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PACE Now Funding Seismic & New Construction

As of July 2, 2018, new construction is eligible for financing through WRCOG's Commercial PACE Program. This opportunity is available only for new construction projects that exceed the current California Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Offering Commercial PACE financing on new construction will provide a new stream of financing for property owners to access in the subregion and across the state.

Similarly, as of August 6, 2018, seismic strengthening improvements are eligible for financing through WRCOG's Commercial PACE Program. These types of retrofits can help protect buildings that might be structurally vulnerable to seismic events. Improvements that may be financed include structural retrofits, foundation improvements, lateral support systems, shear walls, and moment and brace frames. In addition to improving the structural integrity of buildings, Commercial PACE financing helps create jobs for local area contractors who perform the work.

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WCE Holds First Governing Board Meeting





WCE Board of Directors at the Agency's Inaugural Meeting on August 23, 2018

WRCOG is excited to announce that Western Community Energy (WCE) held its inaugural meeting on August 23, 2018! WCE's seven members include the Cities of Canyon Lake, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Norco, Perris, and Wildomar. These jurisdictions account for nearly 40% of energy use in the subregion and are taking proactive steps to explore whether a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program, whereby local jurisdictions purchase energy to provide to their residents and businesses, can save their communities money on utility bills.

A Rate Savings Report is being developed and will provide information that the Board can use to determine if moving forward with WCE is a viable option to provide savings for their communities. If given the green light, these communities could begin saving as early as 2020!

The impact and prevalence of CCAs in California has grown significantly since WRCOG first began exploring CCA feasibility in 2016. In the second quarter of 2018 alone, five new CCAs began serving customers in Alameda and Yolo Counties, as well as in the Cities of Rancho Mirage, San Jacinto and Solana Beach. Additionally, the City of San Jose will launch a CCA in September, yielding a total of 19 operational CCAs in the state, serving a projected 2.5 million accounts, with projected on-bill savings estimated to be \$90.2 million in 2018!

There is Power in Choice

- Number of CCAs currently serving customers in California: 18
- Number of customer accounts CCAs will serve in 2018: 2.5 million
- On-bill savings for CCA customers in 2018: \$90.2 million
- Minimum Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) CCAs will achieve, on average, in 2018: 42 percent
 - Note: Figures based on projections provided by CCAs and CalCCA.

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Consolidation of RCHCA and WRCOG

RCHCA's Board of Directors and WRCOG's Executive Committee have approved the complete consolidation of the RCHCA's staff, administration, and management activities with WRCOG.



The consolidation comes after nearly three years of WRCOG providing administration and management services for the Agency. The relationship has been beneficial for both the RCHCA and WRCOG resulting in cost savings and reduced bureaucracy. Under the consolidation, RCHCA will continue to operate under a separate JPA with its own budget.

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BEYOND Project Spotlight

With funding from both BEYOND Core and BEYOND Health, the City of Perris, in partnership with Loma Linda University Dental School, Lake Perris SDA Church, and Well One Health, is organizing bi-monthly dental clinics to serve the community from February through December 2018. This program addresses some of the core dental needs of the underserved Perris and surrounding community members who lack access to services such as dental extractions, fillings, x-rays and other procedures. According to a 2015 study conducted by Well One Health, a prominent nonprofit organization that provides quality care to families in the Perris community, 59% of Perris residents ranked access to healthcare as their primary community health concern and 66.7% desired free dental services. BEYOND funding enabled the City of Perris to collaborate and support Well One Health and other partner organizations to bring this valuable service to the community.



This project serves as an exemplary model of collaboration—the City of Perris partnered with known and trusted community organizations to create a program that is largely volunteer-run and staffed with qualified professionals like licensed dentists and dental hygienists. While Perris residents are granted priority for appointments, walk-ins from all areas are welcome and services are free of charge for attendees.

Photo courtesy of the Well One Clinic Facebook Page.

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WRCOG in the News

From the [opening of Clinton Keith Road](#) to WRCOG's [BEYOND-funded projects](#) and the implementation of our [Streetlight Program](#), WRCOG's programs have been popping up in a variety of news outlets recently. To keep up with our activities, you can find all WRCOG news releases on [our website](#).

The opening of Clinton Keith Road was a unique and historic event that capitalized on synergy across the Western Riverside Subregion. A highlight video was created to commemorate this day. Click below or [follow this link](#) to watch!



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Executive Director's Report

Proactive adaptation planning will put WRCOG jurisdictions in a position to become more resilient to California's changing climatic conditions

A recent Public Policy Institute of California [poll](#) found that 62% of adults in the State of California believe that global warming is extremely or very important to them personally. 69% say that the effects of global warming have already begun. A large majority of likely voters (66%) say they are very concerned that extreme weather – when thinking about the possible effect of global warming in California – will result in more severe wildfires. More than 7 in 10 are concerned about the impact of warming oceans on marine life and the impact of rising sea levels on the coast. And 57% say global warming poses a very serious threat to the economy and quality of life in California.



On the heels of last month's release of [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#), there is good reason for the concern expressed by those surveyed. The Assessment produced "updated climate projections that provide state-of-the art understanding of different possible climate futures for California." The report, in a nutshell, projects a dismal future regarding changing climatic conditions. For example:

Temperatures will increase: By 2100 the average annual maximum daily temperature is projected to increase by 5.6 to 8.8 degrees. (Depending on greenhouse gas emissions reductions - the greatest increase is seen with business-as-usual emissions levels.)

Water supply from snowpack is projected to decline by two-thirds: If emissions reductions do not occur, water from snowpack could fall to less than 1/3 of historic levels by 2100.

Wildfires will increase: One study found that, by 2100, if greenhouse gas emissions

continue to rise, the frequency of extreme wildfires would increase and the average area burned statewide would grow by 77%.

Sea levels will rise: 31 to 67% of Southern California beaches may completely erode by 2100 without large scale human interventions.

Importantly, the Assessment also provides observations regarding the potential impacts of these climate projections on a number of matters important to local jurisdictions, such as public health, transportation, energy, water and agriculture, to name a few. Its findings show that “direct climate impact costs by the middle of this century are dominated by human mortality, damages to coastal properties, and the potential for droughts and damaging floods. The costs have been estimated at tens of billions of dollars.”

Fortunately, there’s some good news among the bad. California is on track to meet its target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 ([California's Climate Change Scoping Plan](#) calls for an additional 40% reduction by 2030). But regardless of successful GHG emission reduction efforts underway in the state, climate change will likely continue for the foreseeable future, absent a comparable commitment nationally and worldwide to California’s lead. As such, jurisdictions would be well-served to consider taking proactive approaches to climate change by having climate adaptation plans in place to address these potential impacts to their constituents.

WRCOG, in collaboration with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), has received grant funding from Caltrans to develop a comprehensive Regional Climate Adaptation Toolkit to assist local jurisdictions in putting together climate resiliency and adaptation plans for local implementation. The Toolkit will enable local jurisdictions to prepare city-level climate resiliency strategies and plans to help prevent the loss of life and destruction associated with climate-related hazards.

The Project will include the following components:

1. Inland Empire Regional Climate Collaborative: WRCOG and SBCTA will connect with peers across the state to exchange knowledge, engage in targeted problem-solving, and implement joint campaigns for climate resiliency, effectively breaking down silos across sectors and jurisdictions. The aim is to identify existing best practices and tailor them to local needs.
2. Updated WRCOG Vulnerability Assessment: WRCOG’s existing Subregional Climate Action Plan, called “CAPtivate,” includes an Adaptation and Resiliency Strategy that provides an overview of expected climate change effects, identifies assets in the subregion that are vulnerable to climate change effects, and offers adaptation strategies intended to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience. The Adaptation and Resiliency Strategy will be updated to integrate the newest science and best practices.
3. Transportation Hazards and Evacuation Maps: Transportation hazards and evacuation maps will be developed for each WRCOG and SBCTA member agency and compiled into a portfolio of city-level maps that can be used for a variety of climate adaptation and resiliency planning efforts, including insertion into local hazard mitigation plans, safety elements of the General Plan, or local adaptation plans / strategies.
4. Climate Resilient Transportation Infrastructure Guidebook: This Guidebook will provide strategies using green streets infrastructure - which aims to harness the efficacy of natural processes to manage flooding and extreme heat - to mitigate identified risks and provide resiliency to climate change effects on the transportation system. For example, permeable pavement can be used to help reduce pavement temperatures by absorbing sunlight, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and slow flash flooding during flood and storm events.

5. [Regional Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Template General Plan Element](#): The Element will be a resource for jurisdictions to incorporate into their General Plans or use in other policy documents to meet newly enacted requirements under SB 379, which mandates that the safety elements of General Plans must include climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, or that these strategies must otherwise be included in local hazard mitigation plans. This template element will build on work previously conducted in WRCOG's Subregional Climate Action/Adaptation Plan and will provide the necessary framework for jurisdictions to comply with new SB 379 mandates.

Given the information regarding climate change contained in [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#), and in other similar work and research, it is prudent for local jurisdictions to not only understand the potential impacts of climate change on communities, but to also take action to make their communities more resilient.

WRCOG and SBCTA will commence work on the Regional Climate Adaptation Toolkit this fall and anticipate that it will be completed in February 2020.



[Contact Rick](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



[CLICK HERE](#)

