CV Link - Measure 2 Argument

The City Council seeks your views concerning the CV Link. Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), the lead agency and creator of the CV Link project, must also understand where the public stands.

The question of over-all "costs" is quite murky. Measure 2 identifies construction costs of $100 million "or more." The phrase "or more" is significant. In a grant contract document signed October 1, 2013, by the CVAG Executive Director, it states: "The total cost of this project is estimated at $70 million." Later, the projection increased to $80 million; then up to $90 million. Now it is routinely projected to cost $100,000,000. What the final cost will be is anyone's guess.

Measure 2 also references $1.6 million of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) expenses in the first full year of operation. This figure, calculated by CVAG's retained experts, is reported in the March 2015 CV Link Master Plan and was later "recommended" for approval by the Executive Director in an April 2015 report he authored. (Once Rancho Mirage began referencing these future O&M figures, CVAG's leadership got nervous and began claiming to make reductions in projected costs. Those "reductions" are both cosmetic and superficial. Actually, the $1.6 million is grossly inadequate because it includes no costs for police, security, medics or insurance, etc.)

CVAG readily saw that averaging approximately $178,000 in O&M costs over each of the eight cities and the County was beyond the capability of some. In response, on April 6, 2015, the Executive Director introduced and recommended a progressive bed tax formula that placed 90% of the entire O&M expense on five cities, including Rancho Mirage. Rancho Mirage's share was to be between $110,300 and $251,800 as of the 9th year, increasing annually.

Should Rancho Mirage assume the long-term economic obligations this project imposes on the cities?

We recommend a "No" vote on Measure 2.