

RESOLUTION No. 09-001

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGARDING THE GREEN PATH NORTH PROJECT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS AND VISUAL RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments supports the use of responsible renewable sources of energy such as geothermal, solar, and wind and encourages programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially those projects that can be generated and distributed locally; and

WHEREAS, the California desert has abundant solar, wind and geothermal resources and there is economic opportunity in developing these resources to reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources and expand our use of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country and nations around the world are adopting programs and policies that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, air quality improvements, open space conservation, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, economic development and job creation through energy conservation and the development of new alternative energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing a project called "Green Path North" to construct new 500 kV high tension power transmission lines for the purpose of attaining alternative energy goals in the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) adopted by the cities within the Coachella Valley and the County of Riverside, and approved by state and federal wildlife agencies, serves as a mechanism to ensure controlled and managed development within the region, and sets aside land to protect fragile habitat for endangered fauna and flora, ecosystem processes, and wildlife corridors; and

WHEREAS, under the MSHCP the portions of the Green Path North project on private land would be subject to the Joint Project Review process to determine consistency with the conservation objectives and other requirements of the MSHCP; and

WHEREAS, the proposed "Green Path North" includes at least one alternative alignment that will cross through unincorporated portions of the Coachella Valley that encompass MSHCP designated conservation area lands; and

WHEREAS, one proposed alternative alignment, if constructed, will cross adjacent to the Joshua Tree National Park in San Bernardino County, will cross the Big Morongo Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and could have immediate and long-term detrimental impacts on the environment and cause aesthetic degradation to the lands with historical and cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, other existing high tension transmission line corridors are available for the "Green Path North" project that would not create adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside, the County of San Bernardino, and the City of Desert Hot Springs have adopted resolutions in opposition to the proposed Green Path North transmission corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Coachella Valley Association of Governments is opposed to the construction of the Green Path North project to the extent that it passes through MSHCP designated lands that have been set aside to protect environmentally sensitive populations within the Coachella Valley; and

FURTHER RESOLVE and recommend that LADWP continue to provide public forums that educate the community on proposed project details and ensure public participation and input through the CEQA process; and

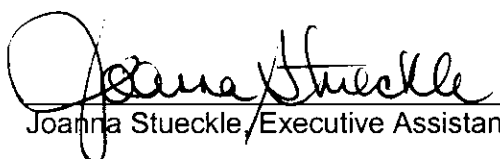
FURTHER RESOLVE and recommend that LADWP work diligently with all potentially affected communities including any negotiations with energy partners such as Southern California Edison to find existing alternative transmission corridors that will have the least impact on the environment, visual resources, MSHCP lands, and the citizens of the Coachella Valley.

FURTHER RESOLVE and encourage meetings between LADWP and CVAG and Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) representatives to discuss the Green Path North Project and consider alternatives that could benefit the MSHCP.

NOW THEREFORE, the Executive Committee of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, in regular session on January 26, 2009, does hereby APPROVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 09-001.

AYES: 13
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 5
ABSTAIN: 0

Signed:  Date: 1-28-09
Eduardo Garcia, Chair

ATTEST: 
Joanna Stueckle, Executive Assistant