

Valley



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ANSWERING THE CHARGE

A parolee charged with murder in the traffic collision death of a Coachella music festival employee in La Quinta is expected in court today. **B2**

SECTION B

LOCAL EDITOR **LORRAINE WHETSTONE** (760) 778-4650 or localnews@thedesertsun.com

RENEWABLE ENERGY

CVAG 'green code' effects unclear

Building standards are meant to exceed state's, boost local industry

By **K Kaufmann**
The Desert Sun

PALM DESERT — When the Coachella Valley Association of Governments passed its voluntary green building code a year ago, the goal was to encourage

local builders to go beyond the state's already rigorous energy-efficiency standards.

But the CVAG code, based on the state standards developed in 2008, was almost obsolete on delivery. Commonly referred to as Title 24, the state standards

are regularly updated. In May and October 2012, the California Energy Commission approved new, even stricter energy-efficiency standards that will go into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

CVAG has paid Terra Nova Planning and Research of Palm Desert at least \$1.4 million to date to develop the voluntary code, and on Monday, the Executive Committee approved a \$277,765 extension to the con-

sulting firm's contract. Part of the money will be used to update the CVAG code so it will once again exceed the new state standards.

The CVAG code, aimed primarily at home and commercial renovations, targeted energy savings 15 percent over the state's 2008 code. It is an amalgam of the state code, the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environ-

mental Design (LEED) standards and a green building code in use in Scottsdale, Ariz., said Katie Barrows, CVAG's director of environmental resources.

The 2014 version of Title 24 will be 25 percent more efficient than the previous version and will make mandatory many of the voluntary features in the CVAG code, such as cool roofs.

Please see **GREEN, B4**

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION



The Coachella Valley Bikeway crosses Golf Club Drive at Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort in Palm Springs. **JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN**

Panel: Indio should boost its reserves

By **Tatiana Sanchez**
The Desert Sun

INDIO — While the City Council is set to review the budget for the next fiscal year on Wednesday, the Citizens' Finance Advisory Commission focused on the city's Strategic Recovery Plan on Monday.

High up on the priority list is the elimination of police furloughs. Fifty-six sworn police officers will return to a full-time schedule on July 1, after almost three years of reduced work weeks. It will cost the city \$430,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The city also hopes to increase its reserves by at least \$500,000, a hot-ticket item for many city officials and residents. Currently, Indio has \$2.5 million in reserves.

"The one thing I do feel very strongly about is the increase in reserves," Commissioner Tom Hutson said.

Other commissioners recommended that the city grow its reserves by more than just \$500,000. They also advised finance officials to spend Indio's money wisely.

But Indio City Manager Dan Martinez said the Strategic Recovery Plan is a list of city needs, not of luxuries.

"There's really a balancing act that we have to do on a year-to-year basis," he said. "We've been conservative along the way for the past three years. ... If we wait too long we may lose opportunities."

As the recovery plan continues to see more changes, so does the city's proposed budget for next year.

City Manager Dan Martinez said suggestions and priorities listed by the City Council at a study session Wednesday will determine any changes made to the budget.

And some high-priority is-

Please see **INDIO, B4**

Bringing the public on the ride

CVAG hosts workshop seeking input on \$80 million trail project plan that will run along the Whitewater channel

By **Xochitl Peña**
The Desert Sun

PALM SPRINGS — A new name is to be unveiled today during the first public workshop for the 52-mile valleywide trail project alongside the Whitewater channel.

The trail system, proposed by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, is currently called the Parkway 1e11 project — which doesn't easily roll off the tongue.

But the main goal of the workshop at Coachella Valley Economic Partnership headquarters is to gather input from residents.

"We want to talk to people about opportunities and constraints," said Mike Shoberg, CVAG transportation program manager.

For example, if people think the trail should lead to a particular neighborhood or park or school, they want to hear about it.

Conversely, if the trail is being proposed in an area that might prove too difficult because of traffic or congestion, they want to hear about that, too.

The trailway would provide a continuous pathway for pedestrians, bicyclists and neighborhood electric vehicles. It would run along the Whitewater River wash from Palm Springs to Coachella, and

IF YOU GO

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments has scheduled a public workshop meeting on the Parkway 1e11 project from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today at the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership headquarters, 3111 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way.
More information: (760) 346-1127

include future connections to Desert Hot Springs in the north and the Salton Sea at the south end.

The trailway would be done in phases and cost about \$80 million. CVAG has secured \$47 million for the project through grants and other commitments, including a \$10 million matching grant and \$17 million from the South Coast Air Quality

Please see **TRAIL, B4**

Salton Sea Authority gets a boost

Agency's budget more than doubles as benefactors up their contributions

By **Ian James**
The Desert Sun

The counties and water districts that provide financial support to the Salton Sea Authority have agreed to increase their contributions this year, allowing the small agency to more than double its annual budget as its leaders step up work aimed at lessening the blow of diminishing water flows into California's largest lake.

Roger Shintaku, who took over as general manager earlier this year, said on Monday that the increase to an annual budget of \$644,000 was necessary to shift a part-time assistant to a full-time position, and to boost to the Salton Sea Authority's efforts in exploring potential projects and funding sources.



A man fishes for tilapia at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area. Agencies that fund the Salton Sea Authority have increased their financial support. **RICHARD LUI/THE DESERT SUN**

"It's great that the agencies recognize that the Salton Sea Authority is gaining a lot of momentum," Shintaku said.

The Coachella Valley Water District Board voted last week to approve a contribution of \$150,000 for the current fiscal

year, up from \$60,000 last year. Increased assessments also were approved by the other members of the Salton Sea Authority, including Riverside County, Imperial County and the Imperial Irrigation District, each of which contributes

the same amount.

The contribution by the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians was raised from \$7,000 to \$10,000 this year.

Shintaku said the larger

Please see **SEA, B4**

INSIDE VALLEY

LEARNING TO FLY

Local students interested in learning to fly can apply for the Coachella Valley Youth Aviation Education Program's summer camp. **B3**

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CORRECTIONS

Mike Heavey is a family friend and champion of Amanda Knox. His title was incorrect in a B2 brief Sunday headlined "Amanda Knox's lawyer to give talk."

We correct errors of fact promptly and courteously. If you have a correction or clarification, please contact Production Editor Barbara Lowell at (760) 778-4544 or at barbara.lowell@thedesertsun.com.

Lives remembered

PAID NOTICES



Dorothy Marie Adams

Dorothy Marie Adams, age 83, of Coachella, Calif. passed away on May 23, 2013 in Corona, California. She was born on September 9, 1929 to Edgar and Tina Mack in Meridian, Oklahoma. She married Raymond Adams on December 2, 1955 in Quartzite, Arizona. She was a teacher with the Coachella Valley Unified School District for over 25 years. She is survived by her daughter Tina Ovbude of Corona, Calif. and sons Gregory Adams of San Diego, Calif. Christopher Adams of Coachella, Frank Adams of Corona, Calif. her brothers Rozene Mack and Alonzo Mack, 21 Grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Raymond Adams and son Robert Adams. Friends may attend for visitation at the Indio Second Baptist Church on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a service at the hour of 11:00 a.m. Burial to follow at the Coachella Valley Cemetery. Repast dinner at church to follow burial. FitzHenry-Wiefels Indio Directors. To view and sign this guestbook, please visit: mydesert.com/obituaries



Sarah Elizabeth (Watkins) Miller

Sarah Elizabeth (Watkins) Miller passed away May 22, 2013 in Reno, Nev. Born December 5, 1911 to William Jackson and Mary Edna (Wimer) Watkins of Lawton, Okla., she lived, was educated, and was a teacher there for ten years. Sarah married Paul Mason Miller in 1938 and moved to California in 1940. During World War II she was employed as a precision inspector at Northrop Aircraft Company while her husband Paul was stationed on Tinian Island. The Millers located in the Coachella Valley in 1950 where Sarah resumed her teaching profession at Coachella Valley Union High School. She retired as High School Director of Counseling in 1972 and remained in Palm Desert, Calif., until 2000 when she moved to Reno, Nev. Her husband Paul, daughter Paula Dean, brother's Edward and Wimer Watkins, and sister Mabel Dayton preceded her in death. She is survived by son Watkins (Wally) Miller, grandsons Ryan and Jason, two great grandsons Davis and Nathaniel, daughter-in-law Ellen, and her children Nathan, Tyler and Kiara, and great granddaughter Leah, all of Reno, Nev. There will be a 9:00AM memorial service Friday morning June 7, 2013 at the Forest Lawn Chapel (68955 East Ramon Rd, Cathedral City, CA 92234) under the direction of Rev. Kenneth Savage. A private interment will follow at the Desert Memorial Park Cemetery. To view and sign this guestbook, please visit: mydesert.com/obituaries

Green

Continued from B1

It is also unclear if the CVAG code has achieved its other original goal of helping area contractors increase their business with energy-efficient home upgrades.

Barrows defended the decision to use the state's 2008 code as the basis for voluntary green building code because, at the time, the 2014 update had not yet been finalized.

"The intent was to get people ready for the 2014 upgrade, to bring more training and support to contractors so they're more familiar with energy and green technology," she said.

So far, only four cities — Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage — have adopted the CVAG code and, at least in Cathedral City, interim building official Barry Cox could not point to a single residential project

that had used it.

But he wrote in an email to The Desert Sun that the CVAG green building code is being used for a new Volkswagen dealership under construction on East Palm Canyon Drive.

Gretchen Gutierrez, CEO of the Desert Valleys Builders Association, said construction in the valley is on the upswing, but whether and to what extent the CVAG code is contributing to the recovery is hard to quantify.

Paul McCreesh, co-owner of GreenGuys Construction, a green remodeling firm, said the CVAG code's main strength is its clear, plain-language explanations of home energy-efficiency upgrades.

But GreenGuys has not used the code for any of its jobs, McCreesh said.

The main reason the CVAG code has had so little impact is that it is voluntary, said Eric Corey Freed, co-chair of the Coachella Valley Branch of the U.S. Green Building Council.

PACE UPDATE

Another obstacle to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments' voluntary green building code has been a lack of affordable financing for area homeowners who might want to go green but can't afford it.

The CVAG Executive Committee on Monday took the next step in establishing a regional property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financing program that could remove the financing barriers to green home upgrades.

The Executive Committee on April 29 approved Ygrene Energy Fund of Santa Rosa to organize the privately funded program. It approved the contract with Ygrene on Monday and signed off on the program-creation schedule.

PACE programs allow cities and counties to provide upfront financing to property owners for energy-efficient upgrades, with long-term repayments tied to their property taxes. So far, seven cities in the valley have voted to opt in to the regional program.

On June 24, the Executive Committee will vote to create a valleywide clean energy district.

CALIFORNIA LOTTERY

Mega Millions/Friday		
Numbers picked	2, 20, 26, 44, 46	Meganumber 26
PICKS	WINNERS	PRIZE
5 plus mega	0	\$30 million
5 no mega	2	\$79,176
4 plus mega	5	\$8,637
4 no mega	198	\$145
3 plus mega	218	\$150
3 no mega	8,956	\$7
2 plus mega	3,704	\$9
1 plus mega	21,308	\$3
mega only	38,952	\$2
Tonight's jackpot estimate (drawing: 7:57 p.m.)		\$12M

SuperLotto Plus/Saturday		
Numbers picked	6, 9, 10, 25, 45	Meganumber 4
PICKS	WINNERS	PRIZE
5 plus mega	0	\$14 million
5 no mega	4	\$12,170
4 plus mega	21	\$1,159
4 no mega	498	\$81
3 plus mega	815	\$44
3 no mega	20,461	\$8
2 plus mega	9,519	\$10
1 plus mega	43,307	\$2
mega only	62,754	\$1
Wednesday's jackpot estimate (drawing: 7:57 p.m.)		\$15M

Powerball/Saturday		
Numbers picked	22, 28, 33, 53, 59	Powerball number 14
PICKS	WINNERS	PRIZE
5 plus powerball	0	\$40 million
5 no powerball	0	\$810,517
4 plus powerball	4	\$8,392
4 no powerball	96	\$118
3 plus powerball	172	\$103
3 no powerball	5,277	\$8
2 plus powerball	2,919	\$7
1 plus powerball	19,453	\$4
Powerball only	41,085	\$3
Wednesday's jackpot estimate		\$50M

Daily Derby/Monday		Daily 3/Monday	
1st place	02, Lucky Star	Afternoon numbers	3, 1, 2
2nd place	01, Gold Rush	Night numbers	6, 0, 2
3rd place	06, Whirl Win	Match three in order for top prize; combinations for other prizes.	
Race time	1:45.77	Match winners, time for top prize.	

Fantasy 5/Monday		Daily 4/Monday	
Numbers picked	7, 28, 33, 34, 37	Numbers picked	4, 2, 1, 2
Match all five for top prize; combinations for other prizes.		Match four in order for top prize; combinations for other prizes.	

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Death Notices

- Corona**
Adams, Dorothy Marie, 83
- Palm Desert**
Birdsall, Douglas, 91
- Rancho Mirage**
Strouse, Lester I., Jr., 91
- Reno**
Miller, Sarah Elizabeth Watkins

Indio

Continued from B1

sues can change that budget significantly, Martinez said.

On Wednesday night, the City Council will vote on whether to keep operating the Indio Animal Shelter or possibly hand over city animal services to Riverside County.

The vote comes after a Riverside County grand jury investigation

into the operation of the Animal Care Center in Indio accused the shelter of inaccurate record-keeping, failure to provide appropriate living conditions for animals, and noted questionable actions by shelter staff.

"Depending on what the council decides on that issue, we either relieve some of the financial burden we have or increase it," Martinez said.

The City Council is expected to vote on a final budget on June 19.

Trail

Continued from B1

Management District. Michele Mician, the city's sustainability manager, plans to be at today's meeting and has spread the word.

Palm Springs has led its own efforts to improve bicycle and pedestrian paths. The valleywide plan will help complement the city's plan and feed into it.

"Its really important for connectivity ... that's the main priority for the city, connectivity of our trails and bike paths," Mician said.

Tom Kirk, executive director of CVAG, said today's meeting is the launch of the organiza-

tion's outreach efforts. "There will be a lot of public workshops and outreach through social media like Facebook," he said.

CVAG is spending about \$2 million on design, engineering and public outreach. About \$400,000 is earmarked for communication efforts, he said.

Most of those outreach funds — \$291,000 — come from an "environmental justice" grant from Caltrans, meant to ensure communities that have experienced environmental injustices or inequality in the past be given the opportunity to take part in the process.

The second meeting is being planned for the east valley and a third for the mid-valley, Shoberg said.

Sea

Continued from B1

budget allows the Salton Sea Authority to pursue various potential projects and to develop relationships with federal and state agencies in order to increase their involvement.

The Salton Sea Authority Board, which is made up of representatives of the member agencies and the Torres Martinez tribe, voted in April to approve the budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year. In the previous year, the budget stood

at nearly \$284,000. "I've been asked to take the agency from a maintenance status into an active status, and so that's what I've done," Shintaku said.

The Salton Sea has been shrinking in recent years as agricultural runoff has diminished, and water levels are expected to fall more swiftly in the years to come due to a farmland-to-urban water transfer deal.

Experts have said that if the shoreline is allowed to recede markedly, that could pose a health hazard by allowing more dust to be kicked up by wind

around the lake. President Barack Obama's administration recently allotted \$200,000 in its budget request to support work by the Army Corps of Engineers on Salton Sea projects.

Projects that are currently planned or under consideration for the lake involve building dikes or berms to help preserve the shoreline and building wetlands by re-flooding some areas along the shore.

Spending by the Salton Sea Authority has increased in part due to a higher salary for a full-time general manager. Shintaku will earn \$125,000 a year in the new fiscal year starting July 1. Previously, interim general manager Andrew Schlange earned \$72,000 a year working part-time. Schlange, an experi-

enced manager who previously led the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, is continuing to work for the Salton Sea Authority as a consultant. The current year's budget includes up to \$60,000 in consulting fees.

A document summarizing reasons for the increased budget also lists a need for more travel to Los Angeles, Sacramento, Washington and elsewhere.

Shintaku has said his objectives include improving communication with state and federal legislators, and seeking more grants and other funding sources to pay for projects at the Salton Sea.

Environment reporter Ian James can be reached by email at ian.james@thedesertsun.com and on Twitter at @TDSIanJames.

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