

ITEM 5B

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 19, 2020**



The audio file for this committee meeting can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>
Any handouts distributed during the meeting will be placed in the meeting file.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The March 19, 2020 Special Meeting of the Executive Committee meeting was called to order just after 8:30 a.m. by Chair Jeff Grubbe, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, via Zoom from Lift to Rise's office at 73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 100 in Palm Desert, CA.

Chair Grubbe gave introductory comments, including steps the Tribe has taken to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (also known as Coronavirus). Executive Director Tom Kirk provided information about new meeting logistics in compliance with statewide guidance on conducting public meetings during the public health crisis.

2. ROLL CALL

A roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present via teleconferencing. Those in attendance were as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Joseph DeConinck
Mayor John Aguilar
Mayor Steven Hernandez
Mayor Scott Matas
Mayor Ty Peabody
Mayor Glenn Miller
Mayor Linda Evans
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan
Mayor Geoff Kors
Supervisor Karen Spiegel
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Tribal Chair Jeff Grubbe
Tribal Councilmember Brenda Soulliere

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 La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
County of Riverside 2nd District
County of Riverside 4th District
County of Riverside 5th District
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mayor Pro Tem Dana Hobart
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
Supervisor Chuck Washington

AGENCY

City of Rancho Mirage
County of Riverside 1st District
County of Riverside 3rd District

OTHERS PRESENT

Rep. Raul Ruiz
Assemblyman Chad Mayes
Tribal Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez
Margaret Park
Kate Anderson
Paul Slama
Charles McClendon
Bill Pattison
Gretchen Gutierrez
Debbie Espinoza
Madison Weil
Jon McMillen
Erin Sasse
Chris Freeland
Ian Cozens
David Ready
Bryan Reyes
Marcus Fuller
Isaiah Hagerman
Peter Carlstrom
Hernan Quintas
Anne Mayer
Aaron Hake
Lisa Mobley
David Manes
Dr. Cameron Kaiser
Greg Priamos
Chad Bianco
Greg Rodriguez
Deborah McGarrey
Colin Atagi

AGENCY

Member of U.S. Congress
California State Assembly
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Desert Valley Builders Association
Find Food Bank
KESQ
City of La Quinta
League of California Cities
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of Palm Springs
City of Palm Springs
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Rep. Ruiz’s office
Rep. Ruiz’s office
RCTC
RCTC
RCTC
Resident, City of Palm Desert
Riverside County Public Health Officer
Riverside County Legal Counsel
Riverside County Sheriff
Riverside County
Southern California Gas
The Desert Sun

STAFF PRESENT

Tom Kirk
Gary Leong
Katie Barrows
Erica Felci
Michael Jenkins

CVAG Legal Counsel

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Grubbe called on members of the public who were participating via teleconference in CVAG Conference Room Suite 119 to submit comments via teleconference:

Debbie Espinoza, President of FIND Food Bank, gave an update on work with local and federal leaders as it pertains to food distribution and opening mobile sites.

David Manes, Palm Desert resident, encouraged cities to take a uniform approach to addressing COVID-19.

Due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, public comments were encouraged to be submitted in advance by email. Chairman Grubbe called on Erica Felci to read the following comments into the record:

Katie Stice of the Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce asked for information on COVID-19 testing, and asked members to consider how the Chamber could support cities and the County.

Deborah McGarrey of Southern California Gas provided an update on steps the company has taken related to the pandemic and stressed that it remained an essential business during closure orders.

Joel Kinnamon of College of the Desert (COD), expressed support for a Valley-wide shelter-in-place order and pointed out the steps that COD Board of Trustees have taken to assist students and faculty.

Joe Wallace of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership provided statistics about the economic impact that COVID-19 may have in the Coachella Valley and expressed support for sheltering in place.

Gretchen Gutierrez of the DVBA submitted an email for the meeting record, pointing out the need for clear messaging and information sharing.

4. CHAIR/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Tom Kirk discussed the meeting logistics and thanked Lift to Rise for providing their office to host the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Kirk also informed members that, as of March 16, CVAG staff will be working remotely and conducting meetings via teleconferencing in accordance with shelter in place orders and social distancing guidelines.

5. DISCUSSION/ ACTION

A. Regional Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Discussion of Valley-wide Measures — Tom Kirk and Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Mr. Kirk opened the discussion by introducing Rep. Raul Ruiz, who advocated for a Valley-wide approach and urged members to adopt the shelter-in-place model similar to the City of Palm Springs. Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County Public Health Officer, provided additional data and updates on County-wide measures, which did not include a recommendation to adopt a County-wide shelter-in-place ordinance.

Extensive discussion ensued, with each jurisdiction called to provide updates on their respective community's' response. This included emergency declarations, restrictions on businesses, and City staffing adjustments. Several members expressed reservations with adopting a shelter-in-place model similar to the City of Palm Springs. A majority of members expressed support for decisions made upon guidance by Dr. Kaiser or by individual cities, tribes or the County.

Mr. Kirk asked members for direction on whether CVAG should issue a statement and ask County Public Health to consider valley-specific measures to address COVID-19. Additional member discussion ensued, with general consensus being that no action should be taken by CVAG.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming meeting, to be held telephonically or electronically:

Executive Committee – Monday, April 27, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Grubbe adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci

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Governmental Projects Manager