

## HOT TOPIC: Who's Up For A Bike Ride?

By Allyn Waggle



In 1995 CVAG first completed the Coachella Valley Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) as part of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) sub-regional planning process. The purpose of that document was to collect in one resource all of the policies and background information related to bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian and other trail facilities and programs in the Coachella Valley. The plan also addressed air quality and congestion management issues in the desert air basin. The CVAG Non-Motorized Transportation Plan was not intended to become a document to control or dictate local planning decisions, but to serve as a resource and coordinating tool for the joint and complementary development of facilities for all the Coachella Valley's jurisdictions, as well as the acquisition of funding. CVAG recognizes the value of providing opportunities for local residents and visitors to bicycle for work and recreation, as well as to use off-road trails for hiking, equestrians and jogging. Such opportunities help to reduce auto trips, improve the environment, promote healthy lifestyles and create livable communities.



The 2009 update of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan was authorized by CVAG's Executive Committee in September, 2008, through a contract awarded to Ryan Snyder Associates. The planning consultant conducted fieldwork to assess the feasibility of bikeway and trail alignments suggested by stakeholder groups, and to determine what was needed to create these. The fieldwork primarily consisted of taking measurements and recording existing conditions. The consultant took the results of the fieldwork to each of the local jurisdictions for their reaction to these candidate projects. The planning consultant met with each of the cities in the Coachella Valley, with the City of Blythe and the County of Riverside to determine which bikeways and trails they wanted in the NMTP. The consultant brought the projects suggested by the public and stakeholder groups along with results of the fieldwork to help them decide. Additionally, local jurisdictions furnished preferences for project priorities for their individual bicycle plans. The results of the meetings with local jurisdictions determined the projects that are included in this NMTP. Although this plan is being prepared through CVAG, it is intended to be adopted by each city and the County of Riverside as its own.

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Coachella Valley  
Association of Governments



73710 Fred Waring Dr., Ste. 200  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 346-1127  
cvag@cvag.org  
www.cvag.org

# HOT TOPIC: WHO'S UP FOR A BIKE RIDE?

## **CVAG** **Department Heads**

**Larry Parrish**  
Interim Executive  
Director

**Gary Leong, CPA**  
Administrative  
Services

**Allyn Waggle**  
Transportation

**Aurora Wilson**  
Community  
Resources

**Katie Barrows**  
Energy  
&  
Environment

**Jim Sullivan**  
GIS Program  
Director

**Toni Eggebraaten**  
General Counsel



As this NMTP is adopted by the individual jurisdictions, it will help transform Coachella and Palo Verde Valley communities into places where more people use a bicycle to get to work, to school or to shop. It will bring more recreational opportunities to its residents. If fully implemented as presented, the NMTP will create a full network of bikeways and trails serving nearly every neighborhood. The NMTP can enhance the reputation of the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys as tourist destinations. Future tourists may be able to pick up a bicycle at their hotel and ride for fun, to restaurants and even to our spectacular canyons. More children will be able to ride a bicycle safely to school. Our many retirees will experience enhanced lifestyles as their hiking, equestrian and cycling options flourish. The NMTP will also assist our jurisdiction in meeting the pending requirements of the Complete Streets Act of 2008. This new law, to be implemented beginning January 1, 2011, will require the legislative body of a city or county, upon any substantive revision of the Circulation Element of the General Plan, to modify the Circulation Element to plan for a balanced, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, defined to include motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities, and users of public transportation, among others.

The 2009 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan also includes preparation of a bicycle plan for each jurisdiction as well as revisions to plans for hiking and equestrian trails. The bicycle plans will make each city and the County of Riverside eligible for Bicycle Transportation Account funds from the State of California, and enhance their chances to compete for other funds. Cities and the County will also improve their chances of receiving funds for the trails on this NMTP. Plans for all of the facilities contained herein provide opportunities to include them along with future development.

By having bikeway and trail alignments on the NMTP, local jurisdictions will have significant leverage to work with developers to construct them. Since the 2001 plan was com-

pleted constituent organizations, such as the Coachella Valley Community Trails Alliance, the Desert Bicycle Club, the Riverside County Parks and Open Space District, the Coachella Valley Water District, the several school districts in the CVAG service area, and representatives from local Indian tribes with major tribal land area, have grown to become strong voices in the Coachella Valley. These community groups have requested that their cities take a more assertive role in planning and constructing bikeways and trails. In response to these requests CVAG has taken the initiative to develop a 2009 update to the NMTP.

The 2009 update of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan was undertaken in order to make available a current regional reference document for CVAG's jurisdictions. The 2009 NMTP is still only a reference document to these several entities, and, in order for the 2009 NMTP to be implemented, these entities must adopt the appropriate recommendations, to the degree that they apply and are pertinent. CVAG's adoption of the 2009 update to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan does not obligate nor encumber any local jurisdiction to comply with the recommendations identified in the document, and, in fact, any jurisdiction may adopt alternative circulation patterns and points of connectivity between jurisdictions.

Once the 2009 update of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is approved by CVAG. It will be available for viewing on CVAG's website, [www.cvag.org](http://www.cvag.org), on the Transportation Department page.

- Allyn Waggle

## **CVAG to Welcome Executive Director**

Prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, the Executive Committee interviewed Tom Kirk for the position of Executive Director. Mr. Kirk was offered and accepted the position. The Executive Committee will consider Mr. Kirk's contract at its next regularly scheduled meeting on June 1, 2009.

## Executive Committee Meeting April 27, 2009

### ACTION TAKEN

- Approved holding the 2009 CVAG General Assembly meeting at the Spotlight 29 Casino in Coachella and that the price be set at \$40.00 per person.
- Approved Amendment Three to the AB2766 Memorandum of Understanding between CVAG and member jurisdictions and directed staff to distribute Amendment Three to the member jurisdictions for review and action.
- Considered submittal of a regional grant request for an Alternative Fuel and Advanced Technology Vehicles Pilot Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; directed staff to work with CVAG member jurisdictions and other public and private partners including the new Clean Cities Coordinator, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and Sunline Transit Agency to develop a grant request; and authorized the Executive Director to submit a grant request by May 29, 2009 to the Department of Energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 if the grant requirements can be met by CVAG and our member jurisdictions.
- Approved Amendment Number Two to the Reimbursement Agreement for the Palm Drive/ Gene Autry Trail Interstate 10 Interchange Project to provide an additional \$16.7 Million of CVAG Regional Funds, and; continued the request by Riverside County to enter a ten-year payback agreement for the County share of the 25% local responsibility costs.
- Approved the reallocation of \$2.45 Million of bond sale proceeds from the approved Jefferson Street Project to the proposed Golf Center Parkway Project.
- Reviewed the comparison in Daily Trip Generation Rates between the Adopted TUMF Handbook and the ITE Trip Generation Manual, Eighth Edition, and adopted the Eighth Edition ITE Rates for Implementation beginning July 1, 2009.
- Approved an agreement with Capital Realty Analysts in the amount of \$15,000 to prepare Property Appraisals for Acquisition of Mitigation Land.
- Authorized the Chair to sign the Settlement Agreement concerning implementation of the CVMSHCP between CVAG, the CVCC, Riverside County, Palm Springs, and Century Crowell Communities, L.P., The Falls at Mountain Gate Palm Springs Venture, LLC, and/or its affiliates (collectively, "Century").
- Approved an Eighth Tolling Agreement with Wind Energy Partnership, LLP and Steven H. Christensen Trust from May 1, 2009 to July 31, 2009 related to the CVMSHCP.
- Authorized the Chair to sign a letter of support for Senate Bill 51 which would establish the Salton Sea Restoration Council.

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**The 2009 CVAG General Assembly will be held on  
June 29 at Spotlight 29 in Coachella.**

## UPCOMING CVAG MEETINGS MAY 2009

### **Executive Committee**

June 1 at 6:00 p.m. (Suite 119)

### **Technical Advisory Committee**

May 8 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

### **Transportation Committee**

May 11 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

### **Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee**

May 22 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

### **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee**

May 14 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)

### **Coachella Valley Conservation Commission**

May 14 at 11:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

### **Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee**

May 21 at 8:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

### **AB939 Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group**

May 11 at 3:00 p.m. (Suite 119)

### **Public Safety Committee**

May 11 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

### **Homelessness Committee**

May 20 at 10:00 a.m. (Suite 119)

### **Human & Community Resources Committee**

May 20 at 12:00 noon (Suite 119)



**CVAG will be closed on May 25, 2009 in honor  
of Memorial Day.**

CVAG's Executive Committee comprises 32 members. Voting members (18) are Riverside County supervisors, mayors and chairs of CVAG cities and tribes or their designés. Nonvoting members (14) are county, city and tribal managers.

## **Executive Committee Roster**

**Mayor Eduardo Garcia**, City of Coachella  
**CVAG CHAIR**

**Mayor Stephen Pougnet**, City of Palm Springs  
**CVAG VICE CHAIR**

**Vice Mayor Beverly Mays**, City of Blythe

**Mayor Kathy DeRosa**, City of Cathedral City

**Mayor Yvonne Parks**, City of Desert Hot Springs

**Mayor Larry Spicer**, City of Indian Wells

**Councilmember Ben Godfrey**, City of Indio

**Mayor Don Adolph**, City of La Quinta

**Mayor Robert Spiegel**, City of Palm Desert

**Mayor Ron Meepos**, City of Rancho Mirage

**Supervisor Marion Ashley**, **Supervisor Roy Wilson**,

**Supervisor Bob Buster**, **Supervisor John Tavaglione**,

**and Supervisor Jeff Stone**, County of Riverside

**Tribal Chair Richard Milanovich**, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

**2nd Tribal Vice Chair David Roosevelt**, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians



73710 Fred Waring Dr.  
Suite 200  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 346-1127

[cvag@cvag.org](mailto:cvag@cvag.org)  
[www.cvag.org](http://www.cvag.org)