

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2019



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

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chair Evans at 11:03 am at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

2. ROLL CALL - Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Gary Gardner
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Mayor Susan Marie Weber
Councilmember Lisa Middleton
Councilmember Richard W. Kite
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Councilmember Jan Harnik
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director Alex Cardenas
President Randy Duncan

Members Not Present

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair
Councilmember Richard Balocco
Councilmember Glenn Miller

Others Present

Tom Kirk
Katie Barrows
Kathleen Brundige
Libby Carlson
Gary Leong
Jim Karpiak
Staff
Pat Cooper
Boomer Shannon
Randy Byer
Paul Vallandigham

Agency

City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 2, Alternate
Riverside County – District 3, Alternate
Riverside County – District 4
Riverside County – District 5
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District (*By phone*)
Mission Springs Water District

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Indian Wells
Riverside County – District 1, Alternate

CVCC
CVCC
CVCC
CVCC
CVAG
CVMC
Imperial Irrigation District (*by phone*)
Office of County Supervisor Perez
Office of County Supervisor Hewitt
Bighorn Institute
Board of Supervisors, District 5

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Councilmember Ortiz.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Randy Byer, Bighorn Institute, addressed the Commission in support of Item 7E.

5. COMMISSION CHAIR / DIRECTOR COMMENTS – None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FITZPATRICK TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

A. Approve the September 12, 2019 CVCC Meeting Minutes

B. Approve a Contract with Southern California Mountains Foundation for an amount not to exceed \$80,000 to remove tamarisk in the Willow Hole Conservation Area and from North Shore Ranch in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area

C. Approve Amendment #1 to the contract with Friends of the Desert Mountains to remove tamarisk and fountain grass from water sources in Peninsular bighorn sheep habitat in the Santa Rosa Mountains, extending the term through January 31, 2020 at no additional cost

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITH 13 AYES, and 4 ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Absent
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Absent
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Absent
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Randy Duncan	Aye

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation on Acquisitions Process and Tax Default Parcels - Jim Karpiak, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, provided an overview of the land acquisition process and role of CVMC. In response to Commission questions, Tom Kirk suggested providing an annual reconciliation of authorized properties and acquisition status.

B. Acquisition of 1 Parcel Totaling Approximately 5.0 Acres in the Willow Hole Conservation Area

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-017 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 1 PARCEL TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 5.0 ACRES IN THE WILLOW HOLE CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000 PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$3,500; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES, 1 ABSTENTION AND 4 ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Absent
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Absent
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Abstain
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Absent
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Randy Duncan	Aye

C. Acquisition of 3 Parcels Totaling Approximately 93.24 Acres in the Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER KITE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-018 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 3 PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 93.24 ACRES IN THE UPPER MISSION CREEK/BIG MORONGO CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$260,000 PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE

ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Absent
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Absent
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Absent
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
President Randy Duncan	Aye

D. Acquisition of 1 Parcel Totaling Approximately 647.45 Acres in the Thousand Palms Conservation Area

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER HARNIK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-019 AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF 1 PARCEL TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 647.45 ACRES IN THE THOUSAND PALMS CONSERVATION AREA AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$291,353 PLUS CLOSING AND TRANSACTION RELATED COSTS NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000; AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CONTRACTS AND TAKE SUCH OTHER ACTIONS AS NECESSARY FOR THE ACQUISITION.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 4 ABSENT.

Mayor Pro Tem John Aguilar	Absent
Mayor Steven Hernandez, Vice Chair	Absent
Councilmember Gary Gardner	Aye
Councilmember Richard Balocco	Absent
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair	Aye
Mayor Susan Marie Weber	Aye
Councilmember Lisa Middleton	Aye
Councilmember Richard W. Kite	Aye
Councilmember Glenn Miller	Absent
Councilmember Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Aye
Councilmember Jan Harnik	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Supervisor Jeff Hewitt	Aye

Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director Alex Cardenas
President Randy Duncan

Aye
Aye
Aye

E. La Quinta Bighorn Sheep Barrier Project Update – Katie Barrows, reported on number of proposals received and next steps. In response to a question for Chair Evans, Katie noted that the study of the sheep population would begin in early 2020.

8. INFORMATION - The following items were provided for information only:

A. CVCC Attendance Record

B. Response to Commission questions regarding September Trails Management Subcommittee presentation

C. Coachella Valley Desert and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission is scheduled for January 9, 2020 at 11 am.

11. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Carlson