

- Press Release -
Coachella Valley Coalition
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Coachella Valley Association of Governments Vote Against Green Path North

Palm Desert California – An association of governments representing the Coachella Valley unanimously passed a resolution Monday opposing Green Path North high voltage transmission power lines proposed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) now joins a growing list of cities and counties opposed to the power lines planned by LADWP to run through Desert Hot Springs, a Coachella Valley conservation area and communities in the High Desert.

Under consideration by the CVAG executive committee was a resolution with language expressing “significant concern” over Green Path North. Instead, an amendment to the resolution toughened the language from “significantly concerned” to outright opposition.

The vote was unanimous. The CVAG executive committee consists of eleven cities stretching from Blythe to Palm Springs, the County of Riverside and three tribal councils.

CVAG now joins U.S. Representative Jerry Lewis, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and the cities of Desert Hot Springs, Yucca Valley and Twenty-Nine Palms in opposition to Green Path North.

“The Coachella Valley vote is an important win for homeowners trying to protect their property values and for sensitive environmental areas,” said Russell Betts, Co-Chair of the Coachella Valley Coalition (CVC). “In terms of political opposition to Green Path North, momentum is increasingly in our favor.”

Those political alignments, however, may not be enough to halt LADWP. As a municipal agency, it is not subject to state regulatory oversight. The battle may be headed to court.

“LADWP is an unregulated giant free to roam California at will,” said Betts. “Unless something changes that, this is a citizen’s fight against the vast resources of LADWP.”

The CVC is joined in the effort to stop Green Path North by the California Desert Coalition that first called attention to Green Path North two years ago.

Recently joining the effort are several homeowner associations concerned about further erosion of property values by the power lines that will be adjacent to their homes. The area is the hardest hit nationally by loss of property values in the real estate melt-down.