



STAFF REPORT
3/11/2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: William B. Pattison, City Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of the Third Amendment and Restatement of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Joint Powers Agreement, which establishes the Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians as Formal Members CVAG

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the addendum to the Third Amendment and Restatement of the CVAG Joint Powers Agreement, which establishes the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians as formal members.

BACKGROUND:

CVAG was formed in November 1973 with the approval of the first Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). In 1989, after voters passed Measure A, CVAG amended and restated the JPA to specify its role as the regional transportation authority. In 1998, the JPA was amended again to include the City of Blythe as a member. CVAG's members have since authorized separate JPA agreements for the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission and for Desert Community Energy.

In April 2018, the Third Amendment to the Joint Powers Authority was approved, which better reflected CVAG's mission and organizational structure and included the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. The governments in the Coachella Valley have long benefited from a unique relationship with the local tribal nations, whose reservations span across several local cities.

Prior to becoming full members of the JPA, the Agua Caliente and Cabazon tribes joined CVAG through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by the CVAG Executive Committee in October of 1998. The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Tribe's joined CVAG in October 2000. After years of successful participation, the Torres Martinez Tribe underwent internal changes that caused their participation to wane. The Torres Martinez also went two years without paying dues. In February 23, 2009, the Executive Committee elected to discontinue the Tribe's membership with CVAG. In a letter sent to then Tribal Chair Mary Resvaloso, then-Interim Executive Director Larry Parrish indicated that if the Tribe chooses to re-join CVAG in the future, CVAG would welcome the discussion.

At the December 2, 2019 CVAG Executive Committee meeting, members considered a request from the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (Tribe) to re-join CVAG. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to allow the Tribe to rejoin CVAG via the attached Addendum. CVAG staff updated the Addendum that went before the CVAG Executive Committee, striking the paragraph where conditions were to be listed, as no conditions were made. CVAG legal counsel has also approved the language.

CVAG's JPA requires each member jurisdiction to approve the Addendum in order to expand membership.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Attachments: Letter from Torres Martinez Tribal Council
Addendum to the CVAG JPA