

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.



Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 and the findings made by CVAG, this meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022
12:00 p.m.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84917828720?pwd=RmZRSjExM2ozZGhiZk5zZlAzWjNWUT09>

Passcode: 315599

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,84917828720#

Dial In #: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 849 1782 8720

Passcode: 315599

This will provide listening access and ability to address the Energy & Environmental Resources 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 Energy & Environmental Resources Committee 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**

**UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, Chair

2. ROLL CALL – Jennifer Nelson

A. Member Roster

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3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to address the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. At the discretion of the chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve February 10, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

5

B. Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary actions and execute the required agreement with the County of Riverside to receive \$80,000 from the Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Grant Program for the region's Smart Scalping and Landscape Certification Program

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6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Coordination with the Coachella Valley Energy Commission – Emmanuel Martinez

11

Recommendation: Information

B. Regional PM10 Street Sweeping – Emmanuel Martinez

13

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary actions to execute a six-month contract extension with M&M Sweeping, Inc., for Regional PM 10 Street Sweeping Services

C. State Legislation Related to Automated Rooftop Solar Permitting Programs – David Freedman

15

Recommendation: Support Senate Bill 379 and authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to sign letters of support and advocate for its approval

D. Inland Regional Energy Network Update – David Freedman

[19](#)

Recommendation: Information

7. INFORMATION

A. Attendance

[20](#)

B. Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program

[21](#)

C. Update on legislative advocacy efforts

[23](#)

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Any member of the public wishing to address the Committee on items not appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 2 minutes. At the discretion of the chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at noon via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURN

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
Member Roster
2021 – 2022**



VOTING MEMBERS	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Secretary/Treasurer Vincent Gonzales III
City of Blythe	Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck <i>Alternate: Councilmember Joseph Halby III</i>
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Nancy Ross <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Rita Lamb</i>
City of Coachella	Councilmember Neftali Galarza <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez</i>
Coachella Valley Water District	Board Member Anthony Bianco
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Gary Gardner</i>
Imperial Irrigation District	Director JB Hamby
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith <i>Alternate: Councilmember Richard Balocco</i>
City of Indio	Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz, Vice Chair <i>Alternate: Councilmember Elaine Holmes</i>
City of La Quinta	Mayor Linda Evans, Chair
Mission Springs Water District	Vice President Nancy Wright <i>Alternate: President Randy Duncan</i>
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Gina Nestande
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Dennis Woods <i>Alternate: Mayor Lisa Middleton</i>
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend <i>Alternate: Councilmember Richard W. Kite</i>
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Desert Water Agency	Board Member Patricia Oyar
Riverside County – District 5	Supervisor Jeff Hewitt <i>Alternate: Director Russ Martin, Mission Springs Water District</i>

ITEM 5A

Energy and Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes February 10, 2022



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 Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to AB 361 and the guidelines for governing how public meetings are held virtually.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Neftali Galarza
Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Councilmember Nancy Ross
Councilmember Russell Betts
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director JB Hamby
Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith
Councilmember Elaine Holmes
Mayor Linda Evans, *Chair*
Vice President Nancy Wright
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend
Riverside County – District 4

Agency

City of Coachella
City of Blythe
City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
City of Indian Wells (*Absent for Items 5 and 6A*)
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage (*Arrived at Item 4*)
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez (*Arrived at Item 4*)

Ex-Officio Members Present

Supervisor Jeff Hewitt

Riverside County

Others Present

Tom Kirk	CVAG
Erica Felci	CVAG
Peter Satin	CVAG
Joanna Stueckle	CVAG
Jennifer Nelson	CVAG
Emmanuel Martinez	CVAG
Elizabeth Paige	CVAG
Kathleen Brundige	CVAG
David Freedman	CVAG
Liz Barnwell	CVAG
Amy Lawrence	City of Palm Desert
Margaret Park	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Paul Vallandigham	Riverside County
Sabrina Barber	IID
Dan Garcia	South Coast Air Quality Management
Frances Maes	South Coast Air Quality Management
Kim Floyd	Sierra Club
Antonia Ortega	
Enrique Martinez	IID
One Individual	Via phone

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Chairman Jeff Grubbe

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Board Member Patricia Oygur

Desert Water Agency

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Clerk Jennifer Nelson read into the record Brad Anderson's written comment opposing Item 6A regarding a MOU between CVAG and IID.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Tom Kirk introduced two new CVAG employees, David Freedman and Liz Barnwell, who will be working on energy programs.

Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts shared he had attended the Land Use Commission meeting in Riverside in person that morning and made it back to his office in time for this meeting.

Councilmember Gina Nestande announced the City of Palm Desert Council approved the Desert Surf Resort project with a groundbreaking event scheduled for October 2022.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez provided an update on the Salton Sea North Lake pilot project.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR**A. Approve November 18, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes****B. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Riverside County Department of Waster Resources, providing up to \$25,000 annually for activities that implement waster diversion legislation and organics recycling programs****C. Adopt Resolution 2022-02 in support of Net Energy Metering and direct staff to distribute the resolution to Governor Newsom, the region's legislative delegation and members of the California Public Utilities Commission**

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR PRO TEM TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NESTANDE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES, 2 ABSTENTIONS AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Chairman Jeff Grubbe	Absent
Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck	Aye
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Aye
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Russell Betts	Aye
Director JB Hamby	Aye (Abstained from Items 5A and 5C)
Mayor Pro Tem Donna Griffith	Absent

Councilmember Elaine Holmes	Aye (<i>Abstained from Item 5A</i>)
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Vice President Nancy Wright	Aye
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Memorandum of Understanding between CVAG and IID

Emmanuel Martinez presented the staff report that included information on the Coachella Valley Energy Commission.

Member discussion followed, with members expressing support of the collaborative efforts and regional approach.

IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM TOWNSEND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO ASSIST ITS COACHELLA VALLEY ENERGY COMMISSION AND TO HELP ACHIEVE A LOCAL COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE AND ELECTRICAL SERVICE SOLUTION POST-2033.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES, 1 ABSTENTION AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Chairman Jeff Grubbe	Absent
Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck	Aye
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Aye
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Russell Betts	Aye
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Councilmember Donna Griffith	Absent
Councilmember Elaine Holmes	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Vice President Nancy Wright	Abstained
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye

B. Update on South Coast Air Quality Management District's Funding Programs

Mr. Kirk introduced Frances Maes and Dan Garcia from South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), who provided an overview of incentive programs and funding sources.

Member discussion ensued and AQMD staff answered member questions and offered to provide additional information on the Carl Moyer memorial fund.

There was no action on this item as it was for informational purposes.

C. Update on Imperial Irrigation District's Energy Efficiency Programs

Sabrina Barber from IID provided a detailed report on the numerous efficiency programs available. A brief discussion followed.

There was no action on this item as it was for informational purposes.

D. Inland Regional Energy Network Governance

David Freedman provided the staff report and outlined governing options for the Committee to consider.

Discussion ensued and members voiced support of having one member to represent CVAG at I-REN meetings.

There was no action taken on this item, and staff indicated the topic would return for additional consideration in the future.

7. INFORMATION – The following items were provided in the agenda for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. 2022 Used Oil Recycling Events

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Nelson, read into the record Mr. Anderson's comment requesting public comments be allowed after each agenda item.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at noon via Zoom webinar.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURN – Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Nelson

ITEM 5B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy and Environmental Resources Committee April 14, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Smart Scalping and Landscape Certification Program

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary actions and execute the required agreement with the County of Riverside to receive \$80,000 from the Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Grant Program for the region's Smart Scalping and Landscape Certification Program

Background: Since the early 1990s, CVAG has coordinated efforts to improve air quality and help the Coachella Valley address its non-attainment status for particulate matter. For example, CVAG has coordinated regional air quality programs such as the street sweeping program to control PM10 (particulate matter of less than 10 microns). PM10 in the Coachella Valley comes from dust-generating activities, including vehicles traveling over paved or unpaved streets and construction. It also comes from landscaping activities, such as scalping grass in the fall season in preparation for the winter rye grass. To enhance air quality improvement efforts, CVAG launched a landscape certification program to mitigate air quality issues related to scalping and re-seeding of winter rye grass.

CVAG recently applied to the County of Riverside's Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Projects grant program, which had a call for projects that closed on January 5, 2022. In coordination and collaboration with College of the Desert, CVAG sought funding to cover the \$40,000 per year it costs to run the Landscape Certification Program.

Many homeowners, homeowner associations and landscapers across the Coachella Valley have traditionally used scalping as a tool to grow winter rye grass on their property. However, turf experts have developed a winter rye grass planting technique that does not require scalping, helping to improve air quality and public health. Scalping is the process of mowing summer's crop of Bermuda grass all the way down to the roots so that winter rye grass can be planted. The process creates enormous amounts of dust, including tiny PM10 particles that can be harmful to the lungs and that contribute to the surge of valley-wide allergy problems each fall. By working with the cities, landscaping companies, homeowner associations and golf resorts, CVAG helps reduce the amount of dust generated from scalping activities.

In the early 2000's, CVAG worked with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the University of California, Riverside, and the Hi-Lo Desert Golf Course Superintendents Association to conduct studies and research to reduce the harmful dust particles generated from scalping. CVAG's non-scalping technique helps to reduce harmful dust particles by 99 percent. Therefore, creating healthier grass through efficient, effective and environmentally sound turf re-seeding practices. In turn, helping to reduce dust and improve air quality and public health for the region.

As an alternative to using scalping as a technique to prepare for the winter rye grass, the program educates landscapers, through a certification course, to use a technique that does not scrape down to the dirt before winter rye grass is planted. By waiting until the Bermuda grass goes dormant, scalping can be eliminated from this traditional process, helping to keep the air clean and healthy for tourists and residents of the Coachella Valley. CVAG in partnership with the College of the Desert, works with all the Coachella Valley cities so that landscapers who are renewing or receiving a new business license at each city, are educated and certified on the non-scalping re-seeding process. By helping to increase educational opportunities for landscapers, widespread use of winter rye grass re-seeding technique can increase.

With this funding, College of the Desert will continue to host CVAG's Landscape Certification program online. COD will also promote the course on its website on the Partnership and Community Education webpage.

To evaluate proposals and make funding recommendations, the Coachella Valley Air Quality Advisory Committee met in January 2022. The Committee recommended CVAG be awarded two years of funding, a total of \$80,000, for the Landscape Certification Program. This project will be implemented in two phases: Phase 1 is to aggressively promote the program in coordination with CVAG's member jurisdictions; and Phase 2, is to enlist landscapers in all nine-cities via tracking of business license permits, to help track performance of the program. With this item, CVAG staff is recommending that the Executive Director be authorized to take the steps to accept the funds.

Fiscal Analysis: The costs for the Landscape Certification Program is \$40,000 per year. The grant from the County of Riverside's Coachella Valley Air Quality Enhancement Program will fund two years of the program, for a total of \$80,000.

ITEM 6A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy and Environmental Resources Committee April 14, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Coordination with the Coachella Valley Energy Commission

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: The Coachella Valley Energy Commission was formed by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to address the expiring 1934 Agreement of Compromise between the Coachella Valley Water District and IID. This 99-year agreement, which is set to expire in 2033, is a power lease that allows the IID to service the Coachella Valley as an energy provider. In addition to allowing eastern Coachella Valley ratepayers to be served by a publicly owned utility, CVWD receives five percent of the net proceeds of energy sales. Because said agreement is set to expire soon, the CVEC was formed to address concerns related infrastructure needs in the Coachella Valley, but most importantly, to address representation and governance options for IID's Coachella Valley ratepayers.

As such, one of the main goals of the CVEC is to develop a long-term strategic plan for continued energy service to the Coachella Valley following the 2033 expiration of the 99-year lease between IID and the Coachella Valley Water District. In February 2022, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized a memorandum of understanding that would provide funding to CVAG to have a staff member serve as a coordinator who assists in carrying out and overseeing the actions, activities and affairs of the Commission. The MOU will allow CVAG to provide some staff support to the CVEC and its activities, which would be largely carried out by the Senior Programs Manager serving in a coordinator role. The term of the MOU ends on December 31, 2022, but may be extended by mutual consent of the IID and CVAG. The activities of the coordinator include being a liaison between CVAG and the CVEC; attending monthly CVEC meetings and provide CVAG updates or reports; assisting with CVEC agenda planning and setting; attending IID Board of Directors meetings and relaying updates to CVAG; and providing updates on CVEC related matters to CVAG's Energy and Environmental Resources and Executive Committees, as needed.

To address Coachella Valley service area needs and governance options post-2033, the CVEC and its subcommittees have regular meetings – including one scheduled for the same day as the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee meeting – to explore options for governance and infrastructure needs. Moreover, the CVEC has spent considerable amount of time on getting educated and familiar with the legal structure, regulatory and legislative requirements, capital and operational budgets and other requirements of a publicly owned utility. The CVEC's members will be touring IID infrastructure facilities on April 28, 2022. The purpose of the tour builds on conversations regarding a vertically integrated utility which has balancing authority and generation assets to meet local energy demand. Additionally, discussion regarding reliance on energy markets, such as the California Independent System Operator, to

supplement its generation and meet its energy demand has taken place.

Regarding governance options, the CVEC has most recently spent time exploring various publicly owned utility structures but has focused mostly on municipal utility district (MUD) structure. This conversation is still on-going and is being facilitated by a third-party independent facilitator. The goal is to help guide committee members' understanding of whether a MUD is a viable option, including its challenges and opportunities to meet the future energy needs of the Coachella Valley.

Further, to address infrastructure and economic needs and plans, on February 23, the City of Indio presented to the CVEC's Growth and Economic Development Committee regarding implementing an infrastructure investment fee through a Coachella Valley Financing Authority. The goal of the fee is to help critical energy projects to increase reliability and spur local economic development. The City's consultant on this matter, Bell Burnell and Associates, also assisted in the presentation and touched on the need to develop an actionable plan to build critical energy infrastructure and develop a long-term strategy. In short, the proposal recommends implementing a surcharge of 0.0013 cents per kilowatt hour which would have a relative impact of 1 percent to rates. In sum, the study suggests that this fee could generate \$17 million, \$12 million and \$9 million for the cities of Indio, La Quinta and Coachella, respectively.

Although the infrastructure investment surcharge is subject to further review, such as legal considerations, project eligibility and asset ownership, to name a few, the recommendation was to evaluate further and, if viable, implement before expiration of the lease agreement. Ultimately, however, each city would need to consider its own approach.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to this update. The memorandum of understanding with IID helps to cover CVAG staff time associated with coordinating and updating stakeholders regarding this matter.

ITEM 6B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy and Environmental Resources Committee April 14, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Regional PM10 Street Sweeping

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary actions to execute a six-month contract extension with M&M Sweeping, Inc., for Regional PM 10 Street Sweeping Services

Background: The Regional Street Sweeping program is an air quality program focused on addressing PM10 (particulate matter less than 10 microns) by removing sand and entrained dust from regional streets in the Coachella Valley. As an area in non-attainment for PM10, the program is a key air quality strategy for the Coachella Valley to minimize entrained dust from roadways from suspending into the air due to vehicular traffic. Since the 1990s, Coachella Valley's cities have cooperated on the regional street sweeping program. The program is also considered a best available control measure (BACM) to reduce PM-10 which comes from dust generating activities such as vehicles traveling over paved and unpaved streets and construction activities.

In 2019, SCAQMD approved a five-year grant for \$1.15 million for CVAG's Regional Street Sweeping Program. The grant appropriates \$220,000 annually for street sweeping operations for a period of five years and \$50,000 for a Regional PM10 Street Sweeping Efficiency and Effectiveness Study. Under the grant terms, funding beyond the first year is contingent on the completion and approval of the study. Specifically, the study will investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of the current street sweeping schedule, identify problem areas and possible improvements to the program. Additionally, the study will conduct a cost-benefit analysis, to help optimize the resources allocated to the program.

The study is now underway, under the contract that the Executive Committee approved with ECORP Consulting at the September 2021 meeting. The total cost of the study, including contingency, is \$28,511. This will be paid from the grant for the study. The remaining balance of the \$50,000 grant fund allocation will help cover CVAG staff time for managing and implementing the grant and the program.

While the study is ongoing, the contract with CVAG's street sweeper M&M Sweeping, Inc. – is nearing an end. The term of the two-year agreement is set to expire on June 30, 2022. This was the second two-year agreement with said contractor. CVAG staff has coordinated with member jurisdictions' staff, and there is general interest in issuing a request for proposals for street sweeping to take advantage of competitive bidding at the end of the contract term. However, any new contract should be completed with the efficiency and effectiveness data in mind. The study is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2022. Once completed, its recommendations to improve the program could then be incorporated into the request for proposals for street sweeping services.

CVAG staff has met with the designated staffs of each of the cities to provide them an update on the efforts related to street sweeping, as well to receive comments and feedback regarding the program. Although they recommended issuing an RFP for the street sweeping services, there was consensus for the approach of extending the current street sweeping contract for six months to allow for the completion of the efficiency and effectiveness study.

Fiscal Analysis: The costs for the six-month extension of the regional street will not exceed \$331,438.32. Currently, the total not to exceed compensation for the two-year agreement is \$1,325,753.26, which includes “regular sweeping,” “seasonal impact streets cleaning” and “special impact streets cleaning,” and a street sweeping of Highway 111 within the City of Palm Springs. Based on the two-year figure, the six-month contract costs were prorated.

The Regional PM 10 Street Sweeping Program is funded through various funding sources including Col-Mac (Desert View) funds apportioned to the program by Riverside County, AB 2766 Vehicle Subvention funds received from all nine cities and through the aforementioned grant funds from the SCAQMD.

The grant agreement for the SCAQMD was bifurcated, one agreement for year one of funding and another agreement for years 2-5 of funding including the for the study. The agreement for year one of funding was fully executed September 2021 and CVAG has submitted three reimbursement requests from SCAQMD totaling \$152,958.20, all of which have been approved. This leaves a remaining balance of \$67,041.81 under year one of the grant. The agreement for years 2-5 and the study was fully executed February 2022 and staff will submit reimbursement requests to SCAQMD when key tasks of the study are completed.

ITEM 6C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

April 14, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: State Legislation Related to Automated Rooftop Solar Permitting Programs

Contact: David Freedman, Program Manager (dfreedman@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Support Senate Bill 379 and authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to sign letters of support and advocate for its approval

Background: In 2014, the California Legislature required local governments to streamline their permitting processes for certain solar systems. Assembly Bill 2188 required every city and county, including charter cities, to adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems.

Despite the existing requirements regarding solar energy system permitting, the solar industry remains concerned with permitting delays – which can add weeks or months, as well as higher costs, to the process. Additionally, while the costs of solar hardware have decreased by 80 percent in the past 15 years, the “soft” costs associated with permitting account for a significant share of the total price of a solar system and are thus a major hindrance to California’s clean energy goals, including 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. For a residential customer, the soft costs specifically associated with solar installation, including costs for permitting and inspection, can amount to as much as \$1 per watt of the installation, which can represent \$6,000 or more for a typical rooftop system in the Coachella Valley.

To address permit delays and the costs associated with permitting, SB 379, introduced by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), would require jurisdictions of a certain size (including all of CVAG’s member cities and Riverside County) to implement an automated online solar permitting system for residential rooftop solar systems. The implementation deadline for SB 379 if adopted is September 30, 2023, for cities and counties with populations greater than 50,000 and September 30, 2024, for cities with a population of 50,000 or fewer.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in coordination with the Department of Energy, solar industry partners, and building safety experts, has created an open-source software called SolarAPP+, which would satisfy the technical requirements of SB 379. SolarAPP+ is a standardized plan review software that can run compliance checks and process building permit approvals for eligible rooftop solar systems, allowing for a simplified onboarding and adoption of automated permitting. SolarAPP+ does not charge jurisdictions for adoption, but it does charge \$25.00 per permitted system that a solar contractor runs through the application (in addition to the jurisdiction’s regular solar permit fee). SB 379 does not require that SolarAPP+ be utilized but ensures that some form of automated online permitting be available so that residents can be efficiently approved for solar systems, and so that building departments are no longer inundated and slowed by solar permits.

The Budget Act of 2021 appropriates \$20 million in funding to the California Energy Commission (CEC) to support a funding program for cities and counties to establish automated, online solar permitting, as would be required by SB 379. The CEC is in the process of developing the California Automated Permit Processing (CalAPP) program to provide funding for cities and counties to

establish automated online solar permitting, including the adoption of SolarAPP+ and potentially other automated permit processing systems. CVAG member cities with a population less than 50,000 can be awarded up to \$40,000 from the CEC, and those with a population of 50,000 to 99,999 can be awarded up to \$60,000. Riverside County as the solar permitting agency for unincorporated areas can be awarded up to \$100,000.

Noting that SB 379 creates a state-mandated local program by requiring local jurisdictions to adopt an automated online permitting system and report information on the numbers of permits issued and the characteristics of solar energy and storage systems to the CEC, staff contacted the League of California Cities for its views on the bill. The League worked with Senator Wiener and the sponsors to get some amendments to the bill and now has no position on it. However, the League did express caution about whether nearly all cities and counties should be required to do this right now and how the bill would be implemented.

To facilitate adoption of SolarAPP+ and promote the CalAPP grant program that the CEC will launch in the next few months, CVAG staff is now working with NREL and the California Solar & Storage Association on a training program for local permitting and planning staffs as well as solar installers. This training will be conducted under the auspices of the new Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN).

Staff is recommending that CVAG issue a letter of support for SB 379, which is consistent with goals and objectives previously adopted by CVAG's Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, including promoting opportunities that benefit energy consumers, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing renewable energy usage, and advancing climate action and resilience. The bill is also consistent with CVAG's 2022 Federal and State Legislative Platform, which was adopted by the Executive Committee at its February 28 meeting.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for adopting a support position for SB 379. The CalAPP program will provide funding to cover certain costs of implementing SB 379. Staff time dedicated to SolarAPP+ and CalAPP training is covered through the I-REN budget.

Attachment: Draft support letter for SB 379

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Chair, Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee
State Capitol, Room 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 379 (Wiener) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 379. This bill would require specified cities and counties to implement an online, automated permitting platform for residential solar energy systems, such as SolarAPP+. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) developed SolarAPP+ in collaboration with the various code compliance and solar industry entities.

Before any homeowner can install a solar energy system, they need to apply for a permit from their local building department. While permits are often processed in just a few days, permitting delays can add weeks or months, as well as higher costs for both local governments and solar customers, to the process. SB 379 ensures that some form of automated online permitting be available so that residents can be efficiently approved for solar systems, and so that building departments are no longer inundated and slowed by solar permits.

In a recent study NREL conducted of three pilot jurisdictions in California and two in Arizona that implemented SolarAPP+, NREL concluded that SolarAPP+ saved staff hours and reduced the average permit review time to less than one day. Projects submitted through SolarAPP+ were installed and inspected on average 12 days faster than projects using the traditional process. SolarApp+ also eliminates the need for costly third-party plan review services that impact city budgets.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is now developing the California Automated Permit Processing (CalAPP) program to provide \$20 million in funding appropriated in the Budget Act of 2021 for cities and counties to establish automated online solar permitting, including the adoption of SolarAPP+ and potentially other automated permit processing systems.

Faster and cheaper permitting of solar energy systems resulting from SB 379 together with the CEC funding would benefit our communities and help California achieve its clean energy goals, including 100% renewable energy by 2045. Solar energy generates carbon-free electricity and prevents other pollutants from fossil fuel power plants. Solar energy, tied with battery storage systems, lowers residents' electric bills, readies the grid for electric vehicles, and keeps lights and medical devices on during blackouts and public safety power shutoffs. Solar installations also create local, accessible, and good-paying jobs for our residents in a growing industry.

CVAG supports expanding clean energy access by making it cheaper and easier for people to adopt rooftop solar and energy storage to meet California's ambitious clean energy targets and deploy solar in all communities and households, particularly those struggling to pay for electricity. For these reasons, CVAG is pleased to support SB 379. We urge you and the other members of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee to vote "AYE" when the bill comes before you.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If you have questions, or wish to discuss our position, please do not hesitate to contact CVAG Executive Director Tom Kirk at tkirk@cvag.org or (760) 346-1127.

Sincerely,

Christy Gilbert Holstege, Esq.
CVAG Chair

cc: The Honorable Senator Scott Wiener
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
The Honorable Senator Melissa Melendez
The Honorable Assemblymember Chad Mayes

ITEM 6D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

April 14, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Inland Regional Energy Network Update

Contact: David Freedman, Program Manager (dfreedman@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: As noted in previous reports to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, CVAG has been collaborating with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) on creating a new joint Regional Energy Network for the Inland Empire, known as Inland Regional Energy Network or I-REN. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the I-REN application and business plan in November 2021.

Staff of the three Councils of Governments are continuing their discussions on the I-REN governance structure outlined in the report for the February 14 Energy & Environmental Resources Committee meeting. The discussions focus on the authority of WRCOG to administer I-REN on a day-to-day basis and the authority of the I-REN Executive Committee to make all executive decisions for I-REN. The staffs are also discussing a Program Agreement with SoCalGas, which the CPUC designated as the fiscal and contracting agent for I-REN.

Following resolution of remaining issues, CVAG staff anticipates bringing the I-REN governance documents to the Energy & Environmental Resources and Executive Committees for further review and approval later this spring. This step will also confirm the approach to CVAG's representation on I-REN's Executive Committee, which was discussed at the February 14 meeting of the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee. The consensus approach was to allow the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee to review and provide direction on all items being considered at the I-REN Executive Committee, then delegate voting on such items to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Chair, or, in the Chair's absence, to the CVAG Executive Director and/or the Executive Director's designee.


I-REN's formal launch will occur once all necessary agreements are signed. However, CVAG staff has already begun work on I-REN programming, as CVAG will serve as the lead agency on developing and implementing programs and policies in I-REN's Codes and Standards sector. The first program will be a training for local permitting and planning staffs as well as solar installers on the requirements for automated rooftop solar permitting, which is further described in Agenda item 6C. Staff is also scheduled to present an introduction to I-REN at the April 18 meeting of the City of Palm Desert's Resource Preservation & Enhancement Committee.

Fiscal Analysis: Staff time dedicated to I-REN is covered through the I-REN budget, which is nearly \$65.6 million through period 2022-2027. This funding comes from customers of Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) such as SCE and SoCalGas through the on-bill Public Goods Charge levied by the IOUs. The I-REN Executive Committee will, as part of its budget process, determine amounts to be allocated in furtherance of I-RENs programs.

ITEM 7A

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY 2021-2022**

<i>VOTING MEMBERS</i>	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-		-			
City of Blythe	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Cathedral City	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Coachella	-	-	✓	-		-	-	✓	-			
Coachella Valley Water District	-	-		-		-	-	✓	-			
City of Desert Hot Springs	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
Imperial Irrigation District	-	-		-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Indian Wells	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Indio	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of La Quinta	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
Mission Springs Water District	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Palm Desert	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Palm Springs	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Rancho Mirage	-	-	✓	-		-	-	✓	-			
Riverside County - District 4	-	-	✓	-		-	-	✓	-			
<i>EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS</i>												
Desert Water Agency	-	-		-		-	-		-			
Riverside County - District 5	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			

Absent 
 Vacancy ** No Meeting -
 Present ✓

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

April 14, 2022



Staff Report

Subject: Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program

Contact: Elizabeth Barnwell, Management Analyst (ebarnwell@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs provide financing to property owners to implement energy saving, renewable energy, water conservation, and seismic strengthening improvements to their homes and businesses, with little or no money out of pocket. Financing for these improvements is paid back through a lien placed on the property and collected through the annual tax bill. PACE programs continue their activities in the Coachella Valley, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as demonstrated in the attached status report, participation dropped.

Staff would also note a recent change in the HERO program. In 2020, the HERO Program filed bankruptcy and effective October 16, 2020, Renovate America discontinued accepting new HERO applications and begun winding down the program for residential customers. Existing HERO customers have transitioned to Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), which is now responsible for providing customer payoffs and inquiries about the residential HERO program. WRCOG will not pursue continued operations of the residential portion of the program but will continue to administer the commercial portion.

CVAG will continue to monitor and report on the status of the PACE residential and commercial PACE providers that operate in CVAG's member jurisdictions.

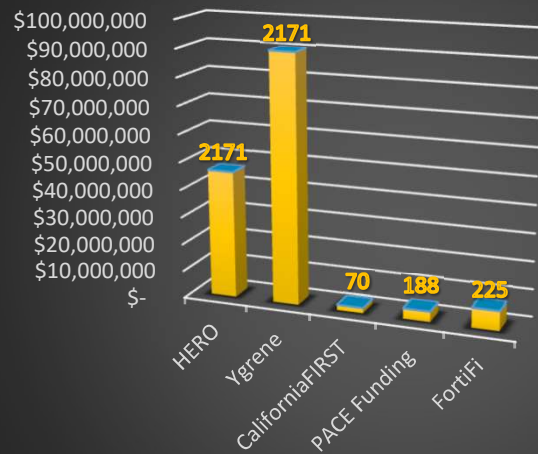
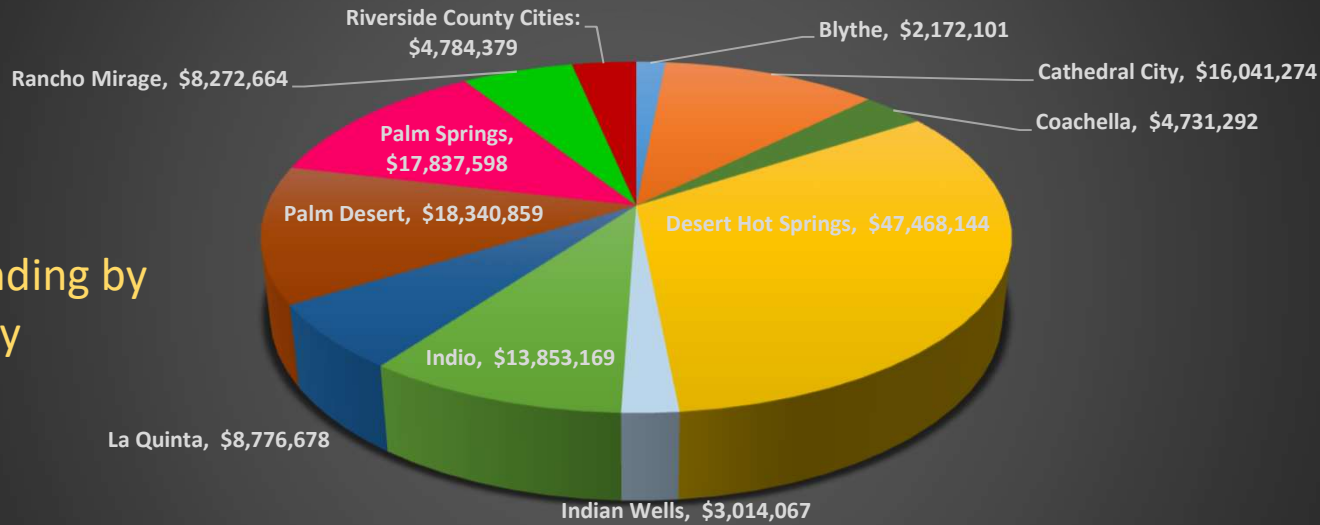
Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost associated with this update. CVAG's staff time spent on these programs is recovered by a participation fee collected from each provider.

Attachment:

1. PACE Report

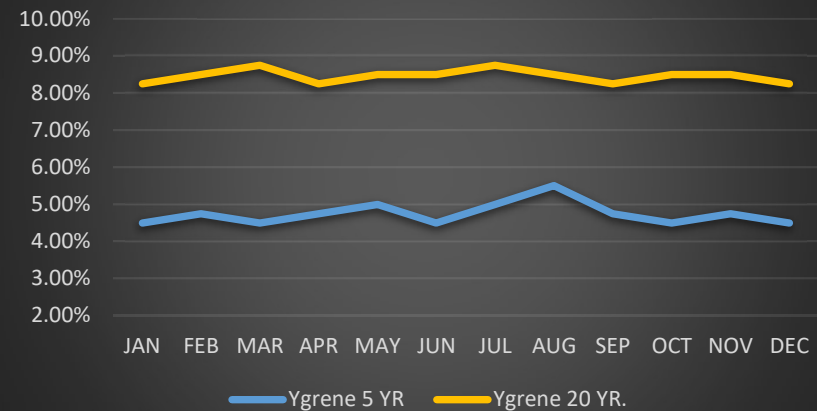
CVAG PACE REPORT

PACE Funding by City



PACE Provider Comparison

PACE Interest Rates



CARS REMOVED FROM ROAD: 51890

Other PACE providers have interest rate ranges from 5.99%-10.98%

JOBS CREATED: 1321

Updated for March 31, 2022

ITEM 7C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee April 14, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on legislative advocacy efforts

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Senior Programs Manager (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: To align and elevate CVAG's regional projects with federal and state funding opportunities, the CVAG Executive Committee in September 2021 approved retaining state and federal lobbyists. The Ferguson Group was retained for federal advocacy and the Politico Group for the state representation, and both firms started in November 2021. The initial phase of their work consisted with better understanding the work and priority projects of CVAG and its member agencies to help align them with the state and federal budgets, programs and legislation.

To guide the workplan, CVAG staff in coordination with the advocacy team developed a legislative platform to help direct strategic advocacy efforts through the legislative cycle. The platform provides policy positions and priorities key categories including transportation, energy, environmental, homeless and affordable housing, public safety and the broadband. It was presented for input to the city and tribal managers as well as the county chief executive officer. Additionally, the platform was discussed before the Administrative/ Personnel Committee. The draft legislative platform was then presented to, and approved by, the CVAG Executive Committee at the February 28, 2022 meeting.

A copy of the legislative platform is being shared with CVAG's various committees as an informational item. It will be reviewed at least annually and guide the state and federal advocacy efforts. A top priority will be positioning the region for funding, particularly from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the state's \$31 billion surplus. Additionally, these advocacy efforts would supplement regional advocacy efforts and be better coordinated with other local and regional agencies.

Fiscal Analysis: The costs of the legislative platform are part of the advocacy efforts approved by the Executive Committee, which authorized \$100,000 for both state and federal advocacy for a period of six months beginning November 1, 2021. The retainer for the Ferguson Group is \$10,000 per month and for the Political Group is \$5,000 per month. Regional transportation funds are available for these costs.

Attached: CVAG's State and Federal Legislative Platform

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

2022 Federal and State Legislative Platform

January 2022



Coachella Valley Association of Governments

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) is a council of governments in the Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County that funds and delivers transportation projects, operates regional programs and coordinates government services in order to improve and address issues of regional significance. CVAG's activities include, but are not limited to, improving the regional transportation system, providing services to the chronically homeless and promoting the use of green energy and sustainability. CVAG's membership includes 10 cities, the County of Riverside and four Indian tribes. As an organization committed to addressing issues of common interest and concern of its member agencies, CVAG strives to implement regional programs and policies that advance a better quality of life and balanced growth for residents, businesses and tourists of Central and Eastern Riverside County.

The legislative platform will guide the tracking and analysis of priority legislative, budget, regulatory, and administrative issues at the federal and state levels. It will assist in providing staff and lobbyists guidance on policy-related matters that may impact the operation and implementation of the various programs and services offered by CVAG. This document will also facilitate the development of a federal and state strategy and focused action plan to address the needs and priorities of CVAG and its member jurisdictions.

**Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla
Indians**

City of Blythe

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

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

City of Rancho Mirage

County of Riverside

**Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla
Indians**

**Twenty-Nine Palms Band of
Mission Indians**

CVAG

**73-710 Fred Waring Drive
Suite 200**

Palm Desert, CA 92260

Tel: 760-346-1127

www.cvag.org

Key Categories



TRANSPORTATION

Reliable, sustainable, and safe multimodal transportation infrastructure is a top priority for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments as it strives to support the transportation needs of current and future residents and visitors.



ENERGY

Supporting and securing funding for clean energy sources and energy efficiency initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, improve air quality, and increase climate resiliency for our member agencies and our residents.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Conservation of the Coachella Valley's natural resources and maintaining and growing our rich and abundant wildlife is a focus of CVAG and our members.



BROADBAND

Deployment of middle-mile infrastructure that can facilitate a high-speed last-mile broadband network for beneficial use among CVAG's residents, businesses, and members is key to the success and vitality of CVAG and the communities it serves.



HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Addressing the dual challenges of homelessness and development of affordable housing through regional solutions is critical to ensuring a high quality of life in the Coachella Valley.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Maintaining a safe and secure community, free of crime, while ensuring clean and engaging public spaces, is essential to maintaining vibrant and growing business and residential communities.

FEDERAL

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

- Support regional efforts for the Coachella Valley-San Geronimo Pass Rail Corridor Service (CV Rail), including funding opportunities to advance the preferred alternative, to support alternate transportation modes and better connect desert communities and attractions with Los Angeles, Orange County and the Inland Empire.
- Support actions by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, the Federal Railroad Administration and the California Department of Transportation that advance CV Rail and advocacy efforts by the Facilitate Equitable Deals Task Force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Secure funding for CVAG's priority projects as outlined in the Transportation Project Prioritization Study (TPPS), including interchanges along the Interstate 10 corridor and State Highway Route 86, in order to reduce the burden on regional and local funds.
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts that increase funding for the expansion and improvement of regional arterial projects in order to improve public safety, encourage economic development, ease traffic congestion, and reduce air quality and environmental impacts.
- Support efforts by Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to reduce congestion and increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.
- Support Congressionally directed spending requests for transportation projects in the Coachella Valley and in eastern Riverside County.
- Support increased funding for Tribal nations in the Coachella Valley for implementation of regional transportation projects.
- Support efforts that expand public transportation opportunities in the City of Blythe, including increased transit.
- Support National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reform to expedite and streamline environmental review and project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support efforts that dedicate funding for goods movements projects, including grade separation projects, in eastern Riverside County.
- Oppose efforts that infringe on CVAG's control in collecting and administering revenue sources, including, but not limited to, Measure A sales tax revenue and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF).

- Oppose efforts that would divert revenue derived from transportation sources to non-transportation related projects or activities.
- Monitor implementation of programs in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021 Infrastructure Bill), such as the Bridge Investment Program, and support funding for existing programs such as the Highway Bridge Program and the Transportation Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program.
- Monitor regulatory and legislative changes to the recently authorized Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program which would impose additional requirements on, or decrease funding for, CVAG or its member agencies.
- Monitor efforts that would make changes to the Clean Air Act and associated transportation programs to meet nonattainment or maintenance requirements.
- Monitor potential replacement mechanisms for the federal gasoline excise tax.

Active Transportation

- Support and identify programs that provide funds for regional projects identified in CVAG's Active Transportation Plan.
- Advocate for increased federal funding to the state's Active Transportation Program, including opportunities to augment the program through infrastructure legislation such as the 2022 Build Back Better Act.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory activity related to new mobility devices, such as scooters and automated vehicles, to ensure adequate safety compatibility with active transportation systems.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Identify and pursue funding opportunities supporting intelligent transportation systems, including CVAG's synchronization (CV Sync) traffic signal program.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory changes to funding sources for intelligent transportation systems, including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program, and oppose efforts to decrease funding for non-attainment areas.

Energy and Environment

- Support legislation and programs that invest in projects that achieve environmental benefits, including improved air and water quality, water and energy conservation, and urban greening initiatives in the region.
- Support programs that fund implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and that support habitat restoration in the Coachella Valley.
- Support Salton Sea Authority efforts related to the Salton Sea and legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea to limit regional impacts to air quality, wildlife habitat, and health of communities, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support legislation that facilitates environmentally sensitive renewable energy development at the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area, including lithium extraction.
- Support legislation that provides funding for electric vehicle infrastructure and incentives for early adoption of electric vehicles.
- Monitor federal legislative, regulatory, and administrative activities that may impact the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions that may impact Property Assessed Clean Energy programs.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization and green building programs.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities for wildlife crossing structures to increase habitat connectivity and decrease wildlife-vehicle collisions in areas where populations are fragmented by highways and interstates.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

Broadband

- Support implementation of the California Department of Technology's statewide open-access middle-mile broadband initial projects list which includes CVAG's proposed middle-mile project.
- Support and advocate for funding for open access middle-mile infrastructure to facilitate last-mile connections and leverage existing networks and construction projects to build networks, when possible.
- Support efforts that prioritize connectivity to unserved and underserved communities and community anchor institutions.

- Support and identify programs that support middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure and that leverage dig-once opportunities such as CVAG's CV Sync project.
- Monitor actions by the Federal Communications Commission related to broadband and implementation of the broadband investments as authorized in the 2021 infrastructure Bill.

Homeless and Affordable Housing

- Identify and advocate for opportunities for CVAG's member agencies to secure funding that assists in building affordable housing and increasing housing opportunities for low-, moderate-, and workforce housing.
- Monitor and support programs and funding for CVAG's CV Housing First program and regional solutions to addressing homelessness.

Public Safety

- Identify, monitor and support legislation that provides funding for operations, maintenance, and updates to early earthquake warning systems.
- Identify funding opportunities for member jurisdictions to mitigate and reduce the incidents of green waste fires.
- Monitor legislation and administrative actions related to race, diversity and inclusion policies as it pertains to law enforcement.
- Monitor and support funding opportunities that will assist in the reduction of the spread of COVID-19 and other public health and safety concerns, to assist public entities in their response.

STATE

Fighting for Fairness and Funding

- Support legislative efforts that improve funding opportunities for the Coachella Valley in the state's Cap-and-Trade program and oppose policies that disproportionately disadvantage the CVAG region to compete for funding.
- Support legislative and regulatory changes to the Transformative Climate Communities program to allow eligible and qualifying planning grant recipients to also be eligible and qualify to apply for implementation grants.
- Support policies that allow for a diverse set of social equity metric measuring tools to qualify and compete for Cap-and-Trade funded grant programs including, but not limited to, household income and the AB 1550 low-income definition and oppose efforts that would limit use to, or increase reliance on, the CalEnviroScreen in grant programs.
- Support policy changes to funding programs that use the CalEnviroScreen tool that would broaden eligible competitive areas and that better reflect the diversity in the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose legislative and regulatory actions that utilize CalEnviroScreen and high-housing density criteria, which favor large urban centers, to determine allocation of state grant funds and would decrease funding competitiveness for areas such as the Coachella Valley.
- Oppose program guidelines that use transit oriented development standards, such as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, that disproportionately favor large urban centers and do not reflect the reality of growth and development in the Coachella Valley, therefore decreasing funding opportunities for the CVAG region.
- Advocate for policy changes that allow for regional variances related to transit quality, transit frequency and density related to housing oriented development, to allow the CVAG region better compete for funding in the state's Cap-and-Trade program.

Transportation

Bridges, Regional Arterials and Improved Access

- Support regional efforts to increase passenger rail service between Los Angeles and the Coachella Valley, including funding opportunities and actions by the Facilitate Equitable Deals task force to improve coordination and collaboration with Union Pacific Railroad (FED-UP).
- Support legislation that increases funding opportunities for bridges, interchanges and regional arterials in the Coachella Valley.
- Support efforts by the California Department of Transportation, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Diego Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Association of Governments, to implement congestion projects identified in the Inland Empire

Multimodal Corridor Plan that increase mobility to and from the CVAG region, including increased funding for bypass roads, bridges and transportation improvements in the pass area.

- Support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform to expedite and streamline project delivery for transportation projects.
- Support and advocate for actions that increase transportation resources in the City of Blythe and local Tribal Nations, to address historic underinvestment and improve mobility, economic development opportunities and quality of life.
- Monitor the state's road charge pilot program and other potential replacement mechanisms for the state gasoline excise tax.
- Monitor legislative changes to Senate Bill 1 (Statutes 2017); oppose efforts to divert funding to non-transportation related uses, such as housing, or otherwise qualifying eligibility of SB 1 funds on non-transportation related goals and objectives.
- Oppose legislative changes that create or strengthen a nexus between the availability of transportation funding and local jurisdictions' ability to meet their requirements under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers.
- Monitor legislation that would increase voter approval thresholds for the creation, extension, or increase of local transportation tax measures.

Active Transportation

- Support efforts to increase funding to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) to address the backlog of applications and increase the program's funding capacity.
- Support increased investment in active transportation infrastructure as a component of other state-funded transportation programs that increase access and opportunities for walking, biking, and complete streets that connect the multimodal transportation system.
- Support policies and programs that promote increased use of active transportation infrastructure and systems.
- Support efforts that streamline project delivery, build local capacity such as additional technical assistance, and provide increased flexibility to innovate and strategically invest funds to meet local needs.
- Oppose legislative, regulatory, and administrative efforts to score ATP applications on non-transportation related criteria, such as housing-related policies, CalEnviroScreen and policies which would hinder low density areas like the Coachella Valley and the City of Blythe.
- Oppose changes to the ATP that would decrease CVAG's competitiveness, such as the elimination of leveraged funding and other categories that are advantageous to CVAG and its members jurisdictions.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

- Support programs that leverage technology to improve mobility, increase goods movement efficiency, reduce emissions and help to mitigate environmental impacts.
- Identify state programs and funding that supplement CVAG's CV Sync project, such as the Coachella Valley's middle-mile broadband project as selected as one of 18 initial statewide projects.
- Monitor legislation that incorporates new innovative technologies into the state transportation system, such as zero or near-zero emission vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and small electric mobility devices that improve transportation accessibility, efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.

Energy and Environment

- Support legislative and regulatory efforts to increase the flexibility of funding programs from the California Air Resources Board's Cap-and-Trade Program to ensure the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys get their fair share, including taking into account regional variances related to growth, housing, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies.
- Support increased investments of the state GHG reduction funds toward transportation projects to reduce transportation related GHG emissions.
- Support investments in Cap-and-Trade funded programs, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, Single-Family Energy Efficiency, and Low-income Weatherization programs.
- Advocate for changes in the CalEnviroscreen mapping tool that reflect the socio-economic realities of the diverse communities in the Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valleys, or the use of alternative tools such as household income.
- Support policies that ensure criteria for defining disadvantaged communities and environmental justice areas accurately represent eastern Riverside County, including those that mirror AB 1550 community mapping, in order to ensure the region can compete for funding opportunities.
- Support policies, programs, and funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and increased use of electric vehicles in the region.
- Support efforts that provide necessary resources for implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan as well as resources for desert communities to prepare and adapt to changing climate and natural disasters, such as the Climate Resiliency programs.
- Support funding for programs that support local planning and response measures to extreme heat events, including nature-based solutions, to protect critical infrastructure, habitat and public health and safety.

- Identify and support legislation that provides funding for the restoration and revitalization of the Salton Sea to limit regional impacts to air quality, wildlife habitat, and health of communities, including the Phase One: 10 Year Plan.
- Support mitigation efforts at the Salton Sea that address air quality and facilitate economic development, such as lithium extraction.
- Monitor actions related to the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between Imperial Irrigation District and the Coachella Valley Water District and support Coachella Valley Energy Commission efforts to achieve a permanent service option and governance structure between Coachella Valley stakeholders and IID post-2033.
- Identify programs and support legislation that provides funding for clean energy, energy efficiency, decarbonization, and green building programs.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory efforts related to vehicle electrification and building decarbonization that would add new requirements to local governments, including Title 24 building standards.
- Monitor implementation of the state's climate resiliency efforts and efforts related to environmental justice communities and AB 617 (Statutes of 2017) emission reduction funding programs.
- Support policies and funding that expand access for rooftop solar to households of all incomes. Monitor issues related to Net Energy Metering and initiatives that impact availability and affordability of rooftop solar.

Broadband

- Support funding and implementation of the Coachella Valley's middle-mile broadband project and the creation of ongoing programs to assist with last-mile connections that bridge the digital divide in the Coachella Valley.
- Monitor legislative and regulatory actions related to SB 156 (Statutes of 2021) and related actions by the California Department of Technology and the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy.
- Monitor the California Middle-Mile Advisory Committee and its recommendations regarding implementation of middle-mile infrastructure.
- Monitor the California Public Utilities Commissions proceedings related to broadband infrastructure implementation, such as Rulemaking (R.) 20-09-001 and Rulemaking proceeding, R.20-08-021.

Homelessness and Affordable Housing

- Support increased investment in, and creation of, programs that assist local governments, counties and regional collaborations to address the challenges associated with homelessness.

- Support legislative efforts that allow for sustainable financing options, as outlined in CVAG's Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) and member jurisdictions' Local Early Action Plans (LEAP), in order to address housing shortages and provide affordable housing options.
- Support efforts by Lift to Rise to establish the Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund to increase housing production in the Coachella Valley and create homeownership opportunities for low- and very-low income families, permanent supportive housing for the homeless and address unpermitted mobilehome park issues.
- Support CEQA reform to streamline the delivery of housing projects.
- Monitor the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and advocate for increased flexibility and changes that ensure a greater share of funding is available to areas that don't have Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) and thereby more accurately account for unique community characteristics and growth patterns in the Coachella Valley.
- Support the extension of state-funded solutions, including Project RoomKey and Project HomeKey, with an emphasis on ensuring those investments are used in the Coachella Valley.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that require unsheltered individuals to accept housing solutions and treatment solutions.
- Support efforts to establish homeless courts that can help local jurisdictions provide additional solutions and services for homeless individuals.
- Support legislative efforts that would allow local jurisdictions to implement, if they choose, programs and ordinances that increase the available housing units and/or require unsheltered individuals to accept housing solutions and treatment solutions so long as there are adequate housing units available.

Public Safety

- Support programs and policies that provide funding for the CVAG region to obtain, enhance, operate, maintain and update early earthquake warning systems.
- Monitor legislation and executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health and safety emergencies and support programs that provide assistance to negatively impacted communities in the Coachella Valley.
- Monitor legislation impacting race, diversity, and inclusion policies as it pertains to local law enforcement.

