

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisors Wilson and Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE:
3/16/05

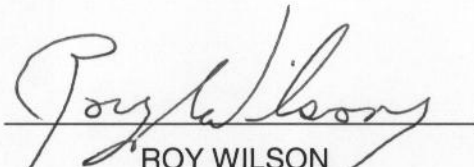
SUBJECT: CVAG Request for Support for Federal Assistance to Aid UCR's Efforts to Establish an Integrated Modeling Center

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors support UCR's efforts to establish an Integrated Modeling Center, that this proposal is a priority legislative initiative of the County, and that the efforts of the County, in concert with CVAG and WRCOG regarding demographics research be supportive to UCR's modeling program.

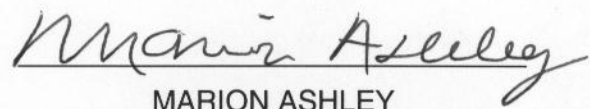
BACKGROUND: The Chairman of the Coachella Association of Governments (CVAG), Conrad Negron, sent a letter dated March 10, 2005 (letter attached) to Supervisors Roy Wilson and Marion Ashley. The purpose of the letter is to request the County's support for the University of California, Riverside's (UCR'S) efforts to seek federal assistance that would enable CVAG and UCR to work cooperatively in the establishment of an Integrated Modeling Center at the new UCR campus in Palm Desert and at the main campus in Riverside. As discussed in the letter, the proposed modeling center would combine the modeling capabilities of the university for air quality, water, transportation and endangered species planning. The concept, as we understand it is to utilize and expand on existing models and develop new models in the Coachella Valley, as needed, and then to subsequently expand the scope of its capabilities and resources to the greater Riverside County region and beyond.

We encourage the Board of Supervisor's to positively respond to CVAG's request that the County lend its support for this effort. The proposal is consistent with the County's legislative platform that continually emphasizes intergovernmental cooperation and specifically encourages the support for "measures that include funding for: 1) habitat conservation and related activities; 2) transportation and communication corridors to relieve congestion while minimizing environmental impacts; and 3) planning efforts to establish future land use and housing needs."

(Continued)



ROY WILSON
Supervisor, 4th District



MARION ASHLEY
Supervisor, 5th District

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District:

Agenda Number:

3.28

Board of Supervisors

Form 11: CVAG Request for Support for Federal Assistance to Aid UCR's Efforts to Establish an Integrated Modeling Center

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BACKGROUND (Continued)

As noted earlier, UCR's modeling proposal is aimed specifically at enhancing these types of activities. Additionally CVAG, WRCOG and the County TLMA have been working cooperatively regarding the generation of a comprehensive demographics database and projections system. These entities have been in discussion with UCR representatives regarding integrating such a demographics program into UCR's Integrated Modeling Center. These joint efforts between CVAG, WRCOG and the County, and the intent to integrate the demographics into UCR's modeling efforts should greatly enhance UCR's grant-seeking efforts by showing extensive local commitment through organizations that represent all of the Cities in the County of Riverside, as well as the County.

We therefore recommend that the County Board support the CVAG request to include this legislative initiative on our priority list of projects that are important to the future of the region.

Ucrmdl:

CVAG

COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

Blythe • Cathedral City • Coachella • Desert Hot Springs • Indian Wells • Indio • La Quinta • Palm Desert • Palm Springs • Rancho Mirage
County of Riverside • Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians • Cabazon Band of Mission Indians • Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

March 10, 2005

The Honorable Roy Wilson
County of Riverside
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 220
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The Honorable Marion Ashley
County of Riverside
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502

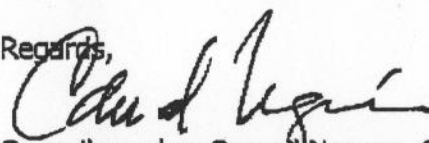
Dear Supervisors Wilson and Ashley:

Perhaps the most challenging issue facing the desert region is how we manage the incredibly robust growth of our area. At our CVAG Executive Committee meeting on Monday, February 28, 2005, the board unanimously passed a motion to authorize CVAG, in partnership with the University of California, Riverside, to seek federal assistance that will enable us to jointly establish an Integrated Modeling Center at the new UCR Campus in Palm Desert and at the main campus in Riverside. This modeling center will, for the first time in the United States, combine the sophisticated modeling capabilities of the university for air quality, water, transportation planning, and endangered species planning. A supporting aspect of this effort will be a demographic research component which is, even now, in the formative stages between CVAG, WRCOG, Riverside County, and UCR. The modeling efforts will be combined into an integrated system available for use by public agency planners in the region.

UCR proposes to use the Coachella Valley as the model for such integrated planning and subsequently expand the scope of its capabilities to the greater Riverside County region and beyond. The tools developed by UCR will enable us to project the impact of growth on our ecosystem as well as on the quality of life of our residents, thus enhancing our ability to better plan our land use, transportation systems and economy. All major stakeholder agencies will be involved in the development of these planning tools and the project will be overseen by CVAG with assistance from an advisory board.

We ask your support by including this legislative initiative on your priority list of projects that are important to the future of the region. The UCR project team has met with representatives of Senator Feinstein, Congressman Calvert, and Congresswoman Bono and has received enthusiastic support for the concept. Both CVAG and UCR want to make certain that this project has the endorsement of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors as a legislative priority before seeking federal agency support.

Regards,



Councilmember Conrad Negron, Chair
Coachella Valley Association of Governments

cc: County of Riverside Executive Office