

March 19, 2017

SUMMARY OF REMARKS OF MAYOR TOWNSEND AT
MORNINGSIDE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Morningside Homeowner, we have been asked to summarize the remarks of Mayor Townsend at our recent AGM. A summary is set out below.

CVAG (Coachella Valley Association of Governments) plans to spend \$100 million (current estimate) on CV Link, a 50-mile, alternative transportation corridor for bicycles, pedestrians, and low-speed "neighborhood electric vehicles" (excluding golf carts). The Link runs along the Whitewater River and Tahquitz Creek flood channels and will initially stretch from Palm Springs to Coachella.

For the sake of Morningside and Rancho Mirage we must stop CV Link from coming through Rancho Mirage on the route CVAG has chosen. CVAG's preferred route is to come down Hwy. 111 with a 20-30 foot lighted and paved concrete path, using the Rancho Mirage Library to charge their electric vehicles and for bathroom breaks, passing the fire station, turning down Country Club, with one part taking over the Butler-Abrams trail running along the wash and one part coming down Morningside Drive, on the Morningside frontage. This is just part of the proposed route that would continue through the Tamarisk area. Rancho Mirage currently has approximately 50 miles of bike lanes and paths and 30 miles of sidewalks for golf carts and pedestrians.

The RM city council offered CVAG property from DaVall to Bob Hope on Ramon Road past Rancho Mirage High School for their Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) link through Rancho Mirage. CVAG rejected the offer because their preferred route was to come directly through the middle of Rancho Mirage. The Rancho Mirage city council passed an ordinance prohibiting NEV's (neighborhood electric vehicles) on the streets of Rancho Mirage. The damage that the CV Link would do to our community and to Rancho Mirage at large is inestimable. Rancho Mirage homeowners would also be responsible for upkeep, maintenance, traffic enforcement, and liability insurance for the RM link. Those costs alone are in the millions and would mean higher taxes and a heavy burden for homeowners.

In April of 2016, voters passed Measure 1, with 80% approval, that requires a majority of voters in future elections to change the ordinance, which effectively stops CV Link from being brought through the city.

Mayor Townsend reported that the current city council remains firmly against CV Link, and that the three non-incumbent candidates are in favor of CV Link and that if they gain city council seats, they would have another election to allow CV Link to come through our city.