



STAFF REPORT

9/21/2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Ryan Guiboa, City Attorney

PREPARED BY: Ryan Guiboa, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments Joint Powers Agreement to Update Membership Requirements for Alternates on the Executive Committee and Bylaws Governing Attendance by Executive Committee Members

Project Description:

This item requests City Council consideration of Amendment No. 1 to the Third Amendment and Restatement of the Joint Powers Agreement of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG). The proposed amendment would revise provisions governing Executive Committee alternates for Tribal Nations and authorize the CVAG Executive Committee to adopt bylaws regarding attendance by Executive Committee members and alternates.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider Amendment No. 1 to the Third Amendment and Restatement of the Joint Powers Agreement of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and authorize the Mayor to execute the amendment on behalf of the City of Coachella.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Background:

At its April 27, 2026 and June 1, 2026 meetings, CVAG's Executive Committee reviewed a request from Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians to amend CVAG's Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to revise the alternates who may represent a member jurisdiction on the Executive Committee. The request seeks to allow Tribal staff, specifically Chief Executive Officer George Nicholas Jr., to serve as the Tribe's alternate representative on the Executive Committee. CVAG staff previously provided options for potential JPA revisions and was directed to return with language more specific to Tribal Nations.

Since CVAG's inception, member jurisdictions agreed that the Executive Committee would be made up of the mayors of the member jurisdictions or their alternate/designee, so long as the alternate/designee is a sitting elected member of the city. All five Riverside County Supervisors were also made members of the Executive Committee. The Third Amendment and Restatement of the JPA, authorized in 2018, expanded Executive Committee membership to include the Tribal Chair from each Indian Tribe and provides that an Indian Tribal Council may appoint one of its current council members in place of the Tribal Chair.

Discussion/Analysis:

The proposed amendment focuses on Section 2.4.3 of the JPA, which governs alternates on CVAG's Executive Committee. Amendment No. 1 would amend Section 2.4.3 to provide that each participating member on the Executive Committee shall have an alternate who must also be a current member of the legislative body of the party represented, except that alternates for the County of Riverside need not be elected officials and alternates for Tribal Nations may also be the Tribal Nation's highest-level executive or administrative officer, so long as the alternate is formally appointed by resolution of the Tribal Nation's legislative body.

Amendment No. 1 would also add a new Section 2.4.6 to the JPA. This new section would authorize the Executive Committee to adopt and amend bylaws governing attendance by Executive Committee members and alternates. Those bylaws may establish attendance requirements and standards and may provide consequences for repeated absences, including temporary suspension, deactivation, or loss of voting privileges, provided that any such action is implemented in a manner consistent with applicable law and the terms of the JPA. The bylaws may also establish procedures for restoring voting privileges and determining compliance with attendance requirements.

Amendment No. 1 will become effective upon approval by at least two-thirds of the parties to the JPA, as required by Section 6 of the JPA. The Executive Director of CVAG will determine and certify the date on which the required approvals have been obtained. CVAG staff noted that JPA amendments require separate actions by City Councils, Tribal Councils, and the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, and that CVAG will provide an update once the two-thirds approval benchmark has been reached.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider Amendment No. 1 to the Third Amendment and Restatement of the Joint Powers Agreement of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and authorize the Mayor to execute the amendment on behalf of the City of Coachella.

Attachment(s):

1. Amendment No. 1 to the Third Amendment and Restatement of the Joint Powers Agreement of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments
2. Third Amendment and Restatement of the Joint Powers Agreement of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments