

**POWER POINTS**

**CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

# City Council Meeting February 7, 2023



1

# Pledge of Allegiance



2

**City Council Meeting  
February 7, 2023**

**Presentations**



3

**City Council Meeting  
February 7, 2023**

**P1 – RCTC Coachella Valley Rail  
Project Update**



4



# COACHELLA VALLEY RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

CITY OF LA QUINTA CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 7, 2023

*Aaron Hake, Deputy Executive Director*



## Why Coachella Valley Rail?

- ✓ **Transformational** – Transforms the way Californians will travel
- ✓ **Connections** – Links LA, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside counties
- ✓ **Access & Equity** – Options for residents in disadvantaged communities
- ✓ **Economic Investment** – Expands access to the regional economy
- ✓ **Sustainability** – Combats climate change by reducing vehicle use



**RCTC**

**144 MILES**  
Route Length

**100% Commission Supported** ✓

▶ **SoCal Population**  
24 Million

▶ **Inland Empire Population**  
4.65 Million

**3 HOURS 15 MINUTES**  
Running Time  
Los Angeles to Coachella Valley

**No. of Proposed Stations** **9**

▶ **San Gorgonio Pass Travelers**  
160,000 / Day

7

7

**RCTC**

## Coachella Valley Rail Corridor


**LEGEND**

- Preferred Route
- Existing Station
- Potential Station Area





Proposed Coachella Valley Rail


8

8



## Strong Public Support


			
11 Stakeholder & Agency Briefings	2 Virtual Public Hearings	3,226 Page Views <a href="http://rctc.org/cvtrail">rctc.org/cvtrail</a>	504 Comments Received




### Notification Efforts – English & Spanish

- 9 Email Notices
- 2 News Releases
- The Point Blog Posts
- 22 Social Media Posts
- Project Website
- Video Campaign
- 11 Print/Online Ads
- Geofencing Ads

9



## Project Status



The diagram shows a four-stage project timeline: 2016 Alternatives Analysis, Current Program-Level (Tier 1) EIS/EIR & Service Development Plan, Future Conceptual Engineering & Project-Level (Tier 2) Environmental Documents, and Beyond Final Design & Construction & Operations. A red pin labeled 'WE ARE HERE' is placed on the Future stage. A green checkmark is placed on the Current stage.

- Program-Level (Tier 1) EIS/EIR
- Service Development Plan

10

## Funding need and opportunities

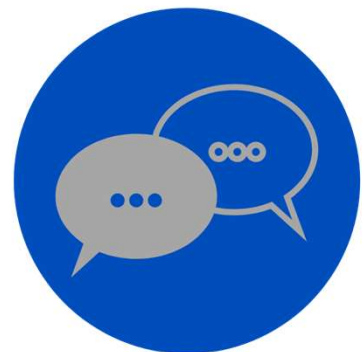
- Seeking \$20 million of the \$60 million needed to complete Tier 2
  - Federal funds
    - Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program
    - Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
  - State Funds
- Local support critical to success
- Support in Congress and State Legislature

11

11

## Leading the conversation

- RCTC Ad Hoc Committee
- Trip to Washington DC - September 19 - 21, 2022
- California Transportation Secretary visit
- Governor's Infrastructure Advisor meetings
- Significant media interest



12

12

**RCTC**  
Local officials head to D.C. to seek funding for Coachella Valley Rail

By Samantha Lombao  
September 20, 2022 11:34 PM Published September 20, 2022 5:18 PM

**Train from LA to Palm Springs area – at a \$1 billion cost – planned**  
Project offers alternative to I-10 Freeway and would connect residents to attractions at both ends of route

**RCTC advances LA-to-Coachella Valley rail proposal**

**Proposed Train Service Between Coachella Valley, L.A. Hits Milestone**

**This \$1 Billion Train Route From LA To Coachella Valley Is Right On Track**

**RCTC Seeking \$20M To Move Forward With Coachella Valley Rail Project**

**Train From Coachella Valley To Los Angeles Could Be Coming Soon**

**Train between the Coachella Valley and Los Angeles could happen in the next decade**

**GAINING MOMENTUM**

Train connecting the Coachella Valley to Los Angeles no longer a mere pipe dream

**Erin Rode** Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Like many other cities in the West, Indio started as a railroad town. Southern Pacific began operating trains to Indio in 1876, connecting the Coachella Valley to Los Angeles and beyond and sparking growth and development in the city.

Passenger trains stopped in Indio for over a century, until Amtrak halted service to the desert station in the late 1990s. In more recent years, passing freight trains have entertained customers at El Mexicali Cafe, a long-standing institution near the tracks on Indio Boulevard.

**Indio City councilman Waymond Fermon is a proponent of the Coachella Valley-San Geronimo Rail Project and hopes to one day have a train station built in this area in Indio.**

JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

See TRAIN, Page 7A

**Stay Connected**

[rctc.org](http://rctc.org)

951.787.7141

[info@rctc.org](mailto:info@rctc.org)

@theRCTC

**Project Webpage:**  
**[www.rctc.org/cvr](http://www.rctc.org/cvr)**





15

**City Council Meeting  
February 7, 2023**

**B1 – Community Services Grant Requests  
2022/23**



16

# Community Services Grants

- \$23,000 is left for the remaining 2 rounds
- Recommend \$23,000 for 6 organizations
- Funds available for upcoming third round

17

Applicant	Requested	Committee Recommendation
Angel Force	\$5,000	\$0
Angel View	\$3,500	\$3,500
Coachella Valley Horse Rescue	\$5,000	\$4,500
Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine	\$5,000	\$5,000
Friends of the Desert Mountains	\$5,000	\$4,500
La Quinta High School AVID*	\$500	\$0
Riverside County Sheriff Explorer Post 503	\$5,000	\$5,000
Shay's Warriors*	\$2,000	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>

*Starter Grant\**

18



19

## City Council Meeting February 7, 2023

**B2 – Appoint One Council Member to Serve on the Pillars of the Community, Distinguished Artists, and Distinguished Athletes Award Programs Review Subcommittee**



20

## Awards Programs

- Pillars of the Community
  - Volunteers and active community members
- Distinguished Artists
  - LQ artists who have contributed to the City's image
- Distinguished Athletes
  - LQ athletes who excel in the field of sports

21

## Programs Review Subcommittee

- Assess nomination criteria
- Enhance promotional efforts
- Promote significance and importance of awards

22



23

**City Council Meeting  
February 7, 2023**

**S1 – Imperial Irrigation District  
Energy Study Discussion**



24

## Background

- The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) has a 99-year contract to provide the Eastern Coachella Valley's electrical services.
- The agreement is set to expire on January 1, 2033.
- The Eastern Coachella Valley stakeholders make up over 60% of IID's energy ratepaying customers.

25

## Study

**LAFCO hired a consultant to conduct a study to provide:**

1. Options for the future governance of IID including board representation of Eastern Coachella Valley electricity customers.
2. Options for future electrical service by alternative public agencies if IID chooses to terminate service.

26

## Stakeholders' Vision

Options to explore in forming a vision for reliable energy governance beyond January 2033:

- Enter into a new contract with IID, making sure Eastern Coachella Valley has voting representation on the board.
- Invite another entity to assume responsibility as the power provider for the Eastern Coachella Valley.
- Form a new municipal utility authority.

27

## Aging Infrastructure

Electrical infrastructure improvements needed going forward:

- Current equipment cannot handle increased electrical uses by the current customer base and is impacting new development.
- Infrastructure upgrades are estimated to cost \$800 million.
- Options raising rates to pay for bonds, with programs in place to help low-income customers.

28

# Questions?



29



30