

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
County of Riverside 4<sup>th</sup> District  
County of Riverside 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> District  
County of Riverside 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

Erica Felci

Governmental Projects Manager