Instead, the two radio channels – an ERICA radio channel and a Sheriff’s radio channel – must be “patched” together to communicate. According to local law enforcement, this additional step can create delays in a time when every second is critical. It also can create poorer quality of the radio traffic.

The ERICA system, which is housed at the City of Cathedral City, is aging. The equipment upgrade is estimated to cost nearly \$5.2 million, which would be a cost shared by the participating cities. Before additional investments are made, cities have started considering options for moving forward. Cities have had started having conversations at recent City Council meetings that include the possibility of joining the PSEC system.

At the same time, the Riverside County Supervisors in April 2021 voted to revise the governance of the PSEC system, which transfer daily operations from the County’s Information Technology department to the County’s Sheriff’s Department.

At the May 10 meeting, the CVAG Public Safety Committee will receive an update from Riverside County about the PSEC system, including highlighting the changes to the governance structure. The Police Chiefs from ERICA member cities will also provide insight on where they are at in considering the next steps.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this update.

Item 9A

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY2020-2021

Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
City of Blythe			○		○			○					0 out of 3
City of Cathedral City			●		●			●					3 out of 3
City of Coachella			○		●			●					2 out of 3
City of Desert Hot Springs			●		●			●					3 out of 3
City of Indian Wells			●		●			●					3 out of 3
City of Indio			●		●			●					3 out of 3
City of La Quinta			●		●			●					3 out of 3
City of Palm Desert			●		●			●					3 out of 3
City of Palm Springs			●		●			●					3 out of 3
City of Rancho Mirage			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Riverside County			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Aqua Caliente - Vacant													
Cabazon Band - Vacant													
Total Attendance Per Meeting			9		10			10					

Ex Officio / Non-Voting Members	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	ATTENDED
Agua Caliente			○		○			○					0 out of 3
Cathedral City Police			○		○			○					0 out of 3
Cathedral City Fire			○		○			○					0 out of 3
Desert Hot Springs Police			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Indio Police			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Thermal Sheriff Station			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Palm Desert Sheriff Station			●		●			○					2 out of 3
Palm Springs Police			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Palm Springs Fire			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Riverside County Fire			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Riverside County Sheriff			○		○			○					0 out of 3
California Highway Patrol			○		●			●					2 out of 3
U.S. Border Patrol			○		○			○					0 out of 3
District Attorney's Office			●		●			●					3 out of 3
County Probation Department			●		●			●					3 out of 3
Total Attendance Per Meeting			9		10			9					

Scheduled Dark Month
 No Meeting *

Present ●

Absent ○

ITEM 9B

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Public Safety Committee
May 10, 2021**



Staff Report

Subject: Meeting Reimbursements for Elected Committee Members

Contact: Claude T. Kilgore, Director of Finance/Administration (ckilgore@cvag.org) and Joanna Stueckle, Executive Assistant/ Clerk (jstueckle@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The CVAG Per Diem Policy was established in June 1998, reimbursing elected officials with \$50 for attendance to any CVAG elected committee meetings. The policy was updated in 2008, increasing the payments to \$100 for Executive Committee members and \$75 for all other elected committee members to attend the standing committee meetings.

Upon establishment of the Per Diem Policy, each elected committee met 10 times a year. In 2012, the number of meetings was reduced by three meetings a year, with each elected committee being scheduled seven meetings per year. On occasion, there has been a need to call additional special meetings due to timing issues, and the per diem was paid for member attendance.

For comparative purposes, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) policies were reviewed. The RCTC per diem is set at \$100 with no tax withholdings, while the WRCOG stipend is set at \$150 and is subject to tax withholdings.

At its April 26 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee renamed the policy to the Stipend Policy, consistent with the name used by WRCOG given the payments are also subject to tax withholdings. The Executive Committee also approved a \$25 increase in stipend payments made to elected officials who attend committee meetings, putting it at \$125 for the Executive Committee and \$100 for all other elected committees.

CVAG committee members may notice they receive payment via form W-2 from CVAG. The staff would like to give background on why CVAG pays via W2 instead of 1099. Beginning January 2012, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) performed an examination over CVAG's federal tax withholdings related to payments made to Committee Members. The examination asserted that CVAG's paid Committee Members are subject to withholding for (i) federal income tax, (ii) FICA, (iii) FUTA. At the time, CVAG engaged General Counsel to act on its behalf and begin the appeals correspondence process with the IRS. The appeal was active during a two-year period, wherein, CVAG asserted its payments to Committee Members reflected that of independent contractors and that these Committee Members did not meet the definition of employees subject to such federal withholdings and payments. Ultimately, in May 2013, the IRS Appeals Office determined that for federal employment taxes, the paid Committee Members "are to be legally classified as

employees...”, effectively requiring CVAG to move such payment to Committee Members from a Form 1099 to a Form W-2 and withhold applicable taxes.

Fiscal Analysis: Based on the approved policy, there will be a \$25 increase in stipend payments made to elected officials who attend committee meetings, putting it at \$125 for the Executive Committee and \$100 for all other elected committees. This would result in an increased expenditure of approximately \$11,394 (including CVAG’s portion of federal income tax, FICA, and FUTA).

When this item was reviewed by the Administrative/ Personnel Committee in April 2021, members asked about the potential impact this would have on the budget. CVAG staff noted that the impact is not significant and, if approved, it will be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 budget.