



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

AGENDA

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024
2:00 PM**

**WRCOG
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501**

Remote Meeting Locations:

**CVAG
74-199 El Paseo
West Building, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**City of Rialto
City Hall
150 S. Palm Avenue
Rialto, CA 92376**

**Town of Apple Valley
Town Hall, Conference Room A
14955 Dale Evans Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307**

Committee members are asked to attend this meeting in person unless remote accommodations have previously been requested and noted on the agenda. The below Zoom link is provided for the convenience of members of the public, presenters, and support staff.

[Public Zoom Link](#)
Meeting ID: 835 4047 4339
Passcode: 428570
Dial in: 669 444 9171 U.S.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in the I-REN Executive Committee meeting, please contact WRCOG at (951) 405-6706. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting. In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, agenda materials distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting which are public records relating to an open session agenda item will be available for inspection by members of the public prior to the meeting at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA, 92501.

In addition to commenting at the Committee meeting, members of the public may also submit written comments before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment to lfelix@wrcog.us.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Lucy Felix at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at (951) 405-6706 or lfelix@wrcog.us. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

The Committee may take any action on any item listed on the agenda, regardless of the Requested Action.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Oscar Ortiz, Chair)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time members of the public can address the Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Committee, any public comments on any of the Consent Items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Committee request specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

A. Action Minutes from the July 16, 2024, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve the Action Minutes from the July 16, 2024, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

B. I-REN Regulatory and Reporting Activities Update

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

C. I-REN Energy Fellowship Program Agreement

Requested Action(s): 1. Authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to enter into an Agreement

with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 Fellows within the I-REN service territory for program services years through 2027.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion.

A. Public Sector Program Six-Month Update

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

B. On-Call Professional Services Agreements for Education & Outreach Services

Requested Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Burke Rix Communications to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
2. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
3. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Costin Public Outreach Group, Inc., to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
4. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and CV Strategies to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
5. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and OPR Communications to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.

C. California Energy Commission Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Activities Update

Requested Action(s): 1. Authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between WRCOG and

Los Angeles County to provide administrative services for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program, Southern Region.

D. Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity Memorandum of Understanding

Requested Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between WRCOG and Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity in an amount not-to-exceed \$30,000 annually through December 2027.

E. Energy Efficiency / Public Purpose Program Legislative Funding Threats

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Oscar Ortiz, CVAG

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for discussion at future Committee meetings.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members are invited to announce items / activities which may be of general interest to the Committee.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., location to be determined.

11. ADJOURNMENT

12. AGENCY ACRONYMS

Inland Regional Energy Network Acronym Guide

3C-REN – Tri-County Regional Energy Network (Counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo)

ABAL – Annual Budget Advice Letter

AHJ – Authority Having Jurisdiction

AVCE – Apple Valley Choice Energy

BayREN – Bay Area Regional Energy Network (nine county REN in Northern California)

BUC – Building Upgrade Concierge

C&S – Codes & Standards

CAEECC – California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee

CalChoice – California Choice Energy Authority

Cal ISO – California Independent System Operator

CARB – California Air Resources Board

CCA – Community Choice Aggregator

CCEC – California Climate & Energy Collaborative

CEC – California Energy Commission

COG - Council of Government

CPA – Clean Power Alliance
CPUC – California Public Utilities Commission
CVAG – Coachella Valley Association of Governments
DAC – Disadvantaged Communities
DACAG – Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group
DCE – Desert Community Energy
DER – Distributed Energy Resources
DOE – U.S Department of Energy
EE – Energy Efficiency
EM&V – Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification
EV – Electric Vehicle
GHG – Greenhouse gases
HTR – Hard To Reach communities
IID – Imperial Irrigation District
IOU – Investor-Owned Utility
I-REN – Inland Regional Energy Network
JCM – Joint Cooperation Memorandum
LGSEC – Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
LGP – Local Government Partnership
MOA – Memorandum of Agreement
NEBs – Non-energy Benefits
NMEC – Normalized Metered Energy Consumption
NREL – U.S Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory
PG&E – Pacific Gas & Electric
PA – Program Administrator
POU – Publicly Owned Utility
REN – Regional Energy Network
RMEA – Rancho Mirage Energy Authority
RPU – Riverside Public Utilities
SBCOG – San Bernardino Council of Governments
SCE – Southern California Edison
SCG / SoCalGas – Southern California Gas Company
SDG&E – San Diego Gas & Electric
SJP – San Jacinto Power
SoCalREN – Southern California Regional Energy Network (all of southern California, administered by Los Angeles County)
TA – Technical Assistance
TOU – Time of use
TRC – Total Resources Cost
V2G – Vehicle to Grid
WE&T – Workforce Education & Training
WRCOG – Western Riverside Council of Governments

I-REN Executive Committee

Action Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Crystal Ruiz at 2:01 p.m. on July 16, 2024, at WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ruiz led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

CVAG

- City of Indio - Oscar Ortiz

SBCOG

- Town of Apple Valley - Art Bishop

WRCOG

- City of Corona - Jacque Casillas*
- City of San Jacinto - Crystal Ruiz (Chair)

*Arrived after roll call

Absent

- City of Jurupa Valley
- City of Rialto
- County of San Bernardino

4. SELECTION OF I-REN COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, AND 2ND VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

A. Selection of I-REN Executive Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair Positions for Fiscal Year 2024/2025

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Bishop
SECONDER:	Ruiz
AYES:	Ortiz, Bishop, Casillas, Ruiz

Action:

1. Selected Oscar Ortiz, CVAG Representative, as Chair; Art Bishop, Town of Apple Valley as Vice-

Chair; and Jacque Casillas, City of Corona as 2nd Vice-Chair.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Oscar Ortiz continued the meeting. There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Ruiz
SECONDER:	Casillas
AYES:	Ortiz, Bishop, Casillas, Ruiz

A. Action Minutes from the April 16, 2024, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Action Minutes from the April 16, 2024, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

B. Approval of I-REN Executive Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025

Action:

1. Approved the schedule of I-REN Executive Committee meetings for 2025.

C. I-REN Regulatory and Reporting Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. I-REN Public Sector Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. I-REN Fellowship Activities Update

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Ruiz
SECONDER:	Casillas
AYES:	Ortiz, Bishop, Casillas, Ruiz

Actions:

1. Directed staff to reach out to the tribes, water districts, and community colleges.
2. Directed staff to allow the expansion of eligible Public Sector agencies' participation to non-City / County agencies in the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program.

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Ortiz reported that he is excited to see the progress of I-REN and thanked staff and partners for their great work.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Casey Dailey stated that the October meeting will consist of an in-depth update on the Public Sector, diving into the progress of the Cash for Kilowatts Program. There will also be contracts for Education & Outreach to help support field activities, and possible Memorandums of Understanding.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member Ruiz thanked the Committee for their work and is excited to see projects coming to fruition, and congratulated staff for their excellent work.

Committee member Bishop stated that I-REN needs to start looking at the next round of funding. Mr. Dailey stated that the new business plan will begin development in 2025 to be submitted for approval in February of 2027 to be funded from 2028 through 2032.

Chair Ortiz stated that the City of Indio is looking into starting a residential solar program through the Department of Energy using its low-interest loans.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., in WRCOG's office located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN Regulatory and Reporting Activities Update

Contact: David Freedman, CVAG Energy & Sustainability Program Manager,
dfreedman@cvag.org, (760) 346-1127

Date: October 15, 2024

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, is a party in various California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings, including Energy Efficiency, REN Business Plan Applications, CalChoice Petition for Modification, Integrated Distributed Energy Resources, and Clean Energy Financing Options. I-REN is also monitoring other proceedings including CPUC Building Decarbonization, CPUC Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), California Energy Commission (CEC) 2025 Energy Code and Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen) rulemakings, and CEC Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Program. By participating in and monitoring CPUC and CEC proceedings, I-REN stays up to date on relevant regulatory events impacting I-REN.

Discussion:

Background

On November 18, 2021, the CPUC formally approved the I-REN Business Plan through program year 2027. As presented to the Executive Committee at its March 21, 2023, meeting, WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, is party to several relevant CPUC proceedings, as required by the CPUC when it approved I-REN's Business Plan in November 2021. In these proceedings, I-REN provides feedback to the CPUC on the matters under consideration in the proceeding and serves as a voice for the member agencies and stakeholders in I-REN's region. In addition, I-REN staff monitors CPUC and California Energy Commission proceedings that I-REN is not a party to but that could affect I-REN. Finally, I-REN is required to provide periodic reporting to the CPUC.

Also at its March 21, 2023, meeting, the I-REN Executive Committee authorized WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, to provide comments on CPUC proceedings that I-REN is a party to, when the required deadline to provide comments does not allow sufficient time for presentation to the I-REN Executive Committee and report the comments at the next meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee.

Present Situation

Attachment 1 to this Staff Report provides an overview of I-REN's regulatory proceedings, summarizing developments in the proceedings to which WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, is a party, as well as the proceedings that I-REN is monitoring that have taken place since the Regulatory and Reporting Activities Update included in the agenda packet for the Executive Committee meeting of April 16, 2024.

Attachment 1 also mentions the comment letters WRCOG recently filed with the CPUC on behalf of I-REN with regard to the Energy Efficiency and SGIP proceedings and with the CEC regarding the 2025 Energy Code and CalGreen rulemakings. The table in Attachment 2 to this Staff Report illustrates the various reports that I-REN must file with the CPUC throughout the year.

Prior Action(s):

July 16, 2024: The Executive Committee received and filed.

Financial Summary:

All costs associated with regulatory monitoring and reporting are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Agency Budget under I-REN Program (Fund 180) in the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - I-REN Regulatory Proceedings Overview](#)

[Attachment 2 - I-REN Required CPUC Reporting](#)

Attachment

I-REN Regulatory Proceedings Overview

I-REN Regulatory Proceedings Overview

I. Proceedings to Which WRCOG on Behalf of I-REN Is a Party

A. CPUC EE Proceeding [\(R.13-11-005\)](#)

1. Proceeding Overview

This proceeding provides a venue for policy changes and regulatory oversight by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) associated with the energy efficiency (EE) programs of the large investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities (IOUs), community choice aggregators (CCAs), and regional energy networks (RENs). This includes how Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) and other RENs are funded and evaluated.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- I-REN has championed the concept of an Inland REN made up of local governments to help expand equity and EE in the region, and the important role of local government program administrators (PAs).
- The Inland Empire region faces significant challenges, with vast territory and demographics that I-REN's geography represents, and large tracts of disadvantaged communities and income levels that are significantly below the statewide average.
- I-REN shares the CPUC's urgency regarding the need to focus on disadvantaged and underserved populations.
- Access to customer data is a crucial component of successful program implementation, and therefore I-REN supports data sharing between IOUs and RENs and their agents.

3. Status Update

August 7, 2024 – The CPUC issued [Decision 24-08-003](#) approving the application of a new energy efficiency portfolio administrator, San Diego Regional Energy Network. San Diego Community Power, a CCA serving the City of San Diego, six other cities in San Diego County and unincorporated San Diego County will serve as portfolio administrator on behalf of San Diego Regional Energy Network. WRCOG filed comments in support of San Diego Regional Energy Network.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

- 1st Quarter 2024 and ongoing – 2024-2027 Portfolio Oversight

B. CPUC REN Business Plan Applications ([A.22-02-005 et al.](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

The scope of this proceeding is to evaluate the reasonableness of the 2024-2027 portfolio proposals and the 2024-2031 business plan proposals by PAs, including IOUs, two CCAs and RENs. This includes analyzing the reasonableness of the programmatic aspects of the proposals, as well as the budgets, savings estimates, and cost-effectiveness and total system benefit calculations.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- I-REN's business plan was approved in Decision (D.) 21-11-013, so it is not required to submit a business plan in this proceeding.
- The REN evaluation framework established in this proceeding may have implications for I-REN's current portfolio and will determine how I-REN will be evaluated when it applies for CPUC approval of its next business plan for the period beginning 2028.

3. Status Update

- March 14, 2024 – WRCOG filed with the CPUC I-REN's Advice Letter on providing technical support to I-REN member agencies for integrated demand-side management (IDSM). The Advice Letter is still pending.
- August 21, 2024 – The CPUC issued a [Proposed Decision](#) modifying the Rural Regional Energy Network (R-REN) approved in D. 23-06-055, which was designed to delivery energy efficiency programs to underserved rural customers, by splitting it into two regional energy networks (RENs) serving different geographic areas. R-REN-North will serve the North Coast and Northern Sierra regions, while R-REN-Central will serve the Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley regions.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

September 26, 2024 – The CPUC adopted the Proposed Decision on R-Ren at its Voting Meeting.

C. CPUC Integrated Distributed Energy Resources Proceeding ([R.22-11-013](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

The CPUC opened this rulemaking to achieve consistency of cost effectiveness assessments, improve data collection and use, and consider equipment performance standards for Distributed Energy Resource (DER) customer programs. This rulemaking serves as a procedural framework for advancing the vision articulated in the customer programs track of the DER Action Plan recently adopted by the CPUC.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- Whether to adopt the Societal Cost Test (SCT) outlined in the Decision issued on July 15, 2024, referred to below.
- Continuing to improve the DER cost-effectiveness process.
- Taking part in the Data Working Group activities, including recommending goals and objectives for expanded use of available data; developing recommendations regarding data sharing, access, and use; developing recommendations regarding data collection and reporting tools; and developing recommendations for data collection in support of equity programs.

3. Status Update

July 15, 2024 – The CPUC issued [D.24-07-015](#) that adopts the SCT as an additional test for the CPUC to consider when evaluating the cost-effectiveness of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) programs, and adopts the four required inputs in the SCT.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

None scheduled. The CPUC canceled the previously scheduled Data Working Group meetings based on stakeholder comments expressing concerns over the ambitious cadence of the original meeting schedule. The meeting facilitator will be sending a revised meeting schedule soon.

D. CPUC Clean Energy Financing Options Proceeding ([R.20-08-022](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

Provides a venue for investigating and designing mechanisms that can help customers finance all the energy investments (EE/DER/demand response) they might wish to make on their properties without artificial barriers, such as those caused by regulatory rules related to funding source. The CPUC proposes to build a cohesive and comprehensive strategy for helping customers finance energy improvements to their homes and buildings across various DERs.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- This proceeding is an opportunity for I-REN to continue to stay involved with the financing options that are being discussed and align its programming with those options.
- I-REN's portfolio includes commercial and financing programs. The issues in this proceeding touch on I-REN's role as a PA with a robust EE portfolio as well as a collaboration of local governments responsible for helping to meet state and local goals. The availability of financing options plays a critical role in the success of meeting these goals.

3. Status Update

- May 14, 2024 – Tariff On-Bill (TOB) Working Group consisting of the four large IOUs and CCA Silicon Valley Clean Energy submitted its Joint TOB Proposal to the CPUC. The Joint TOB Proposal is for two-year pilot programs to test the viability and the efficacy of the TOB model in California to install a variety of clean energy equipment upgrades in customer homes to help achieve California’s clean energy goals.
- May 29, 2024 – Several equity stakeholders filed a motion requesting that the CPUC provide direction for parties and stakeholders on how to appropriately develop a record and provide information to allow for proper consideration of the Joint TOB Proposal.
- June 13, 2024 – The IOUs filed an opposition to the motion.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

None scheduled.

E. CPUC Transportation Electrification Policy and Infrastructure Proceeding ([R. 23-12-008](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

This rulemaking continues the CPUC’s oversight of the development of infrastructure to support the acceleration of transportation electrification. This rulemaking also establishes a venue for considering future transportation electrification policy matters. This proceeding may consider the development of rates if a substantial need arises.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- Issues related to transportation electrification are critically important to the I-REN partner agencies and their communities and intersect with I-REN’s work in EE and IDSM as well as its commitments as a REN to equity and market support.
- The I-REN service territory covers over 27,000 square miles – an area nearly the size of South Carolina. The region has some of the worst smog in California, contributing to health impacts and poor air quality due to geography, the long distances that must be traveled by road, the high concentration of warehouses, and other factors. I-REN, as a local government coalition, has a mission to equitably serve its outlying communities, and this was a major impetus for the submittal of I-REN’s EE Business Plan.
- WRCOG, as lead administrator for I-REN, has a particular interest in issues related to vehicle-grid integration policy, planning, technology enablement, and vehicle support of grid needs; and deployment of behind-the-meter charging infrastructure to support statewide charging infrastructure goals. This correlates directly to I-REN’s proposed IDSM services in support of distributed energy resources (such as vehicle-to-grid) that enable load shifting in combination with EE.

3. Status Update

- April 12, 2024 – Assigned Commissioner’s Scoping Memo and Ruling. The proceeding will cover the following issues:
 - Proactive planning to accelerate transportation electrification
 - Refocusing ratepayer support in transportation electrification framework
 - Vehicle-Grid Integration
 - Low Carbon Fuel Standard
 - Timely energization of vehicle charging
- June 3 , 2024 – Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling initiating Track 1 and inviting party comment on whether the CPUC should pause implementation of the state’s Transportation Electrification Rebate Program.
- July 2, 2024 – Opening comments due on ALJ Ruling.
- July 18, 2024 – Reply comments due on ALJ Ruling.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

None scheduled.

F. CPUC Building Decarbonization Proceeding [\(R.19-01-011\)](#)

1. Proceeding Overview

On January 31, 2019, pursuant to SB 1477, the CPUC initiated this rulemaking to support the decarbonization of buildings in California. The proceeding is designed to be inclusive of any alternatives that could lead to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use in buildings [related]... to the State’s goals of reducing economy-wide GHG emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 or sooner.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- Ensure coordination of I-REN programs with state building decarbonization policies.
- Southern California Edison (SCE) is the contracting agent for the Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative, and Frontier, I-REN’s Codes & Standards program implementer, is part of the TECH Initiative implementation team.

3. Status Update

- July 1, 2024 – Assigned Commissioner’s Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling opens and sets forth the scope for Phase 4 of this proceeding to further fulfill the goals set out in Rulemaking (R.) 19-01-011. In particular, Phase 4 will consider: (1) whether further modifications to electric line extension rules to assist under-resourced customers

should be adopted, and ways to prevent unnecessary service line upsizing (i.e., upsizing in cases where a viable alternative to upsizing exists); (2) electric baseline allowance modifications that will help encourage building decarbonization; and (3) new programmatic approaches to building decarbonization, including voluntary zonal building decarbonization pilots and opportunities, and setting an action plan to scale building decarbonization consistent with California's climate and equity goals. This amended Scoping Memo and Ruling directs the parties to serve and file comments on the questions set forth in Attachment A.

- July 17, 2024 – WRCOG on behalf of I-REN filed a motion for party status in the proceeding, which the CPUC granted on August 7, 2024.
- July 18, 2024 – ALJ Ruling requesting parties to file comments by August 7, 2024, on the attached Staff Proposal providing Energy Division Staff's recommendations for preventing unnecessary main electrical service panel and service line upsizing.
- August 7, 2024 – WRCOG on behalf of I-REN filed comments on the Assigned Commissioner's Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling. I-REN recommended that the CPUC develop a voluntary zonal decarbonization pilot program and implement it at in at least one site in each REN, such as the Inland Empire region I-REN serves. I-REN also recommended that to whatever extent feasible, RENs and CCAs and local and tribal governments, should be afforded the opportunity to implement these pilot projects if they so choose.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

- 3rd Quarter 2024 – Phase 4 Track A Considerations
- 4th Quarter 2024 – Phase 4 Track B Staff Proposal
- 4th Quarter 2024 – Phase 4 Track C Staff Proposal
- 2nd Quarter 2025 – Proposed Decision on Phase 4 Track B Considerations
- 2nd Quarter 2025 Proposed Decision on Phase 4 Track C Considerations

G. CPUC Public Advocates Office Demand Side Petition ([P. 24-03-013](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

On March 18, 2024, the Public Advocate's Office at the CPUC (Cal Advocates) filed a petition to open a rulemaking (PFR) to align demand side program designs and budgets with California's current electrification, decarbonization, equity, and reliability goals. These demand side programs include energy efficiency, low-income energy efficiency via the Energy Savings Assistance program, demand response, self-generation, net metering, and storage.

2. Key I-REN Issues

The PFR was intended to combine various CPUC proceedings and relitigate equity (and REN) program budgets, in parallel with its efforts in Sacramento to defund energy efficiency programs. The PFR proposes heightened scrutiny on RENs, equity programs and performance metrics.

3. Status Update

- April 5, 2024 – WRCOG on behalf of I-REN, BayREN and 3C-REN file a joint response to the PFR, citing the prior litigation of REN budgets and the CPUC's clear disagreement with Cal Advocates' insistence on REN budget proportionality. In April 2024, I-REN joined with 3C-REN and BayREN to submit a response to the petition and reply to responses, defending REN and equity programs' value.
- September 13, 2024 – The CPUC issued a Proposed Decision denying the PFR. The Proposed Decision finds that the PFR is too broad, doesn't state the relief requested, is duplicative of other proceedings, and fails to adhere to the CPUC's Rules of Practice and Procedure regarding PFR's. The Proposed Decision notes various areas that proceedings may consider in the future:
 - How the results from ongoing pilots could inform the Equity Segment, as well as potential further synergies between programs that serve low-income customers.
 - Enhanced ways to value and assess the energy efficiency portfolio at the program and/or portfolio level.
 - Ways to further grow fuel substitution within the EE portfolios, including by exploring barriers that may exist in today's EE portfolios.
 - How to better coordinate between CPUC programs to ensure customer ease in participation and cost savings through efficiencies.
- October 3, 2024 – WRCOG on behalf of I-REN, BayREN and 3C-REN filed a joint response to the Proposed Decision. The response supports the Proposed Decision generally and offers REN-focused input on the potential future topics noted by the CPUC in the Proposed Decision.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

- October 8, 2024 – Deadline to submit reply comments on the Proposed Decision.
- October 14, 2024 – Earliest date for CPUC adoption of the Proposed Decision.

II. Proceedings That I-REN Is Monitoring

A. CPUC Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) Proceeding [\(R. 20-05-012\)](#)

1. Proceeding Overview

The SGIP was established in 2001 and provides financial incentives for the installation of eligible behind-the-meter distributed generation and energy storage technologies that meet all or a portion of a customer's electricity needs, including heat pump water heaters (HPWH). The proceeding helps define those technologies, incentives, and rules.

2. Key I-REN Issues

Ensure coordination of I-REN programs with SGIP and improving participation of tribal customers in SGIP.

3. Status Update

No recent filings relevant to I-REN.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

None pending.

B. CPUC Microgrids Proceeding [\(R.19-09-009\)](#)

1. Proceeding Overview

On September 19, 2019, the CPUC initiated an Order Instituting Rulemaking to begin crafting a policy framework surrounding the commercialization of microgrids. This rulemaking focuses on implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 1339. SB 1339 requires the CPUC, in consultation with the CEC and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), to take specific actions to facilitate the commercialization of microgrids for distribution customers of the IOUs. Components of microgrid commercialization are set by SB 1339, and must include: (1) rates, tariffs, and rules, as necessary; that (2) remove barriers for deploying microgrids across the large IOU service territories; (3) without shifting costs onto non-benefiting customers; and (4) prioritizing and ensuring worker, public, and the electric system's safety and reliability.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- In its Business Plan, I-REN envisioned providing technical assistance support to local jurisdictions in its region through climate resiliency projects such as battery storage systems and microgrids. While not applicable to I-REN's current plans for IDSM integration in its portfolio, I-REN is well-positioned to coordinate as needed across other DER

proceedings if and when applicable to its portfolio; I-REN is party to and/or monitors numerous CPUC proceedings relevant to IDSM, including but not limited to the microgrids proceeding.

- WRCOG is launching the Energy Resilience Plan (ERP) 2.0 to explore the feasibility of microgrids at key facilities and community resilience centers. The plan, which begins by identifying potential sites for microgrids and resilience centers, seeks to enhance infrastructure and community resilience while aligning member agencies with California's climate goals through strategic project development. WRCOG has received a grant of \$421,000 under the Governor's Office of Planning & Research Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Adaptation Planning Grant Program to further develop the ERP 2.0.

3. Status Update

On September 17, 2024, the CPUC issued a Proposed Decision rejecting microgrid tariff proposals submitted by industry and stakeholder groups and directing the IOUs to submit implementing tariffs based on PG&E's Community Microgrid Enablement Tariff, with certain modifications for each IOU. If adopted, the Proposed Decision is not likely to support large scale deployment of microgrids.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

- October 7, 2024 – Deadline to submit comments on the Proposed Decision.
- October 14, 2024 – Deadline to submit reply comments on the Proposed Decision.
- October 14, 2024 – Earliest date for CPUC adoption of the Proposed Decision.

C. CEC 2025 California Energy Code Rulemaking ([24-BSTD-01](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

This specific docket is intended to record public engagement in rulemaking activities for the 2025 revisions to Parts 1 and 6 of the California Energy Code.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- Energy Code enforcement has historically been difficult for local jurisdictions, particularly smaller communities with fewer resources.
- Track and provide information on California Energy Code.
- Perform updates to training curriculums to reflect adopted changes to California Energy Code.

3. Status Update

- March 28, 2024 – CEC published 2025 Energy Code 45-day language and Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for the 2025 Energy Code.
- April 16 - 18, 2024 – Lead Commissioner Hearings on 2025 Energy Code.
- May 13, 2024 – Deadline to submit comments on the 45-day language. WRCOG on behalf of I-REN filed comments generally supportive of the 2025 Energy Code.
- June 13, 2024 – CEC published 2025 Energy Code 15-day language.
- June 28, 2024 – Deadline to submit comments on the 15-day language. WRCOG on behalf of I-REN filed comments seeking clarification on the language around exceptions to the solar heat gain coefficient for fenestration relevant to Climate Zone 15 (CVAG territory).
- September 11, 2024 – Adoption of 2025 Energy Code at CEC Business Meeting

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

- December 17 - 19, 2024 – Building Standards Commission approval of 2025 Energy Code.
- January 1, 2026 – 2025 Energy Code effective date.

D. CEC 2025 California Green Building Standards Code Rulemaking ([24-BSTD-02](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

The CEC proposes to update the voluntary energy efficiency provisions of the California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen). The proposed changes for CalGreen are amendments to example or model code language that are intended as templates and examples for local jurisdictions to use in considering above-code ordinances; the proposed changes do not have regulatory effect as local jurisdictions are not compelled to use or follow these examples.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- CalGreen contains model language that jurisdictions in I-REN's area can use to adopt voluntary reach codes that exceed the Energy Code requirements.
- The measure requiring a heat pump when replacing air conditioning systems in existing single-family homes is not cost-effective in Climate Zone 15 (CVAG territory). I-REN requests the CEC to provide technical assistance to jurisdictions in Climate Zone 15 so they can consider additional savings in their cost-effective analysis.

3. Status Update

- May 17, 2024 – CEC published 2025 CalGreen 45-day language and Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for the 2025 CalGreen.
- June 5, 2024 – Lead Commissioner Hearings on 2025 CalGreen.
- July 1, 2024 – Deadline to submit comments on the 45-day language. WRCOG on behalf of I-REN filed the comments generally supportive of the 2025 CalGreen.
- July – August 2024 – 15-day language comment period.
- September 11, 2024 – Adoption of 2025 CalGreen at CEC Business Meeting.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

- December 17 - 19, 2024 – Building Standards Commission approval of 2025 CalGreen.
- January 1, 2026 – 2025 CalGreen effective date.

E. CEC Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Program ([22-DECARB-03](#))

1. Proceeding Overview

AB 209 directed the CEC to develop the EBD Program. The EBD Program will include a direct install program for low- and moderate-income households, which is a type of program that provides and installs energy efficient electric appliances, EE measures, and related upgrades directly to consumers at minimal or no cost. The EBD Program will also include a statewide incentive program to accelerate deployment of low-carbon building technologies. The primary goals of the program are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance energy equity. The direct install program will include a statewide direct install program and a tribal direct install program. The program will be administered separately in Northern, Central, and Southern California to better ensure a broad distribution of funds. The recipients will implement the program in their awarded region to install energy-efficient electric appliances, energy efficiency measures, and related upgrades directly to low-income households living in single-family, multifamily, and manufactured homes in underresourced communities. The state allocated approximately \$700 million for the EBD Program, of which approximately \$329 million was allocated to Southern California. The proposed award amounts include both state and federal funds, and are contingent upon future state budget allocations and approval of federal funding.

2. Key I-REN Issues

- SoCalREN has been designated the PA for the entire Southern California area, which includes I-REN's region. I-REN and SoCal REN staff have begun preliminary discussions about I-REN's participation
- I-REN's Business Plan does not include a residential sector. However, I-REN's member agencies have asked for programs to serve their

residents. The EBD Program is statewide, so it will be available in the Inland Empire.

- Through its Workforce Education & Training sector, I-REN will be working closely with contractors who provide decarbonization services within the residential sector in the Inland Empire. WE&T resources will be provided to develop local skilled workers.

3. Status Update

- April 30, 2024 – The CEC released a grant funding opportunity to select three regional administrators to implement the EBD Direct Install Program and issued the EBD Direct Install Solicitation Manual, Scope of Work and Federal Terms and Conditions issued. The solicitation notes the CEC’s application to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to incorporate funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) Program into the EBD Direct Install Program. This Solicitation may also provide recipients with federal HOMES funding for EBD Direct Install Program implementation, in addition to state funding. Projects and program activities supported by HOMES funding will be required to comply with the HOMES Program Guidance, CEC’s forthcoming application to DOE, and Federal Award Terms and Conditions.
- June 28, 2024 – Deadline to Submit Proposals. The CEC received seven proposals by the due date, June 28, 2024. The proposals were screened, reviewed, evaluated, and scored according to the evaluation criteria listed in the Solicitation Manual. All seven proposals passed the stage one application screening.
- August 7, 2024 – Notice of Proposed Award Posting Date. SoCalREN has been designated the PA for the entire Southern California area and was allocated approximately \$329 million.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

- December 11, 2024 – CEC Business Meeting approving awards.
- 2025 – PA ramp-up and direct install program roll-out in initial communities.

F. CEC IRA Residential Energy Rebate Programs [23-DECARB-01](#)

1. Proceeding Overview

The IRA provides \$391 billion nationwide to support clean energy and address climate change, including \$4.3 billion designated for the HOMES Program. California will be allocated \$292 million in HOMES funding to support whole home energy retrofits. The CEC is planning on incorporating or “braiding” HOMES funding with the EBD Program discussed above to realize administrative efficiencies, thus allowing more funding to go towards decarbonization activities that benefit Californians. If braiding the programs is not feasible, and the CEC needs to develop a separate whole house

decarbonization program to meet federal rules, the CEC would like input as to program design.

2. Key I-REN Issues

See above re EBD Program.

3. Status Update

No recent developments.

4. Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings

None pending.

Attachment

I-REN Required CPUC Reporting

I-REN Required CPUC Reporting for February 2024 – February 2025

Report Type	Due Date	Content	Status
Monthly Report	Due 30 days after last day of month	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	In progress.
2023 Q4 Claims	3/1/2024	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q4.	Filed.
Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSMD) Advice Letter (Tier 3)	3/15/2024	NEW for 2024. D.23-06-055 COL 41 allows PAs to set aside up to \$4M or 2.5% of budget for ongoing load shifting that reduces peak consumption and is not event-based. IDSMD programs to be launched during 2024-2027 are to be submitted in an advice letter.	Submitted, disposition forthcoming from ED.
2023 Annual Report	4/15/2024	Narrative and spreadsheet format report on overall Portfolio performance and Program level accomplishments.	Filed.
2023 Annual Claims True up	4/15/2024	Yearly report which sums up all Quarterly reports; opportunity for PAs to true up/reconcile any errors in reporting from previous quarters and/or monthly reports.	Filed.
2023 Annual Monthly Report	4/18/2024	"Month 13" report to align savings and expenditures with annual claim true up and annual report.	Filed.
2024-2025 Joint Cooperation Memorandum (JCM)	4/7/2024	Memo describing coordination among overlapping PAs on similar programs. NEW per D.23-06-055 Ordering Paragraph ("OP") 35: JCM now covers two years, is submitted via CEDARS, and deadline is based on TUAL approval date	Filed.

Annual Report Overview Presentation to CAEECC	5/14/2024 & 5/15/2024	NEW for 2024. Per D.23-06-055 at 27, PAs are required to provide a high-level overview of Annual Report near the time it is filed.	Completed.
Joint PAs' Metrics Advice Letter (Tier 2)	5/1/2024	NEW for 2024. Per D.23-06-055 OP 11, Joint PAs are to submit an advice letter clarifying equity and market support indicators adopted in this decision, modifying any common metrics/indicators adopted in Decision 18-05-041, and identifying any baseline info/methodologies for future targets.	Submitted, disposition forthcoming from ED.
2024 Q1 Claims	7/1/2024 9/16/2024	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q1.	Filed.
Joint PAs' AKAB Surveys Advice Letter (Tier 2)	8/1/2024 12/29/2024 latest	NEW for 2024. Per D.23-06-055 OP 25, Joint PAs will select PA to lead awareness, knowledge, attitude, and behavior [AKAB] study/surveys to inform baselines, target setting, and goals for the market support and equity segments. Lead PA shall submit advice letter describing study/survey plans.	Suspended by Commission for further deliberation.
Joint PAs' Similar Programs Advice Letter (Tier 2)	8/30/2024 10/1/2024	NEW for 2024. Per D.23-06-055 OP 32, Joint PAs are to submit an advice letter to provide information on substantively similar programs, and steps to mitigate/minimize ratepayer risk of program overlap and duplication.	In progress.
2024 Q2 Claims	9/16/2024	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q2.	Filed.

Program Segmentation Justification	9/13/2024	NEW for 2024. Per D.23-06-055 OP 21, PAs are to submit a Program Segmentation Justification spreadsheet (Attachment A to decision) to CEDARS	Filed.
Semi-Annual Progress Update to CAEECC	10/28/2024	NEW for 2024. Per D.23-06-055 at 27, PAs are required to provide semiannual data-driven updates on EE portfolio progress at the CAEECC, including an update on progress, approximately 6 months after the Annual Report filing.	
2024 Q3 Claims	12/6/2024	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q3.	
2024 Q4 Claims	3/3/2025	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q4.	
Abbreviations: ALJ = Administrative Law Judge; D = Decision; CEDARS = California Energy Data and Reporting System; CPUC = California Public Utilities Commission; FE: Frontier Energy; JCM = Joint Cooperation Memorandum; PII = personally identifiable information; PL = program lead; PA = program administrator; Q = quarter of the year; SFTP = Secure File Transfer Protocol; YTD = year to date			



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN Energy Fellowship Program Agreement
Contact: Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, tmasters@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6732
Date: October 15, 2024

Recommended Action(s):

1. Authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to enter into an Agreement with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 Fellows within the I-REN service territory for program services years through 2027.

Summary:

The I-REN Energy Fellowship, launched in March 2023 in partnership with CivicSpark, placing 11 Fellows in public agencies to support energy efficiency projects across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. In its second program year, starting in September 2024, 14 fellows were placed with public sector agencies to continue advancing energy initiatives, with program administration now under the Public Health Institute.

Discussion:

Background

In November 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission approved the I-REN Business Plan with a budget of \$65M for program years 2022 - 2027. The I-REN Business Plan included multiple goals across three program sectors that were developed based on input from stakeholders within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since 2019.

One of these program sectors identified within I-REN services territory is Workforce, Education & Training (WE&T). Total budget for the WE&T Sector through 2027 is \$15.1M. The goal of this Sector is to ensure there is a trained workforce to support and realize energy efficiency savings goals across all sectors. I-REN is uniquely positioned to effectively support these initiatives through the direct connections to local governments and stakeholders that I-REN and its Council of Government member agencies have with the communities within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The intent of this Sector is not to duplicate initiatives already under delivery by Investor-Owned Utilities or various workforce organizations, but to supplement and tailor programs to fill gaps with a focus on enhancing energy and energy efficiency knowledge and understanding.

On March 21, 2023, the I-REN Executive Committee received an introduction to the I-REN Energy Fellowship, a strategy approved in the I-REN Business Plan, and authorized staff to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark, an Americorp funded fellowship program housed within CivicWell, to support the development and implementation of an I-REN Energy Fellowship. The Committee authorized a budget of up to \$837,000 annually to cover the fellowship stipend and administrative costs of supporting up to 27 Fellows to work on I-REN public agencies energy initiatives.

Participation in an existing fellowship structure is a way to keep the costs of this Program stable. CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps Program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address energy, climate change, community resilience issues, water resource management, housing, and mobility. CivicSpark deploys over 100 Fellows per year. CivicSpark will also support host agencies and I-REN by providing these Fellows with professional growth opportunities and trainings on energy and climate resources that can be utilized by the host agency and I-REN.

Present Situation

I-REN provides public agencies with an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of Energy Efficiency Projects in the Inland Empire. In March 2023, I-REN launched one of its first WE&T programs, the I-REN Energy Fellowship, intended to increase energy efficiency knowledge capacity within public sector agencies. The I-REN Energy Fellows Program is a partnership with CivicSpark with a goal to place up to 27 Fellows directly with public agencies in the Inland Empire. The I-REN Energy Fellows are placed with a participating host member agency for 11 months at no cost to public agencies, to provide capacity and support on important energy initiatives. Fellow requirements include a minimum of an associate degree from an accredited college or university, commitment to the full term of service, ability to work in a professional environment, and strong communication and teamwork skills.

Each Fellow will provide approximately 1,700 hours of work over the 11 months with their host agency, of which 300 - 400 hours will be for professional growth and learning opportunities provided by CivicSpark, I-REN, and/or the host agency. The remaining 1,300 - 1,400 hours will be dedicated to energy projects within the host agency, furthering the host agency and I-REN energy initiatives.

2023/2024 I-REN Fellowship cycle: In its first cycle, I-REN placed a total of 11 Fellows throughout all three I-REN COG partner member agencies. Participating I-REN member and host sites include the Cities of Beaumont, Canyon Lake, Chino Hills, Corona, Grand Terrace, Norco, Ontario, Palm Springs, Perris, Rancho Cucamonga, and San Bernardino.

2024/2025 I-REN Fellowship cycle: The second program service year for the I-REN Fellowship started the week of September 23, 2024. I-REN provided outreach at over 40 local university, community college, and community fairs, resulting in nearly 50 interested job seekers applying for the I-REN and CivicSpark fellowship. After having the opportunity to evaluate and interview applicants, I-REN public agency site hosts were able to place 14 Fellows at their sites for the next 11-months to support each agency with their energy initiatives. The participating I-REN public sector agencies this first program cycle includes the Cities of Corona, Chino Hills, Norco, Ontario, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, and Riverside, as well as the Town of Apple Valley, the County of Riverside, San Bernardino Community College District, CVAG, and WRCOG.

In the initial 2023/2024 year the CivicSpark Program was hosted under the CivicWell agency. In 2024, to support the growth of CivicSpark into multiple states, it transitioned into Public Health Institute (PHI), one

of the largest public health organizations in the country, whose climate change, leadership development, and fellowship opportunities align with that of CivicSpark. At PHI, CivicSpark will be supported by a strong operational infrastructure to deepen its outreach, engagement, and impact, and CivicSpark Fellows will join a community of professionals working on climate change and other public health issues.

I-REN has been working with CivicSpark staff to understand if this transition has any impact on the program and I-REN participation in it. The operational and contractual terms have remained consistent to what they have been in the previous years, and as such, staff recommend that the Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark, now under PHI, to continue support and deployment of the I-REN Energy Fellowship.

Prior Action(s):

March 21, 2023: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 Fellows within the I-REN service territory in the fall of 2023.

Financial Summary:

All costs associated with the development of an I-REN Energy-Efficiency Fellowship Program are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Agency Budget under the I-REN (Fund 180) in the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - IREN-PHI-CivicSpark 24-27 Service Term Agreement](#)

CivicSpark 2024-27 Service Term Agreement

This contract template is for our **California, Colorado, and Washington partners**.

Use of this contract template is optional. If your agency has a template of your own you'd prefer to use, please go ahead and do so, **just make sure that items noted in this template are incorporated**.

If using this template and adding in some of your own language or making updates, please **use track changes** to aid the CivicSpark team's review.

Instructions

1. Add information in all yellow highlighted sections and any other language you need using track changes.
 - a. Comments are for guidance only and should be deleted before final execution.
2. Send the document to the appropriate CivicSpark contract reviewer to confirm the changes are acceptable by our team and to note any additional items.
 - a. *Please do NOT have your team sign until CivicSpark has had a chance to review the agreement.*
3. CivicSpark staff will return the document to you if any other items are needed or once it's ready to go to signing.
4. After the initial CivicSpark review, remove these instructions, highlighting, and guidance comments (select 'delete all comments') to finalize the document.

Tips for editing:

- Click Review > Tracking > Click 'Track Changes' and choose 'All Markup' to view helpful explanations, relevant guidance, and steps needed to update properly.
- Hover over explanations to see the full text.
- **Be sure to turn on Track Changes for any of your agency edits.** CivicSpark staff will then review and accept the changes and return to you.

**AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES OF
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**
BETWEEN
FUNDER NAME
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

THIS AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made and entered into as of [REDACTED] (“Effective Date”) by and between the Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency (“Partner”) and the Public Health Institute (“PHI”), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.

RECITALS

- A. The Public Health Institute administers the CivicSpark program as part of the federal AmeriCorps program. PHI provides capacity building services to local organizations through project implementation activities performed by AmeriCorps Members (“CivicSpark Fellows” or “Fellows”). Fellows can only work on contracted and allowable service activities. CivicSpark will provide this service to the Partner by conducting assessments, implementing planning or action projects, engaging volunteers, and transferring knowledge to Partner’s staff.
- B. Partner desires to engage PHI to provide certain services through the CivicSpark program. PHI desires to provide those services and to be compensated accordingly.
- C. Partner and PHI enter into this Agreement, for service years 2024/2025, 2025/2026, and 2026/2027, in order to memorialize the terms concerning PHI performance of the services and Partner’s obligations with respect thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual agreements set forth herein, Partner and PHI hereby covenant and agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

- 1. **PHI’s Scope of Services.** During the term of this Agreement, PHI agrees to perform the services described in Exhibit B - Scope of Services, (“Services”) attached hereto and incorporated herein. The project for which the services are provided must align with the performance measures and may not involve any of the prohibited activities set forth in Exhibit A – Contracted Performance Measures and Prohibited Activities attached hereto and incorporated herein.
- 2. **Partner’s Responsibilities.** During the term of this Agreement, Partner agrees to perform the responsibilities and roles as described in Exhibit C – Partner Responsibilities, attached hereto and incorporated herein, as such responsibilities and roles relate to Partner’s participation in the CivicSpark program.
- 3. **Compensation; Reimbursable Expenses.** For the Services provided by PHI under this Agreement,



AmeriCorps



Partner shall pay PHI the compensation set forth in Exhibit D - Compensation and Billing, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

4. Term. The term of this Agreement shall commence and PHI's duties and responsibilities under this Agreement shall begin as of the date first written above and shall continue, as agreed to in the timeline defined in Exhibit F - Term. This Agreement is subject to earlier termination as provided herein, until the services are complete and all compensation and reimbursable expenses are paid to PHI.

5. Termination. This Agreement may be terminated prior to the end of the Term upon the bankruptcy or insolvency of either party or upon 30 days' written notice by the terminating party to the non-terminating party.

If either party defaults in the performance of this Agreement or materially breaches any of its provisions, the non-breaching party may terminate the Agreement by giving written notice to the breaching party. Termination will take effect immediately on receipt of notice by the breaching party or five days after mailing of notice, whichever occurs first. For purposes of this provision, material breach of this Agreement includes, but is not limited to, the following: (a) Partner's failure to pay PHI any compensation due within 30 days after written demand for payment; (b) PHI's failure to perform the Services as provided in this Agreement, not including a Fellow unable to provide services for the full contract duration and a suitable replacement cannot be provided; (c) Partner offering employment to the Fellow that is substantially similar to their CivicSpark scope of work, with a start date prior to the service year-end date as described in Exhibit C(1)(j); or (d) either party's material breach of any representation or agreement contained in this Agreement.

6. Excuse of Performance. PHI's obligation to perform the services specified in this Agreement shall be excused if the performance is prevented or substantially delayed due to circumstances not caused, in whole or in part, by PHI, including any such circumstances caused by Partner.

7. Independent Contractor. It is the express intention of the parties that PHI is an independent contractor and not an employee, agent, joint venturer, or partner of Partner. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted or construed as creating or establishing a relationship of employer and employee between Partner and PHI or any employee or agent of PHI. Both parties acknowledge that PHI may retain the services of others to assist it but that such persons as Fellows and PHI's employees are not Partner employees for any purpose. PHI further agrees that it shall be exclusively responsible for payment of compensation and benefits to any Fellow and PHI employee it retains and shall be liable for all taxes required to be reported and remitted to appropriate tax authorities.

8. Insurance. PHI agrees to maintain: (1) commercial general liability insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000, written on an occurrence form basis and \$3,000,000 general aggregate, protecting it from claims for personal injury (including bodily injury and death) and property damage which may arise from or in connection with the performance of PHI's Services hereunder or from or out of any act or omission of PHI, its officers, directors, agents, subcontractors or employees; (2) professional liability insurance with minimum limits of \$2,000,000; (3) worker's compensation insurance as required by law; and (4) hired and non-owned auto insurance with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 for each accident. If requested, PHI shall provide a certificate of said insurance and an additional insured endorsement to



AmeriCorps



Partner within 10 days of the execution of this Agreement.

Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to Partner. At the option of PHI, either the insurer shall reduce or eliminate such deductibles or self-insured retentions with respect to Partner, its officers, officials, consultants, and volunteers, or PHI shall provide a financial guarantee for payment of losses and related investigations, claim administration, and defense expenses.

For any claims related to PHI's performance of the Services, PHI's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance with respect to Partner, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by Partner, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers shall be excess of PHI's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

Each insurance policy required by this Agreement shall contain a waiver of subrogation in favor of Partner. For each policy, coverage shall not be suspended, voiced, canceled, or reduced in limits except after thirty (30) days' prior written notice has been given to Partner by PHI, except that ten (10) days' prior written notice shall apply in the event of cancelation for nonpayment of premium.

Insurance shall be placed with insurers admitted in the State of California and with an A.M. Best rating of A:VII or higher.

9. Indemnification. To the extent limited by applicable law, each party to this Agreement ("Indemnitor") shall defend, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other party ("Indemnitee") and its directors, officers, agents, contractors, volunteers, and employees, from and against any and all liabilities and claims, including attorney's fees and other legal expenses, arising directly or indirectly from any act or failure by the Indemnitor of or in any way related to the Indemnitor's performance of this Agreement or representations made in this Agreement. The Indemnitor is not responsible for the acts or omissions of the Indemnitee and nothing herein shall be construed to require the Indemnitor to indemnify the Indemnitee for the acts or omissions of the Indemnitee. This provision shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

10. Ownership of Documents. Ownership of any designs, plans, maps, reports, specifications, drawings, and other information or items produced by PHI while performing Services under this Agreement will be assigned to and owned jointly by PHI and Partner. The original of all reports, memoranda, studies, plans, specifications, drawings, materials, exhibits, maps or other similar or related documents prepared by PHI in the performance of the Services for Partner shall be the joint property of PHI and Partner.

11. Notices. All legal notices or other communications required to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if: (1) personally delivered then on the date of personal delivery; (2), if mailed by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, then three (3) business days after mailing and shall be addressed as follows:

To PHI (if legal): Office of Chief Legal Counsel
Public Health Institute
555 12th Street, Suite 600

Oakland, CA 94607-4046

Any notices related to post-award management shall be in writing and sent via electronic mail. Notice will be deemed to have been given when sent by electronic mail upon the sender's receipt of acknowledgement from the intended recipient.

To PHI (if other) CivicSpark
Public Health Institute
CivicSparkContracts@phi.org

To Partner: Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental
Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) on behalf of
Inland Regional Network (I-REN)
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200,
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 405-6720
cdailey@wrcog.us

Either party may change its address by giving written notice thereof to the other party.

12. Attorneys' Fees. The party prevailing in any action at law or in equity necessary to enforce or interpret the terms of this Agreement shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and necessary disbursements in addition to any other relief to which that party may be entitled.

13. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without giving effect to principles of conflicts of laws. Any suit, action or legal proceeding arising out of this Agreement shall be submitted to a state or federal court sitting in Alameda County, California, which will have exclusive jurisdiction and venue over the dispute and to which jurisdiction the parties irrevocably submit.

14. Entire Agreement; Amendments. This Agreement contains all of the agreements of the parties hereto with respect to the matters contained herein and no prior or contemporaneous agreement or understanding, oral or written, pertaining to any such matters shall be effective for any purpose. No provision of this Agreement may be amended or added to except by an agreement in writing signed by the parties hereto or their respective successors in interest. In particular, neither party may vary the scope of services described in Exhibit B – Scope of Services or responsibilities in Exhibit C – Partner Responsibilities except as expressly agreed to in writing by the other party. The budgets for direct labor and expenses are based on the Services described in Exhibit B – Scope of Services and any modification may affect direct labor costs and project expenses and must be approved in writing by Partner

15. Headings. The headings of this Agreement are for purposes of reference only and shall not limit or define the meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.

16. Severability. If, for any reason, any provision or partial provision of this Agreement is held invalid,



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such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of such provision or any other provision of this Agreement not so held invalid, and each other provision, or portion thereof, shall, to the full extent consistent with law, continue in full force and effect.

17. Waiver. The waiver of any breach of any provision hereunder by any party hereto shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or subsequent breach hereunder.

18. Warranty of Authority. Each of the undersigned hereby warrants that he/she has authority on behalf of his or her principal to execute this Agreement and to bind such principal to the terms hereof.

19. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed by electronic or hard-copy signature and in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. The exchange of executed copies of this Agreement by facsimile, email or other electronic transmission will constitute effective execution and delivery of this Agreement for all purposes. Signatures of the parties transmitted by such methods will be treated in all respects as having the same effect as an original signature.

20. Match Funds Under Federal Award. PHI will be applying funding received under the Agreement to serve as a federal “Match” or “Cost Share” for a federally funded Award as described further in Exhibit A. Partner certifies that the source of funding used to fund this Agreement comply with Title 2 CFR § 200.306.

Dated as of the Effective Date set forth above.

PARTNER:

Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency

By _____
Dr. Kurt Wilson, Executive Director

Approved as to form:

By _____
WRCOG General Counsel
Best Best & Krieger



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Public Health Institute:

Public Health Institute, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation



By _____
Rebecca Silva, Vice President of Grants and Contracts

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Exhibit A

Contracted Performance Measures and Policies

PHI has contracted with AmeriCorps to implement CivicSpark as an AmeriCorps program. **Fellows can only work on service outlined in performance measures approved by AmeriCorps and must abide by Federal guidelines for AmeriCorps program implementation.** Performance measures define how CivicSpark will provide service to Partner by: conducting assessments; implementing planning, research or implementation projects; engaging volunteers; and transferring knowledge to Partner staff. The project scope in Exhibit B must align with the measures below:

- 1) Capacity Building for Local Public Organizations – Fellows’ direct service hours should be spent building capacity for local service recipients to address their relative needs with regard to specific issues (e.g., climate, water, housing etc.). Fellows will address these needs by assisting one or more local service recipients to develop or implement projects that they would otherwise not be able to complete. Capacity building will be delivered in 3 stages, including: (1) gap assessments; (2) research, planning, and implementation service projects; and (3) transition of knowledge.
- 2) Volunteer Engagement – All Fellows should have the opportunity to build further capacity by engaging, recruiting, and supporting volunteers. Volunteers may be engaged as either one-time volunteers (e.g., – volunteers to assist for a specific event such as Earth Day or service activities) or as on-going volunteers such as interns).
- 3) Training and Professional Development for Fellows – Fellows can spend up to 20% of their service year (340 of their 1700 total hours) on training. Training includes the one-week orientation at the start of the service year, mid-year gathering, continued monthly trainings, and professional development and networking opportunities. Training hours ensure that Fellows have the training and tools they need to succeed in their service work and to grow as professionals.

The majority of the work provided by CivicSpark to Partner via direct service only involves the first measure (Capacity Building). The second and third measures are predominantly met through training, service and professional development activities provided to the Fellows by PHI. Some activities that occur while working with local government beneficiaries or other project partners may be considered training and professional development, such as networking events and trainings conducted by or attended in partnership with Partner.

Prohibited Activities: Federal guidelines further restrict certain activities, which cannot be engaged in by CivicSpark Fellows or Supervisors while charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the CivicSpark program or AmeriCorps, this includes direct fundraising or grant writing which are not allowable activities in CivicSpark. **In addition to only working on contracted performance measure service activities, the following activities are prohibited** (see 45 CFR § 2520.65):

1. Attempting to influence legislation;
2. Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
3. Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
4. Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;



5. Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
6. Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
7. Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;
8. Providing a direct benefit to—
 - (1) A business organized for profit;
 - (2) A labor union;
 - (3) A partisan political organization;
 - (4) A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 except that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and
 - (5) An organization engaged in the religious activities described above, unless AmeriCorps assistance is not used to support those religious activities;
9. Conducting a voter registration drive or using AmeriCorps funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
10. Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and
11. Such other activities as AmeriCorps may prohibit.

Fellows, like other private citizens, **may** participate in the above listed activities **on their own time, at their own expense, and on their own initiative**. However, the AmeriCorps logo **must not** be worn while doing so.

Reasonable Accommodations: Per Federal Guidelines and PHI policies, the CivicSpark programs and activities must follow equal opportunity employment requirements and be accessible to persons with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodation. In support of this:

1. PHI and Partner will comply with Equal Opportunity Employment guidelines.
2. PHI and Partner will endeavor to make reasonable accommodations to known physical or mental limitations of qualified AmeriCorps members with disabilities unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the program operations.
3. PHI and Partner will endeavor to accommodate the sincere religious beliefs of AmeriCorps Members to the extent such accommodation does not pose an undue hardship on the Organization's operations.
4. PHI and Partner will not allow any form of retaliation against individuals who raise issues of equal employment opportunity or reasonable accommodation.

Non-Duplication and Non-Displacement: Federal guidelines further restrict engagement of CivicSpark Fellows to duplicate or displace staff (see [45 CFR § 2540.100\(e\)-\(f\)](#), noted below)

(e) **Nonduplication.** AmeriCorps assistance may not be used to duplicate an activity that is already available in the locality of a program. And, unless the requirements of paragraph (f) of this section are met, AmeriCorps assistance will not be provided to a private nonprofit entity to conduct activities that are the same or substantially equivalent to activities provided by a State or local government agency in which such entity resides.

(f) **Nondisplacement.**

- (i) An employer may not displace an employee or position, including partial displacement such as reduction in hours, wages, or employment benefits, as a result of the use by such employer of a participant in a program receiving AmeriCorps assistance.
- (ii) An organization may not displace a volunteer by using a participant in a program receiving AmeriCorps assistance.
- (iii) A service opportunity will not be created under this chapter that will infringe in any manner on the promotional opportunity of an employed individual.
- (iv) A participant in a program receiving AmeriCorps assistance may not perform any services or duties or engage in activities that would otherwise be performed by an employee as part of the assigned duties of such employee.
- (v) A participant in any program receiving assistance under this chapter may not perform any services or duties, or engage in activities, that—
 - 1. Will supplant the hiring of employed workers; or
 - 2. Are services, duties, or activities with respect to which an individual has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures.
- (vi) A participant in any program receiving assistance under this chapter may not perform services or duties that have been performed by or were assigned to any—
 - i. Presently employed worker;
 - ii. Employee who recently resigned or was discharged;
 - iii. Employee who is subject to a reduction in force or who has recall rights pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or applicable personnel procedures;
 - iv. Employee who is on leave (terminal, temporary, vacation, emergency, or sick);
 - or
 - v. Employee who is on strike or who is being locked out.

Labor Union Concurrence: In following non-duplication and non-displacement AmeriCorps policies as noted above, the Partner must obtain the written concurrence of any local labor organization(s) representing employees of the Partner who are engaged in the same or substantially similar work as that proposed to be carried out by the Fellow in Exhibit B if they:

- 1. Will serve as a placement site for AmeriCorps members (Fellows);
- 2. Has employees engaged in the same or substantially similar work as that proposed to be carried out by AmeriCorps members; and
- 3. Those employees are represented by a local labor organization.

Written concurrence can be in the form of a letter or e-mail from the local union leadership. Written concurrence should be included along with this contract if applicable.

Partner is not required to obtain labor organization concurrence if:



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1. There are no local labor organizations representing employees of the Partner who are engaged in the same or substantially similar work as that proposed to be carried out; or
2. Partner is not required to consult with labor organizations, because there are no appropriate local labor organizations representing employees in the area who are engaged in the same or similar work as that proposed to be carried out by the Fellow.

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Non-Harassment and Civil Rights Policy:



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Employee Civil Rights and Non-Harassment Policy

AmeriCorps is committed to treating all persons with dignity and respect while building a diverse, equitable, inclusive workplace where benefits and opportunities for advancement are accessible to all. AmeriCorps maintains a zero-tolerance policy for any unlawful discrimination and harassing conduct towards any employee, intern, or contractor. As a federal agency, compliance with the anti-discrimination laws and the regulations enforced by the [United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), and the maintenance of a model EEO program are rigorously upheld. Building a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility demands the prevention of discrimination and harassment, along with taking swift action when it occurs.

AmeriCorps prohibits any forms of discrimination and harassment based upon a person's protected status. "Protected status" means a person's race, color, national origin, sex, age (40 and over), religion, sexual orientation, disability (mental, physical, or invisible), gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, pregnancy, genetic information (including family medical history), military service, their submission of a complaint, or activity in any Equal Employment Opportunity related activity. AmeriCorps seeks an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment, and to provide all employees the freedom to compete on a fair and level playing field.

AmeriCorps will not tolerate any harassment that may include slurs and other verbal or physical conduct that relates to an individual's gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected status when such behavior has the purpose or effect of interfering with job performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. Every AmeriCorps employee should familiarize themselves with our [Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedure](#).

AmeriCorps does not tolerate harassment from any AmeriCorps employee; supervisor; manager; non-employee (e.g., contractors); national service members or volunteers.

Examples of harassing conduct include, but are not limited to: explicit or implicit demands for sexual favors; pressure to engage in a romantic relationship or for dates; deliberate touching of another person without consent, leaning over or cornering a person; repeated offensive teasing, jokes, remarks, or questions; unwanted letters, emails, text messages or phone calls; distribution or display of offensive materials, including on social media; offensive looks or gestures based on a person's gender, race, ethnicity, or religious baiting; physical assault or other threatening behavior; and demeaning, debasing, or abusive comments or other actions that intimidate and are based on a person's protected status. Conduct directed at a single individual in the workplace may create an offensive environment for others, even if they were not targeted.

Discrimination or harassment, when identified, will result in immediate corrective action by AmeriCorps. Any employee who violates this policy will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including removal from federal service. AmeriCorps' supervisors and managers will immediately notify the Office of Human Capital when they become aware of alleged discrimination or harassment by an employee, service member, or other individuals. After



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consulting with the Office of Human Capital on appropriate measures, the supervisor or manager must take prompt action to effectively address any such conduct.

AmeriCorps prohibits retaliation or reprisal against any employee who raises discrimination or harassment concerns or participates in any Equal Employment Opportunity activity including filing a complaint against a supervisor or coworker, reporting harassment of a service member, volunteer, contractor, or employee, or providing a witness statement during an investigation.

Harassment and discrimination are unacceptable in AmeriCorps offices, facilities or campuses, virtual meetings, and in other service-related venues. This includes training sessions, convenings, off-campus service sites, service-related social events, and other off-site gatherings or events (whether in person or virtual).

Any AmeriCorps employee, former employee, or applicant for employment who believes they were harassed or discriminated against in violation of civil rights laws, regulations, or this policy, or who believes they were subject to reprisal for opposing discrimination or participating in the discrimination complaint proceedings (e.g., as a complainant or witness), should raise those concerns with AmeriCorps' Civil Rights and Employment Branch within 45 calendar days of the harassing or discriminatory action. Discrimination claims that are not brought to the attention of AmeriCorps' Civil Rights and Employment Branch within 45 calendar days of the occurrence may not be accepted for investigation if a formal complaint is filed.

The confidentiality of any employee who reports harassment or discrimination, or participates in a related investigation, will be protected to the greatest extent possible, as provided by law. AmeriCorps' Civil Rights and Employment Branch may be reached via (202) 606-3461 or eo@americorps.gov. Employees may also consider AmeriCorps' Alternate Dispute Resolution Program as an informal way to resolve workplace conflicts. If you are interested in learning more about our Alternate Dispute Resolution Program, please email adr@americorps.gov.

November 7, 2023

Date

Michael D. Smith
Chief Executive Officer
AmeriCorps

Exhibit B Scope of Services

PHI will perform the following services:

- 1) General Program Responsibilities
 - a. Provide clear guidelines to Fellows regarding AmeriCorps regulations and expectations.
 - b. Recruit and train Fellows to provide capacity building services for the region.
 - c. Work to provide support and guidance for Fellows, addressing any concerns that might develop during the service year.
 - d. Hold Fellows accountable for the desired service results and work with Fellows on their professional development and behavior.
 - e. Manage local government beneficiary and/or other partner service contracts.
 - f. Share outcomes from service with Partner.
 - g. Provide membership to PHI's national network for an additional fee, if desired. As a PHI member, you will have access to our wider organization's direct assistance and practical tools for implementing on-the-ground successes in your community. Member benefits including networking and best practices, event discounts, invitations to lunch & learns, news and action updates, resource highlights and policy action alerts.
- 2) Fellow Responsibilities
 - a. Pass a state, national, and National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) background check before starting their service year.
 - b. Participate in a 1-week program orientation and complete at least 100 hours of training through dedicated Fellow training, development, and service days.
 - c. Serve an average of 37 hours per week for 11 months, serving a minimum of 1700 total hours, with at least 1300 hours dedicated to Partner project activities (see below).
 - d. Comply with guidelines for performance measures and abide by regulations on prohibited activities described in Exhibit A above.
 - e. Complete accurate project reporting in a timely manner as required by AmeriCorps, including: assessments, implementation, hours served, volunteers recruited and supported, and transition of knowledge to local governments.
 - f. Avoid participation in prohibited activities.
 - g. Identify as a Fellow and wear AmeriCorps lapel pins or gear during service hours.
 - h. Participate in days of national service including, but not limited to: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service; State Day of Service, and AmeriCorps week Service Day.
- 3) Project Specific Scope of Work
 - a. [If desired identify project topic or subject area (e.g. outreach, plan development, etc.)]
 - i. In support of [briefly describe specific areas, goals or needs], the fellow will support [briefly describe activities, tasks, initiatives]
 - ii. [Add more if desired]
 - b. [If desired identify project topic or subject area (e.g. outreach, plan development, etc.)]
 - i. In support of [briefly describe specific areas, goals or needs], The Fellow will support [briefly describe activities, tasks, initiatives]
 - ii. [Add more if desired]
 - c. [Add more project areas or tasks needed]

Exhibit C

Partner Responsibilities

Partner will perform the following services:

- (1) Support Responsibilities
 - (a) Support Fellow recruitment by advertising your open placement through appropriate channels and networks (e.g., websites, newsletters, social media, job boards, etc.)
 - (b) Identify one staff member to act as the “Site Supervisor” for the project, and point person for both the Fellow and CivicSpark staff. At the time of this agreement, the Partner staff member assigned as Site Supervisor for the Fellow during their term of service is: **Name, Title, Email**
 - (c) Site Supervisor shall support project implementation and professional development by:
 - (i) Setting aside at least 1 hour/week to check in with each Fellow and provide assistance for each approved project.
 - (ii) Familiarizing Fellows to the host organization (including safety procedures and protocols), resources, and project scope.
 - (iii) Completing an initial performance assessment of each Fellow (survey and goal setting) within 1 month of the start of the service year; conducting a mid-year performance review; and completing a final performance review survey prior to the end of the service year.
 - (iv) Seeking opportunities to integrate Fellows’ professional goals into project activities.
 - (v) As appropriate, facilitating Fellows’ transition at the end of their service year by introducing Fellows to relevant colleagues and networks.
 - (vi) Provide adequate professional workspace for Fellows within the office (e.g., desk, computer, phone, etc), and ensure that site and workplace are accessible to individuals with disabilities if needed. The Partner’s office address is: **3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501.**
 1. Provide a laptop or equivalent computer if Fellow(s) will be teleserving from home on a regular basis (e.g. hybrid schedule).
 2. If needed due to COVID or any other emergency reason, be able to support partial virtual service for Fellows (e.g., remote access to files, plans for virtual check-in and support, technology support for remote work)
 - (d) Develop defined project scope(s) and identify goals to be completed in an agreed upon timeframe.
 - (i) Ensure key staff for each defined project completes a pre-service capacity assessment survey before the start of the service year and a post-service capacity assessment towards the end of the year.
 - (ii) Ensure key staff for each defined project participates in a project interview early on in the service year (within the first 2-3 weeks), a part of the CivicSpark gap assessment process.



- (e) Support implementation of project(s) consistent with scope above and in line with CivicSpark program goals (including supporting volunteer engagement activities and participating in transitional event)
 - (f) Keep Regional Coordinators and/or other PHI staff apprised of project developments and/or challenges, and working to redefine project scope(s) and goals as necessary.
 - (g) If challenges arise (related to professionalism, work products, etc.) provide specific written feedback to the Fellow and share with PHI staff in a timely manner so PHI staff can assess the challenges and intervene as needed.
 - (h) Assist with occasional site visits to Partner by PHI staff.
 - (i) Not displace Partner staff or volunteers through the use of CivicSpark Fellows, nor have CivicSpark Fellows perform any services or duties that would supplant the hiring of employed workers.
 - (j) Not offer the CivicSpark Fellow part- or full-time employment that is substantially similar to their CivicSpark scope of work, with a start date prior to the service year-end date. Such circumstances would constitute a material breach of this Agreement as described under 5. Termination above, and Partner would remain responsible for paying any remaining amounts due under this Agreement had the Fellow completed their project with the Partner.
- (2) Reporting Responsibilities
- (a) Complete applications for CivicSpark projects, identifying:
 - (i) Total hours desired for service work;
 - (ii) Identification of at least 2 projects for at least 1 beneficiary per fellow (or 1 project for 2 or more beneficiaries).
 - 1. Beneficiaries can be individual departments within a single local government or even individual staff members within the same department.
 - 2. Specific eligibility requirements are provided here:
<https://civicsparkfellowship.org/partnership-opportunities>
 - (b) Ensure a staff person involved in the project from each local government beneficiary completes a pre-service capacity assessment survey before the start of the service year and a post-service capacity assessment towards the end of the year. The pre-service survey defines goals for the project and establishes a baseline perspective on issues relevant to the specific project issue (i.e., climate, water, housing, mobility, etc.). The post-service survey evaluates the degree to which the Fellows' work made progress toward the goals and baselines established in the pre-service capacity assessment survey.
 - (c) Ensure a staff person involved in the project from each local government beneficiary participates in a project interview early on in the service year (within the first 2-3 weeks), a part of the CivicSpark gap assessment process.
 - (d) Submit Fellow performance assessments on time, as described above.
 - (e) Complete any additional project reporting defined as necessary.
 - (f) Allow CivicSpark to share results of all reporting with the state service commission and AmeriCorps, for required grant reporting.

Exhibit D Compensation and Billing

This is a firm fixed price type agreement and compensation will be provided in a lump sum as described in this exhibit. Costs, total project hours¹, additional prep-hours and travel budget for support options on a per-Fellow basis are defined below.

PHI will receive no more than \$459,000 for 14 Fellow(s) for performing the services set forth in this Agreement.

	Per Fellow Benefits
Costs	\$31,000/Fellow Additional \$5,000/Fellow for returning Fellow to same site
Project Support	11 Months, 1,300+ project hours
Additional Benefits	Up to 80 additional project-prep hours. Up to 100 volunteer engagement hours.

PAYMENT OPTION

Lump Sum Payment — \$31,000

The Partner shall make a one-time, **lump sum payment** to PHI that covers the entirety of the amount due for services to be performed. Lump Sum payment is **due at contract signing**. If for some reason Fellow is unable to provide services for the full contract duration (e.g., a Fellow leaves the program for medical or personal reasons and a suitable replacement cannot be provided), Partner is only responsible for the portion of the contract amount for the hours of service actually provided. Partner must inform PHI prior to the project start if they need invoices to include specific format, tasks, billing codes, or other details.

¹ Note that project hours include all project related activities as well as basic administrative tasks related to CivicSpark service (e.g., completing timecards, progress reports, project related communications with PHI staff, etc.).



Partner Billing Contact Details & Instructions

Partner Organization Billing Address: 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200 Riverside, CA 92501

Main Billing Contact

Name & Title: Benjamin Druyon, Program Manager
Email Address: bdruyon@wrcog.us
Phone: (951) 675-2326

Billing Contact #2

Name & Title: Tyler Masters, Program Manager
Email Address: tmasters@wrcog.us
Phone: (951) 203-6281

Special Instructions for Invoicing (if any): Email invoices to invoicing@iren.gov

Payments to be made by: Check ☐ ACH ☐ (see ACH instructions below)

Name & Title: _____
Date: _____

ACH Instruction	
Account Name	PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE
Account Type	CHECKING
Account Number	4122400534
ACH Routing Number	121000248
SWIFT/BIC Code	WFBIUS6S
Bank Name and Address	WELLS FARGO BANK 420 MONTGOMERY ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104
EIN	94-1646278

Exhibit E Reimbursable Expenses

PHI does not cover project-related expenses related to the service project. All project-related expenses are the responsibility of the Partner. This can occur by 1) Partner paying for these expenses directly; or 2) Partner has the Fellow pay for expenses themselves, and then reimburses Fellow for such expenses.

Expenses that the Partner should plan for include mileage, meals, event fees, and any other expenses needed for the Fellow to implement the project. Fellows should not incur expenses relating to the project unless the Partner has funds to cover such expenses.

Partner agrees that, should Partner request PHI to handle reimbursements for Fellows on behalf of Partner, partner must pay an administrative fee, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the combined reimbursement amount and indirect cost amount.

The total amount of project-related reimbursable expenses shall not exceed \$20,000. Absent a written amendment to this Agreement, Partner shall not be responsible for reimbursement of expenses exceeding the not-to-exceed limit outlined in this Exhibit E.

Reimbursable expenses may include:

- Mileage
- Meals
- Lodging
- Event/Registration Fee
- Material costs
- Other

Fellow expenses shall be submitted by Fellow to Partner in writing for approval prior to Fellow incurring these expenses and prior to Partner being charged for reimbursement for an expense incurred during the completion of activities outlined in the Scope of Service (Exhibit B).



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Exhibit F Timeline

All tasks enumerated in Exhibit B – Scope of Services are expected to start on September 16, 2024, with a CivicSpark program Orientation, and will begin at the host site on September 25, 2024. Fellow activities should be completed by August 30, 2025.

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Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Public Sector Program Six-Month Update

Contact: Karina Camacho, WRCOG Analyst III, kcamacho@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6724
Benjamin Druyon, WRCOG Program Manager, bdruyon@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6727

Date: October 15, 2024

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on I-REN's Public Sector Program progress since the January 2024 approval of the Public Sector Technical Assistance Resource Allocation Policy by the I-REN Executive Committee.

Discussion:

Background

In February 2023, the I-REN Public Sector Program officially started with the contract approval of program implementers. Since then, the Program has launched various initiatives to provide energy-efficiency services and resources to I-REN member agencies.

I-REN staff and The Energy Coalition (TEC) developed four policy options to guide the allocation of energy efficiency project support resources in alignment with I-REN goals. At the January 16, 2024, Executive Committee meeting, a resource allocation policy for the Public Sector Technical Assistance Program was approved, which allows a maximum of two energy efficiency projects per agency at a time and reserve funding for all eligible agencies, but a maximum of four projects for counties. The Executive Committee requested a six-month update on the progress of public sector programs and implementation of the resource allocation policy.

I-REN has developed two Public Sector Programs:

1. The Technical Assistance (TA) Program provides agencies with support services on energy efficiency including energy use analysis, data visuals, climate resiliency analysis, facility energy audits, research funding opportunities, and grant application support.
2. The Normalized Metered Energy Consumption Program (NMEC), known as Cash for Kilowatts, provides incentive funds to agencies for holistic energy efficiency projects.

I-REN's TA Program tailors support to each public agency's unique energy needs and provides services at the agency's request. For many agencies, I-REN's technical assistance provides much-needed staff time, expertise, and resources dedicated to energy efficiency. I-REN's TA Program equips agencies with the energy data analysis and support needed to be eligible for project incentives as prescribed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). I-REN's TA Program supports project-ready agencies but also provides a wide range of programmatic energy efficiency services for agencies seeking to expand their capacity to work on energy projects.

I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts Program provides incentives to eligible energy efficiency projects and must follow the guidelines outlined in the CPUC NMEC Rulebook. As an incentive program, I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts cannot cover 100% of the cost of an energy project and agencies will need to identify an additional funding source, such as a capital improvement plan, to pay the costs of a project not covered by the incentive. For this reason, project incentives through I-REN's Cash for Kilowatt program are also dependent on the agency allocating funds to a project.

Present Situation

Under I-REN's TA Program since implementation, staff have diligently been coordinating multiple tasks to ensure program success.

Outreach & Education Campaigns

Orientations: Upon launching the TA Program, I-REN developed a territory-wide outreach initiative to educate member agencies on I-REN services and offers. From June 2023 to February 2024, I-REN hosted 18 orientations across the region which included 141 agency staff or fellows from 42 member agencies.

Kick-Off Meetings: To further develop relationships with agency staff and learn about each jurisdiction's unique needs, I-REN scheduled one-on-one kick-off meetings with each agency. From June 2023 to August 2024, I-REN has met with 41 member agencies, and 8 additional public agencies interested in learning more about I-REN. In some cases, I-REN has met with agencies multiple times to ensure the appropriate agency staff learn about I-REN.

Public Sector Marketing Campaigns: In 2024, I-REN focused on marketing campaigns to expand awareness of I-REN's program offerings and services. In April 2024, I-REN launched its first Public Sector email blast and in June, launched a Cash for Kilowatts e-mail marketing campaign targeted at public agencies in the I-REN territory to further educate agencies about I-REN's incentive offerings. I-REN continues developing outreach materials and sending routine e-mails to over 200 agency staff about I-REN Public Sector programs. I-REN's Public Sector email campaigns have a 51% open rate (compared to 40% industry standard) and 9.8% click rate (compared to a 4.6% industry standard).

Videos: I-REN and TEC developed two videos to highlight I-REN services and spread the word, including a general I-REN promo video and a video highlighting the Energy Resilience Roadmap deliverable offering. The I-REN videos are available on the [iren.gov](https://www.iren.gov) website and the I-REN YouTube Channel.

Program Design & Coordination

As part of the orientations, I-REN collected and analyzed survey responses to guide the development of I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts Program. Agency staff indicated energy projects at critical emergency operation and cooling centers as a top priority as well as projects that resulted in significant savings. In January 2024, the Executive Committee approved the Cash for Kilowatts Program design to include additional booster incentives for emergency operation and cooling centers and projects that achieve deep energy savings.

Program Administrator Coordination: In January 2024, I-REN and SoCalREN drafted a program decision tree to establish coordination protocols between the Program Administrators (PA) for agencies within the overlapping territories with the goal of avoiding duplication of program services and ensure no customer confusion. The coordination protocols have continued to evolve and in September 2024, I-REN and SoCalREN held their first recurring bi-monthly coordination call to discuss agency engagement and coordination. I-REN is also actively coordinating with other Program Administrators across the state. In September 2024, I-REN led the first quarterly Public Sector Portfolio Administrator Sector Coordination (PASC) meeting established in the Joint Cooperation Memo (JCM) for PA coordination. I-REN also continues to coordinate on an ongoing basis with other PAs and state actors. I-REN staff have also established monthly check-in meetings with CPUC Energy Division staff to provide program updates and successes, discuss current issues the program could be facing, and gain valuable insights from the CPUC's perspective.

Energy Data Analysis & Strategic Energy Planning

Energy Data Request Support: To qualify for project incentives under the CPUC's NMEC Rulebook, agencies must have access to their facilities' historical energy consumption data to demonstrate average energy use before an energy project. I-REN worked diligently with SoCal Edison and SoCal Gas to establish a process for agencies to request energy data, including identifying the appropriate utility staff to manage requests, developing fillable spreadsheets to collect the data, and drafting a template e-mail for agencies to use. Due to data security concerns, I-REN is not able to request data on behalf of an agency without the proper signed authorization. Agency staff must request the data directly from the utility and then share the information with I-REN.

I-REN has supported 45 agency's requests for energy usage data.

Preliminary Energy Resilience Roadmap: I-REN provides energy analysis for agencies that have received and shared their energy consumption data. I-REN conducts an analysis to determine the agency's highest energy-using facilities and provides recommendations for energy audits based on potential saving opportunities. I-REN creates an individualized Preliminary Energy Resilience Roadmap with charts, summarizing the agency's energy usage including lighting, buildings, and water pumping, as well as other resilience factors such as power outages, extreme heat days, and pollution levels. This is a key step in I-REN's established process to determine if a facility has the potential to be eligible for the Cash for Kilowatts Program.

I-REN has presented preliminary roadmaps for 23 agencies, with eight in the development or scheduling phases.

Final Energy Resilience Roadmap: After I-REN presents the Preliminary Energy Resilience Roadmap to

an agency and discusses the agency's priorities and critical facility needs in more depth, the agency has two paths forward. Some agencies elect to move forward with facility energy audits at top-consuming facilities, while others elect to move forward with collecting additional facility and community data to better identify which facilities to target for energy audits.

The Final Energy Resilience Roadmap dives deeper into facility-level recommendations for energy-efficiency retrofits and integrating energy resilience technologies (including solar, battery storage, and EV infrastructure), and actionable next steps to incorporate these recommendations into an agency's current and future energy action plans.

I-REN has presented final roadmaps for three agencies, with five in the development or scheduling phases.

Benchmarking Support: I-REN helps agencies add their building portfolio to ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager® (ESPM), an online management tool created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that allows building owners and facility managers to track and assess energy use. I-REN ESPM benchmarking services include creating new portfolios or updating existing portfolios with facility characteristics like square footage and year built, as well as automating the upload of monthly energy consumption from on-site utility meters. I-REN helps agencies determine if their facilities require California Assembly Bill (AB) 802 compliance and guides agencies that meet the requirements through the submittal process.

I-REN has supported eight agencies with ESPM and has guided agencies through AB 802 compliances for 28 facilities. I-REN has also drafted scripts for a series of benchmarking training videos.

Building Upgrade Concierge: I-REN has developed Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) software to help agencies better understand and visualize their facilities' energy use. This web-based tool offers analytics, modeling, and measurements for facilities. I-REN has created a profile and uploaded energy data for nine agencies. I-REN has also hosted a training for I-REN Fellows on how to support their agency host with BUC. I-REN has also drafted scripts for BUC training videos.

I-REN has created BUC profiles for 24 users at nine agencies.

Project Identification

Project Support & Plan Analysis: In some cases before meeting with I-REN, public agencies have already identified priority energy projects and are at various stages of the project timeline such as funding allocation and equipment selection. I-REN tailors the technical assistance to each agency's unique needs.

I-REN has supported four agencies in reviewing project plans and providing recommendations for the next steps on eligible funding and incentive options.

Site Visits & Audits: I-REN works with agency staff to identify facilities that are a priority for the agency. In preparations for an on-site energy audit, the I-REN engineers work with agency staff to collect building information necessary for the audit and project analysis. Per request by the agency, I-REN coordinates a team of engineers and agency facility managers to visit the facility, collecting equipment information and noting the facilities' energy usage.

I-REN has conducted energy audits at 38 facilities for 16 agencies. In following the project eligibility in the NMEC Rulebook, it is in the agencies' interest to prioritize facilities that could see the largest potential energy consumption savings.

Project and Financial Analysis – Initial Measures List: Once an agency has identified potential projects, I-REN provides an energy and financial analysis for specific energy efficiency measures including estimated annual savings, project costs, payback period, incentive, and funding opportunities. At this stage, projects are initially screened for Cash for Kilowatts eligibility.

I-REN has delivered an Initial Measures List (IML) for 10 facilities at seven agencies, with 27 in the development or scheduling phases for nine additional agencies. Once an IML is presented to an agency, the agency has a decision to move forward with the recommended measures depending on the agency's budget and facility priorities.

Additional Funding & Finance Support

Identifying Other Funding Sources and Channeling Savings to Other Programs: As part of supporting agencies through the energy and financial analysis process, I-REN also helps agencies identify other funding sources for projects that are not eligible for Cash for Kilowatts due to the NMEC Rulebook requirements. I-REN offers technical assistance to help agencies identify and apply to other funding opportunities to implement their projects through other PA programs, such as SoCalREN's Streamlined Savings Pathway Program. By providing additional technical assistance services, I-REN continues to lead by example and show the CPUC that RENs with overlapping territory can work together cohesively to provide the greatest opportunity to our member agencies. I-REN strives to be the energy efficiency one-stop-shop for agencies within its service territory.

Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant: I-REN provides agencies with application support for various energy funding opportunities. In January 2023, the Department of Energy (DOE) deployed \$550M of Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) funds to help states, local governments, and Tribes reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

I-REN supported 12 agencies applying for EECBG and secured over \$1.8M in funds. Types of projects included battery systems, streetlights, building retrofits, solar charging station, HVAC and lighting controls, electric vehicle charging stations, and solar light poles.

Cash for Kilowatts

Projects must undergo eligibility screening to determine if they are a good fit for an NMEC approach. Some of those eligibility requirements include estimated savings of 10% or more at the meter and predictable operation at the facility with no other future upgrades or major redesigns in the near future.

I-REN has helped one agency apply for Cash for Kilowatts incentives. Colton Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) has successfully followed the NMEC guidelines to move forward with a Cash for Kilowatts project incentive. I-REN supported CJUSD in ensuring its project met eligibility criteria per the CPUC NMEC Rulebook and helped the District develop and submit its NMEC application to the CPUC to receive I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts incentive. I-REN estimates CJUSD will receive over \$164,000 in Cash for Kilowatts incentives.

To further inspire agencies to act, I-REN is offering a limited time incentive kicker for projects completed in 2024.

Increasing Number of Cash for Kilowatts Projects

Additional Staff Support: In March 2024, I-REN began discussions with TEC to identify opportunities for additional COG staff support. By April 2024, the desired scope of work was finalized and by July, TEC hired two project managers dedicated to providing WRCOG and CVAG additional support to implement I-REN's programs.

Expanding I-REN's Reach: Additional eligible public agencies, such as school districts and some tribes, are interested in receiving I-REN services. I-REN has begun preliminary conversations with these agencies to identify potential project opportunities. While these public agencies are eligible for I-REN services under CPUC guidelines, many are not currently COG member agencies. I-REN is exploring opportunities to provide services to additional public agencies to further encourage Cash for Kilowatt projects in the I-REN territory. In addition to working with CJUSD, the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) has contacted I-REN and is interested in pursuing the TA and Cash for Kilowatts Programs for its multiple facilities.

Next Steps

This six-month update provides information on how the I-REN Public Sector programs are performing since the Executive Committee approved a policy in January 2024. This policy was crafted with certain assumptions, which included 1) a moderate adoption of project services by each agency, 2) total eligible agencies considered is 51 agencies, and 3) it was assumed that projects would be initiated from 2023 - 2027. Staff will return to the Executive Committee in January with a one-year update.

Prior Action(s):

January 16, 2024: The Executive Committee approved the I-REN policy for the Public Sector Technical Assistance Program by allowing a maximum of two energy efficiency projects per agency at a time and reserve funding for all eligible agencies, with a maximum of four projects at a time for both counties.

Financial Summary:

All costs associated with the development and implementation of I-REN are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Agency Budget under the I-REN budget (Fund 180) in the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: On-Call Professional Services Agreements for Education & Outreach Services
Contact: Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, tmasters@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6732
Date: October 15, 2024

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Burke Rix Communications to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
2. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
3. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Costin Public Outreach Group, Inc., to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
4. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and CV Strategies to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.
5. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to execute a new On-Call Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and OPR Communications to support I-REN with Education and Outreach services in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000, for a term through December 2027.

Summary:

Since 2023, I-REN staff has identified a growing need for I-REN education and outreach services at community events to support various program outreach. As such, staff determined that it would be beneficial to develop a bench of qualified on-call consultants to support I-REN in messaging and to providing education and outreach on I-REN programs across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Staff released a Request for Proposal (RFP), evaluated 10 proposals, interviewed six firms, and now recommends creating a bench of five consultants.

Discussion:

Background

In November 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the I-REN Business Plan with a budget of \$65M for program years 2022 - 2027. The I-REN Business Plan included multiple goals across three program sectors (Public Sector, Codes & Standards, and Workforce Education & Training) that were developed based on input from stakeholders within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since 2019.

One of these program sectors identified within the I-REN service territory is Workforce Education & Training (WE&T). The total budget for the WE&T Sector through 2027 is \$15.1M. The goal of this Sector is to ensure there is a trained workforce to support and realize energy efficiency savings goals across all sectors.

Present Situation

On September 18, 2023, I-REN's WE&T Sector launched its first program, the I-REN Energy Fellowship. The goal of the I-REN Energy Fellowship is to recruit and place interested Fellows directly at public sector agencies, across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, to work on important energy initiatives.

As of September 23, 2024, the I-REN Energy Fellowship has entered into its second year and has placed 13 Fellows at public sector agencies. I-REN's recruitment initiatives have supported the Fellowship in obtaining more interest for the I-REN Energy Fellowship. Having completed recruitment for two separate Fellowship service year periods (2023/2024 and 2024/2025), staff have identified a couple of things: 1) the need to engage public sector agencies early to secure their interest in Fellows for the following cycle, and 2) the increased need to participate in dozens of university, community college, and community job and resources fairs to increase awareness and recruit an adequate number qualified individuals to participate in the Program. This most recent year, CVAG, SBCOG, and WRCOG staff participated in over 40 community events, career panels, etc., to outreach to potential fellows.

The Statewide CivicSpark Fellows, of which the I-REN Fellowship cohorts is a part of, received over 150+ applicants; 48 of those applicants were from three local universities and the 12 community colleges within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This year, staff identified that an increased number of applicants are located in areas within some of the more inland or rural cities and towns (example, the Town of Apple Valley and the Cities of Indio and Palm Spring). Last year, some of these agencies had very few or no candidates to interview and had to withdraw. Through additional outreach this year, all of the site hosts received at least a handful of qualified candidates to select from.

The level of outreach to achieve these results, however, required many hours of outreach from I-REN staff. To keep this model sustainable moving forward, and to balance staff time and make the most efficient use of time and budget, I-REN staff recommends developing a bench of on-call consultants that can represent I-REN at events like the 40+ attended by staff last year, to provide education and outreach services on programs like the I-REN Fellowship and other future programs that would resonate with I-REN communities.

Staff released RFP #24-06, I-REN Education and Outreach On-Call Services, on August 6, 2024. A total of 10 proposals were received. A staff selection panel was created, comprised of equal representation

from CVAG, SBCOG, and WRCOG, to evaluate the proposals. Staff selected to interview the top six proposals given their experience in the tasks identified in the proposal and their familiarity with the I-REN region, and the unique subregions within. September 16 - 23, 2024, staff interviewed the six firms. From these interviews, the I-REN selection panel recommends that the I-REN Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into agreements with the following firms to create a bench of qualified education and outreach on-call consultants:

1. Burke Rix Communications
2. Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
3. Costin Public Outreach Group, Inc.
4. CV Strategies
5. OPR Communications

On-Call Professional Service Agreements are established with specific language stating that specific work is authorized through a task work order process, and that WRCOG, as I-RENs contract administrator, is under no obligation to provide the funding as set in the On-Call Agreement until a task order is issued. As an On-Call Agreement, these contracts do not create an obligation that work will be assigned, but rather set a maximum limit for work to be authorized. In the case that the need for this work does not arise, WRCOG is under no obligation to provide this funding to these professional service providers.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to the Workforce Education & Training Sector are included under the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 I-REN Budget in Fund 180, under the Workforce Education & Training subprogram.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: California Energy Commission Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Activities Update

Contact: Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, cdailey@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6720

Date: October 15, 2024

Recommended Action(s):

1. Authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between WRCOG and Los Angeles County to provide administrative services for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program, Southern Region.

Summary:

In 2024, the California Energy Commission (CEC) awarded a proposed \$329M to the Southern California Equitable Building Decarbonization Coalition (SoCal EBD Coalition), as the regional administrator for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program, Southern Region. I-REN is a partner of the SoCal EBD Coalition to support implementation and outreach efforts in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. I-REN is developing a bench of on-call consultants that has the ability and local presence to provide marketing, education, and outreach services across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Discussion:

Background

I-REN is a community energy partner for the SoCal EBD Coalition. Under the leadership of Los Angeles County, the SoCal EBD Coalition comprises a diverse and experienced group of community-based organizations (CBOs), councils of government (COGs), community choice aggregators (CCAs), regional energy networks (RENs), and program implementation experts.

The CEC has selected the SoCal EBD Coalition as the proposed awardee of the \$329M Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install (EBD DI) Program award. This Program aims to accelerate residential building decarbonization in southern California, especially in historically underserved communities. The SoCal EBD Coalition will implement the Program in southern California, including San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, to install energy-efficient electric appliances, energy efficiency measures, and related upgrades directly to low-income households living in single-family, multi-family, and manufactured homes in under-resourced communities.

Present Situation

The CEC, SoCal EBD Coalition Members, and stakeholders are working collaboratively to pre-launch program activities in the fourth quarter of 2024, with residential project installations beginning by mid-2025. The CEC and SoCal EBD Coalition anticipate CEC funds to be approved at the November or December 2024 CEC Business Meeting. The CEC contract is anticipated to be executed approximately two weeks after the CEC Business Meeting.

To support outreach efforts for the EBD DI Program in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, will be releasing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to collect information from local Community-Based Organizations that have experience and expertise in conducting culturally appropriate outreach, education, and support for participating households and communities.

I-REN is seeking a consultant, multiple consultants, or a team of consultants (one acting as prime with subcontractors) that has / have geographical presence and familiarity in one or multiple subregions of the Inland Empire (including but not limited to the Coachella Valley, high desert, low desert, San Bernardino mountain region(s), the San Gorgonio Pass, and San Jacinto Valley) to support Marketing, Education & Outreach as part of the EBD DI Program.

The RFQ will be released in November via [WRCOG's portal in PlanetBids](#). Staff anticipates bringing a recommendation to the I-REN Executive Committee in January 2025 with the proposed CBOs.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

The Memorandum of Understanding will provide funding to WRCOG over a five-year period, which will primarily consist of funding to community-based organizations (CBOs) and some funding going towards staff time. The amount has yet to be determined; however, once the Memorandum of Understanding and the funding amount is finalized, staff will bring forward a budget amendment to amend WRCOG's budget accordingly.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity Memorandum of Understanding
Contact: Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, tmasters@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6732
Date: October 15, 2024

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between WRCOG and Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity in an amount not-to-exceed \$30,000 annually through December 2027.

Summary:

I-REN is focusing on workforce development through the two key strategies identified in its business plan: building partnerships with training providers and facilitating job pathways for a skilled workforce. By collaborating with groups like the Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO), I-REN aims to leverage local resources and data to strengthen workforce initiatives in the energy sector.

Discussion:

Background

In November 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the I-REN Business Plan with a budget of \$65M for program years 2022 - 2027. The I-REN Business Plan included multiple goals across three program sectors that were developed based on input from stakeholders within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since 2019.

Present Situation

The I-REN Business Plan included two Workforce, Education & Training strategies that guide the development of I-REN workforce programs and the deployment of these resources. These strategies include:

1. Establishing local partnerships with existing and potential training providers in the region to deliver targeted, equitable, and relevant energy efficiency training for contractors and other industry stakeholders.
2. Facilitating industry engagement and development of job pathways to identify demand and jobs for a trained workforce.

I-REN staff convened dozens of conversations with local nonprofits, community-based organizations, and other regional workforce agencies, including the IEGO, a regional collaborative network that fosters targeted economic growth, prosperity, and resilience in the Inland Empire. IEGO's goals and mission align with that of I-REN, and IEGO has various resources available such as access to up-to-date labor market assessments and related data, and in-depth analyses of key Inland Empire business sectors (energy included). These are all valuable resources that I-REN can utilize in the development of existing and future workforce projects and programs.

Staff recommend entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with IEGO that will allow I-REN, its staff, programs, and stakeholders, to strengthen the development of and to utilize IEGO data and partnerships to forge business, education, and training program partnerships across the Inland Empire to ensure that I-REN is 1) supporting the region by providing outreach on existing resources available, 2) developing programs that connect more communities with needed resources, and 3) fill identified and needed gaps in energy-related workforce services.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to the Workforce Education & Training Sector are included under the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 I-REN Budget in Fund 180, under the Workforce Education & Training subprogram.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - I-REN IEGO MOU](#)

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND
IEGO**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2024 (the "Effective Date") by and between the Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency, ("WRCOG") on the individually and on behalf of the Inland Regional Energy Network ("I-REN") and the Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ("Organization"). WRCOG and Organization are sometimes referred to herein individually as "Party" and collectively as "Parties".

1. RECITALS

1.1 WRCOG is administrator of and the contracting agent for the I-REN.

1.2 The I-REN seeks to implement energy efficiency programs and initiatives that will lead to long-term, sustainable benefits to participating public agencies throughout the SoCalGas and Southern California Edison service areas.

1.3 As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, WRCOG has the independent authority to design, manage and deliver I-REN programs and initiatives.

1.4 Organization and the WRCOG desire to work together through the Organization's Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity (IEGO) nonprofit initiative to **conduct industry outreach and data collection with I-REN goals and connection to the Center of Excellence, labor data, business engagement, and collaboration through regional convenings.** ("Project").

1.5 It is the intent of the Parties to enter into this MOU to establish and coordinate the responsibilities of the Parties with respect to the Project, all as further set forth herein.

NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, it is mutually understood and agreed by WRCOG and Organization as follows:

2. TERMS OF THE MOU

2.1 Incorporation of Recitals. The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this MOU as though fully set forth herein.

2.2 Term. This MOU shall commence on the Effective Date and continue through **December 31, 2027**, unless the MOU is previously terminated as provided for herein ("Term")

2.3 General Agreement to Cooperate. The Parties agree to mutually cooperate in order to help ensure that the Project is successfully completed with minimum impact to both Parties and the public.

2.4 WRCOG Commitments. WRCOG hereby agrees to do the following:

(a) WRCOG Contact. Designate a leadership team member or equivalent person to act as liaison to the Organization Contact, providing a first point of communication for the Project ("WRCOG Contact"). The WRCOG Contact will be **Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Programs.**

(b) Services. WRCOG shall provide services for the Project (the "Services"). The Services are more particularly described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto to this MOU and incorporated herein by this reference.

(c) Funding Commitments. WRCOG shall be responsible for **\$30,000** of the Project.

2.5 Organization Commitments. Organization hereby agrees to do the following:

(a) Organization Contact. Identify a primary staff member responsible for communication between the WRCOG and Organization for fulfillment of the Project ("Organization Contact"). The Organization Contact will be **Matthew Mena, Executive Director of IEGO.**

(b) Services. Organization shall provide services for the Project (the "Services") at its sole cost and expense. The Services are more particularly described in Exhibit "B", attached hereto to this MOU and incorporated herein by this reference.

(c) Funding Commitments. Organization shall be responsible for **\$10,000 in-kind support** of the Project.

(d) Compliance with Laws/Permits. Organization shall, in all activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU, comply and cause its contractors, agents and employees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, statutes, orders, ordinances, rules, regulations, plans, policies and decrees. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Organization, at its sole cost and expense, shall obtain any and all permits which may be required by any law, regulation or ordinance for any activities Organization desires to conduct or have conducted pursuant to this MOU.

2.6 Termination. The WRCOG may terminate or suspend this MOU, in whole or in part by providing written notice to the other Party at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of termination, with or without cause. In cases of an emergency or a breach of this MOU, this MOU may be terminated immediately.

2.7 Insurance. The Organization shall obtain insurance of the types and in the amounts described below and satisfactory to the WRCOG.

(a) Commercial General Liability Insurance. Organization shall maintain occurrence version commercial general liability insurance or equivalent form with a combined single limit of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and the general aggregate limit not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000). Such insurance shall:

(i) Include the WRCOG its officials, officers, employees, agents, and consultants as additional insureds and shall contain no special limitations on the scope of coverage or the protection afforded to the additional insureds;

(ii) Be primary with respect to any insurance or self-insurance programs covering the WRCOG, its officials, officers, employees, agents and consultants; and

(iii) Contain standard separation of insured provisions.

(b) Workers' Compensation Insurance. Organization shall maintain workers' compensation insurance with statutory limits and employers' liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

(c) Automobile Liability. Organization shall maintain automobile liability insurance for bodily injury and property damage including coverage for owned, non-owned and hired vehicles, in a form and with insurance companies acceptable to the WRCOG with limits of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

(d) Certificates of Insurance. Organization shall furnish the WRCOG with properly executed certificates of insurance and, if requested by the WRCOG, certified copies of endorsements and policies, which clearly evidence all insurance required under this MOU and provide that such insurance shall be not canceled, allowed to expire or be materially reduced in coverage, except on thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the WRCOG. The WRCOG shall have the sole discretion to determine whether the certificates and endorsements presented comply with the provisions of this MOU.

(e) Coverage Maintenance. Organization shall replace certificates, policies and endorsements for any insurance expiring prior to the termination of this MOU . Unless otherwise provided for in this MOU, Organization shall maintain such insurance from the execution of this MOU until completion of the Project.

(f) Licensed Insurer. Organization shall place such insurance with insurers having A.M. Best Company ratings of no less than A:VIII and licensed to do business in California, unless otherwise approved, in writing, by the WRCOG.

2.8 Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Organization, its contractors, consultants, subcontractors, subconsultants, materialmen, suppliers, workers, successors, volunteers, and assigns (collectively, the "Organization Parties") shall, and hereby does, agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless WRCOG; and its elected and appointed officials, officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers, successors, representatives, and assigns (collectively, the "WRCOG Parties"), from and

against all damages, claims, liabilities, settlements, penalties, fines, costs, expenses, losses, or attorney and consultant fees and costs (collectively "Damages") incurred by WRCOG to the extent that the same arise or result from or are caused by the acts or omissions of the Organization Parties in connection with their use of WRCOG property or the Project and/or in connection with the exercise of any other rights granted by this MOU with respect to WRCOG property or any part thereof; provided, however, that Organization shall not be obligated to indemnify, defend, or hold harmless the WRCOG Parties from and against any Damages to the extent that such Damages are caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the WRCOG Parties. Organization indemnification obligation herein shall include, without limitation, the following: 1) any and all claims under workers' compensation acts and other employee benefit acts with respect to Organization's employees/volunteers or Organization's consultant's employees arising out of the Project, 2) liability for damages for death or bodily injury to person, (3) injury to, loss or theft of property; and 3) any failure or alleged failure to comply with any provision of law.

3. MISCELLANEOUS TERMS

3.1 Amendment. This MOU may be amended at any time by the mutual consent of the Parties by an instrument in writing signed by both Parties.

3.2 Construction; References; Captions. Since the Parties or their agents have participated fully in the preparation of this MOU, the language of this MOU shall be construed simply, according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against any Party. The captions of the various articles and paragraphs are for convenience and ease of reference only, and do not define, limit, augment, or describe the scope, content, or intent of this MOU.

3.3 Entire Agreement. This MOU constitutes the entire and integrated agreement with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any and all prior and contemporaneous oral or written negotiations, representations or agreements.

3.4 Notices, Demands and Communications Between the Parties.

(a) Formal notices, demands and communications between Parties shall be deemed sufficiently given if: (i) by commercial overnight delivery; (ii) by messenger service for immediate personal delivery; or (iii) by electronic transmittal, including electronic mail and/or fax transmissions, subject to written verification of receipt by the receiving party. Such written notices, demands and communications may be sent in the same manner to such other addresses as either Party may from time to time designate by written notice to the other Party.

All notices, demands and communications shall be sent, as follows:

To WRCOG:

To Organization:

Western Riverside Council of
Governments
Attn: Casey Dailey
3390 University Avenue, Suite
#200
Riverside, CA 92501

**Inland Economic Growth and
Opportunity (IEGO)**
Attn: Matthew Mena
3700 Sixth Street, #200,
Riverside, CA 92501

(b) Notices shall be deemed effective upon receipt or with respect to electronic transmission, upon receipt of written verification from the receiving party.

3.5 Counterparts. This MOU may be signed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original.

3.6 Laws and Regulations. Each Party shall keep itself fully informed of and in compliance with all local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations in any manner affecting the performance of this MOU, and shall give all notices required by law. Each Party shall be liable for all violations of such laws and regulations in connection with this MOU.

3.7 Third Party Beneficiaries. This MOU and the performance of the Parties obligations hereunder are for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Parties. No person or entity who or which is not a signatory to this MOU shall be deemed to be benefited or intended to be benefited by any provision hereof, and no such person or entity shall acquire any rights or causes of action against either of the Parties hereunder as a result of a Party's performance or non-performance of its obligations under this MOU.

3.8 Relationship of Parties. The Parties agree and intend that the Parties are independent contracting entities and do not intend by this MOU to create any partnership, joint venture, or similar business arrangement, relationship or association between them.

3.9 Governing Law. This MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of California without regard to conflicts of laws principles. Any litigation or other legal proceedings which arise under or in connection with this MOU shall be conducted in a federal or state court located within or for Riverside County, California.

3.10 Waiver. No delay or omission in the exercise of any right or remedy of a non-defaulting Party on any default shall impair such right or remedy or be construed as a waiver. Either Parties' consent or approval of any act by the other Party requiring its consent or approval shall not be deemed to waive or render unnecessary its consent to or approval of any subsequent act of the other Party. Any waiver by either Party of any default must be in writing and shall not be a waiver of any other default concerning the same or any other provision of this MOU.

3.11 Rights and Remedies are Cumulative. Except with respect to rights and remedies expressly declared to be exclusive in this MOU, the rights and remedies of the Parties are cumulative and the exercise by either Party of one or more of such rights or

remedies shall not preclude the exercise by it, at the same or different times, of any other rights or remedies for the same default or any other default by the other Party.

3.12 Severability. In the event that any one or more of the phrases, sentences, clauses, paragraphs, or sections contained in this MOU shall be declared invalid or unenforceable by a valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, sentences, clauses, paragraphs, or sections of this MOU which are hereby declared as severable and shall be interpreted to carry out the intent of the parties hereunder.

3.13 Binding Effect. The terms of this MOU shall inure to the benefit of, and shall be binding upon, each of the Parties and their respective successors and assigns.

3.14 Authorized Representatives. The person or persons executing this MOU on behalf the Party warrant and represent that they have the authority to execute this MOU on behalf of that Party and that they have the authority to bind that Party to the performance of its obligations hereunder.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

**SIGNATURE PAGE TO
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND
IEGO**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereby have made and executed this MOU as of the date first written above.

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS

IEGO

By: _____
Dr. Kurt Wilson
Executive Director

By: _____
Matthew Mena
Executive Director of IEGO

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

By: _____
General Counsel
Best Best & Krieger, LLP

By: _____
Its:

EXHIBIT A
SCOPE OF SERVICES

Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity

Scope of Work

Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity (IEGO) and Inland regional Energy Network (I-REN). In recognition of the interconnectedness of economic development and a reliable energy infrastructure, both parties agree to work towards a common goal of fostering regional prosperity. Through this agreement, IEGO and I-Ren commit to supporting each other's initiatives and fostering a collaborative exchange of data to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Organizational Overview

IEGO is a regional collaborative network that fosters targeted economic growth, prosperity, and resiliency in the Inland Empire community, including Riverside County, San Bernardino County, and other communities identifying as part of the Inland Southern California region.

Project Name: IEGO & I-Ren Regional Partnership

IEGO will conduct industry outreach and data collection with I-REN goals and connection to the Center of Excellence (CREATE Grant) and four regional convenings. Total Value \$30,000 with in-kind project development when needed.

Labor Market Information and Business Engagement

- [Labor Market Assessments](#): Gain a comprehensive understanding of talent supply and demand within specific occupations. These concise 4–6 page reports inform the development, expansion, and support services for postsecondary programs in the Inland Empire.
- [Sector Analysis](#): Benefit from in-depth analyses of key Inland Empire sectors. These reports explore sector size, impact, high growth jobs, top employers, wages, skill needs, education programs, and workforce demographics.

Building a Skilled Workforce: Business Engagement Options IEGO empowers businesses to navigate the evolving workforce landscape through our Business Engagement services.

- Local Workforce Opportunities & Challenges: Stay ahead of the curve. This service utilizes qualitative research and engagement activities with local businesses to identify emerging workforce gaps and challenges in the coming years, helping you plan for future talent needs.
- Capacity Building: Equip your stakeholders with the knowledge they need to succeed. We offer informative and engaging capacity-building opportunities through [IEGO's data tool](#) (Zoom Prospector & Size Up), webinars, on-site training, and live events & conferences. These sessions deepen understanding of regional workforce challenges and opportunities, empowering informed decision-making.
- Approach: Forge partnerships with educational institutions, vocational training programs, and workforce development agencies to ensure the workforce remains adaptable, resilient, and prepared to meet the evolving demands of the marketplace.
 - Total Value: \$20,000.00

Regional Stakeholder Convenings

- Objective: Serve as platform for bringing together stakeholders from across the region to collaborate on shared priorities, address common challenges, and explore new opportunities for growth and investment.
- Approach: Foster collaboration, trust, and partnership to leverage stakeholders' collective expertise and resources and achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development outcomes.
- Total convening: 4 convenings for 1 year (Sponsorship for IEGO Council Corporate)
 - Total Value: \$10,000.00

Project Development:

- Objective: Coordinate partnerships, identify resources, and market regional projects by creating an inventory and developing project pipelines. Identify funding sources from state, federal, and philanthropic agencies and utilize untapped resources to maximize impact.
 - In-kind
 - Actual Value: \$10,000



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Energy Efficiency / Public Purpose Program Legislative Funding Threats

Contact: Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, cdailey@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6720

Date: October 15, 2024

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on recent legislative threats to Energy Efficiency (EE) funding through Public Purpose Programs (PPP).

Discussion:

Background

I-REN staff monitors various legislative and regulatory activity and often participates in providing comments in support of or in opposition to various proceedings of the California Public Utilities Commission. In the past several weeks, there has been a flurry of activity involving EE / PPP funding and a threat to reduce or eliminate funding by introducing new bills or by amending existing bills.

Present Situation

Recently, there have been efforts to push Assembly Bills 3264, 3016, 2329, and 1182 through the legislative process. The attached document describes in more detail:

- An abridged history of energy efficiency in California.
- The role of I-REN in the future of energy affordability.
- A summary of legislative and regulatory threats.
- Recommendations to achieve local policy related to energy and decarbonization.

While these bills did not make it through this legislative session for approval, there remains opposition to EE funding and how PPP funds are spent, which affects every REN. I-REN continues to be diligent and involved in legislative and regulatory affairs.

Marc Costa, Director of Policy & Planning for The Energy Coalition (TEC), will provide a presentation on

this item.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

The I-REN has an approved Business Plan and budget for \$65M to be funded through 2027. It is not anticipated that any of these potential legislative actions would impact the current approved funding period; however, staff will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as the situation evolves.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - EE-PPP Legislative Funding Threats](#)

Safeguarding Customers Through Energy Efficiency: Legislative Threats and Recommendations

Why energy efficiency funding
is critical for local constituents

Prepared by:



Marc Costa | Laurel Rothschild | Lauren Seymour

October 15, 2024



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Summary

California's energy sales are skyrocketing and customers need help lowering their bills and decarbonizing. The scale of our energy system is enormous. Total electric retail energy sales in 2022 were \$33.6 billion,¹ and natural gas was \$10.6 billion.² If California investor-owned utilities (IOUs) were combined into one organization, it would be the 10th largest corporation in California, ranked between Cisco and Qualcomm, not far behind Intel, Disney, and Hewlett-Packard,³ which, unlike the IOUs, operate internationally.

Electricity prices have doubled in the last decade,⁴ and gas prices are forecasted to increase by 64.8% for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and 94.8% for SDG&E between 2022 and 2027.⁵ Utilities have rapidly escalating capital costs for wildfire mitigation, further exacerbated by their ability to overspend on massive infrastructure projects by 35%. The most recent example is SoCalGas overspending by \$227M on one single infrastructure project application and approval,⁶ which is roughly equivalent to ALL combined Regional Energy Network (REN) program budgets (\$247.924M) for 2022-2024.⁷

The latest legislative session put all energy efficiency funds and the existence of RENs at risk, with multiple versions of assembly and senate bills, conversations in the respective utility and energy/communications committees, and even directly through draft proposals from the Governor's office.

As the legislature grapples with over \$44 billion of rising customer bills, their focus has been on cutting an investment that saves people money and decarbonizes buildings: energy efficiency funding. In 2024, the \$847M funds reserved for customer energy efficiency programs carried a \$3.6 billion benefit to California.⁸ These programs, which were on the chopping block in legislative proposals, cost mere fractions of the billions of dollars in annual utility revenue.

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Executive Committee should be aware of the risks to energy efficiency funding and their origins. Being well-informed on the issue at hand and the corresponding solutions is paramount to preserving the desperately needed assistance programs for I-REN constituents in a rapidly changing energy landscape.

This document outlines:

¹ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Revenues for sales to bundled and unbundled consumers (including delivery service revenue) by sector, Census Division, and State. Table 3.

² American Gas Association: 2022 Ranking of Companies By Total Sales Revenue Source: AGA Statistics Database https://www.aga.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/1002TOTREV_-1.pdf

³ Statista 2021 dataset: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/312707/california-s-top-companies-by-revenue/#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20Apple%20was%20the,publicly%20traded%20companies%20in%20California.>

⁴ <https://www.publicadvocates.cpuc.ca.gov/press-room/reports-and-analyses/2024-q2-electric-rates-report>

⁵ Application 22-05-015. EDF Opening Brief, Sempra General Rate Case. August 14, 2023. Table 6 at pp 65

⁶ Decision (D.)19-09-051

⁷ CPUC Public Tableau Dashboard: CPUC Budget Filing Metrics 2024 - 2027

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/capublicutilities/viz/CPUC24-27BudgetFilingData/BudgetPlanDashboard>

⁸ CPUC. CEDARS. Budge Filing Table for 2024. <https://cedars.sound-data.com/filings/list/>

- An abridged history of energy efficiency in California
- The role of I-REN in the future of energy affordability
- A summary of legislative and regulatory threats
- Recommendations to achieve local policy related to energy and decarbonization

History of Energy Efficiency Funding in California

In 1996, as a policy leader, California enacted Assembly Bill 1890 establishing energy efficiency as a resource along with an energy “loading order” that calls for “first pursuing all cost-effective efficiency resources, then using cost-effective renewable resources. Only then may conventional energy sources be used to meet new loads. As authorized under California Public Utility Code § 454.55-56, the [California Public Utilities Commission] CPUC has established aggressive targets and associated funding for energy efficiency programs.”⁹

The initial concept of loading order established laws and subsequent regulations for energy efficiency as a procurement resource. This gave rise to dedicated funds in California totaling \$1B a year for energy efficiency investments.

Public Purpose Program (PPP)-funded energy efficiency programs have saved more than \$100 billion in utility bills since the 1970’s,¹⁰ benefitting ratepayers, the environment, and California’s economy. Specifically, PPP programs have:

- Lowered ratepayers’ bills
- Reduced pressure on the distribution grid and supporting equitable decarbonization
- Served low-income, environmental justice, small businesses, and other hard-to-reach customers and communities by providing programs in communities that are typically deemed not cost-effective under traditional tests
- Provided critical support to state and local jurisdictions in reaching carbon reduction and electrification goals

Regional Energy Networks

Regional Energy Networks (RENs) started as grant-funded pilot programs and have grown into important organizations that help communities save energy. RENs, which are public agencies themselves, understand how to partner with local governments. RENs find new and effective ways to promote energy efficiency alongside local governments, offering services like program design, outreach, financial incentives, technical assistance, and training opportunities.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program competitive grants to 34 recipients as part of the Better Buildings Neighborhood Program (BBNP), including awards led by Los Angeles County on behalf of partners in Southern California, the Bay Area,

⁹ This information was obtained from the ACEEE energy efficiency as a resource database.

¹⁰ https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/office-of-governmental-affairs-division/reports/2021/senate-bill-695-report-2021-and-en-banc-whitepaper_final_04302021.pdf

and other regions of the state, and Santa Barbara County. With the help of these grant awards, as well as the technical assistance and other capacity-building efforts of DOE's BBNP, these regions designed and piloted cross-sector energy retrofit program delivery, outreach, incentives, financing, and workforce training.

Program Administrators in Los Angeles County, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and Santa Barbara County relayed early program successes to the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) through the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) and obtained funds to sustain and expand these pilot programs through ratepayer dollars earmarked by the CPUC for energy efficiency. By 2012, Los Angeles County and ABAG successfully filed proposals to become RENs: new administrators of energy efficiency programs authorized by the CPUC to draw on the capacity and innovative ideas from local governments, particularly from experience gleaned during their administration of ARRA funds. Before this CPUC decision, investor-owned utilities were the only administrators of energy efficiency programs.

The first two RENs, SoCalREN and BayREN, launched in 2013 and continue to grow their services and reach in California. In 2017, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties successfully filed to form 3C-REN. In 2019, the REN model was authorized by the CPUC to continue administering energy efficiency programs, and the CPUC invited new REN proposals to be filed. A fourth REN, Inland REN (I-REN), led by Western Riverside Council of Governments and partners, was approved in 2021.

RENs are recognized by the CPUC and others for their unique ability to:

- Understand local needs and fill gaps
- Serve “hard-to-reach” and underserved communities
- Provide holistic customer solutions

The four active RENs now serve a population of over 27.5 million, including under-resourced and disadvantaged communities that do not have the capacity to administer complex energy programs alone. Each REN has developed portfolios of programs to serve their unique region and deliver on their promise to serve their communities. There are now anticipated to be seven RENs across California by the end of 2024, supporting 94% of the state's population while working on different programs to fit their areas' needs.

Importance of Energy Efficiency Today

Energy efficiency programs save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs. They are critical for reducing energy usage and bills, especially for low-income families. These programs make energy efficiency accessible to everyone, especially those who cannot afford the upfront costs of energy upgrades. Energy efficiency programs provide essential support for disadvantaged communities, helping them reduce their energy burden and improve their living conditions. This is crucial for ensuring equitable access to energy savings.

The energy efficiency sector employs a significant number of small businesses. Nearly 300,000 Californians work in energy efficiency, the largest energy sector for employment in our state.¹¹ Energy efficiency programs drive

¹¹ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/2023%20USEER%20States%20Complete.pdf>

innovation and progress, helping to develop new technologies and practices that benefit all Californians.

California has ambitious climate goals, and cutting these funds would hinder our ability to meet them. These programs offer holistic benefits, including environmental sustainability, economic growth, and social equity. They are essential for a balanced and fair transition to a clean energy future.

The Role of the Inland Regional Energy Network

The I-REN is a consortium of the Western Riverside Council of Governments, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and San Bernardino Council of Governments. Together, I-REN represents two counties (San Bernardino and Riverside), 52 cities, 78 unincorporated county areas, 17 tribes and 11% of California's population. I-REN's vision is to connect residents, businesses, and local governments to a wide range of energy efficiency resources. Their goal is to increase energy savings and equitable access throughout the region through locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency programs.

Historically, the Inland Empire has faced challenges in receiving equitable opportunities to participate in energy efficiency and advanced energy. The region's continued growth and increasingly hot and dry weather will likely result in an overall increase in energy consumption in the coming years. The I-REN territory has large sections that are characterized as disadvantaged communities (DACs) as defined by SB 535, tribal lands, or have a population with a median income 60% below the statewide median. These factors contribute to a substantial need for focused, consistent local engagement to help these communities reduce energy consumption over time. A combination of workforce limitations, relative geographic isolation, and low density make large parts of the I-REN territory difficult to serve.

As dedicated representatives of local government, the I-REN consortium members bring established connections from their work serving this region and provide support to fill gaps in existing energy efficiency services. I-REN's programs in the public sector, workforce education and training, and codes and standards focus on supporting local jurisdictions and the energy efficiency workforce. I-REN's locally administered regional energy network ensures ratepayers in this region can become active participants in meeting California energy efficiency goals.¹²

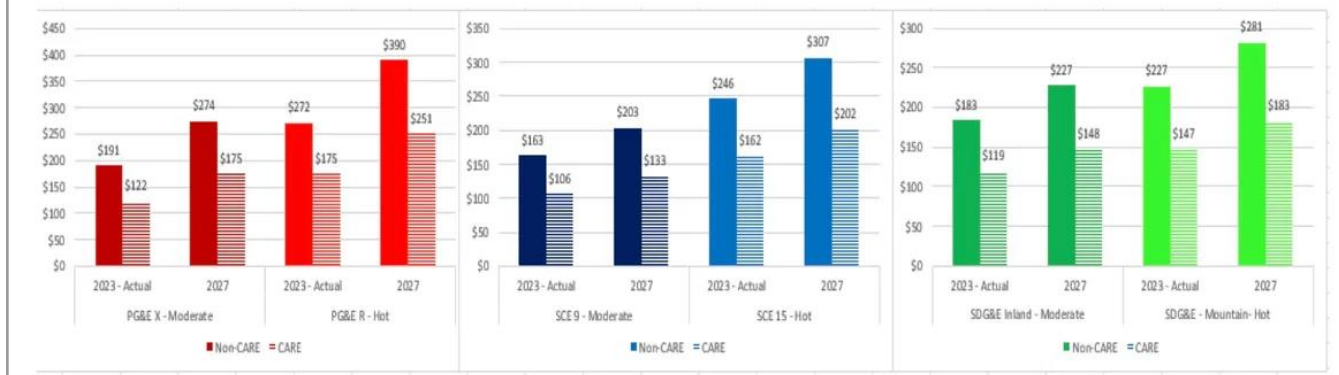
The Energy Affordability Context

What Is *Really* Driving Energy Prices?

According to legislatively required affordability reports written by the CPUC, wildfire spending and pre-authorization for overspending are the top drivers of energy price increases (as detailed below). It is important to recognize the scale of these increases and the connection between reducing these prices and affordability. The figure below shows the sharp increases forecasted in monthly energy bills, especially for hot climate zones such as I-REN's.

¹² I-REN 2021-2025 Energy Efficiency Business Plan

**Figure 25: PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E
Current and Projected Residential Average Monthly Bills, Year-End 2023 – Year-End 2027
Typical Customer Living in a Moderate and Hot Climate Zone**



Source: CPUC

Wildfire Spending

- Wildfire risk reduction spending is a primary driver of increases in today's electric rates.¹³
- The three-year 2023-2025 wildfire risk spending across all IOUs is \$26.2B, which is 78% of just one year's retail electricity sales (\$33.6B in 2022).
- These significant wildfire-related operating expenses include vegetation management efforts, wildfire liability insurance coverage, and capital expenditures related to grid hardening.
- The wildfire-related capital revenue requirement may become a significant portion of the IOUs' total revenue requirement and energy rates in the future.¹⁴

Pre-authorization for Overspending

- \$227M of unplanned overspending on the gas system shows just one example of how easily rates are impacted due to current regulations and utility business models.
- Decision (D.)19-09-051 authorized SoCalGas to spend \$539 million on its Transmission Integrity Management Program (TIMP) and to establish a two-way balancing account to recover actual operations and maintenance (O&M) and capital related costs. The decision allowed SoCalGas to recover undercollections when actual expenditures exceed authorized O&M and capital expenditures by up to 35 percent via Tier 3 advice letter. The letter stated that any amount above 35 percent of authorized O&M and capital is subject to a separate application procedure.

What Is *Not* Driving Up Energy Prices?

Contrary to the information provided by CalAdvocates to the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee on March

¹³ 2023 Senate Bill 695 Report apt pp11. https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/electric-costs/sb-695-reports/2023-sb-695-report_final.pdf

¹⁴ ibid

6, 2024, energy bill subsidies for low-income customers and energy efficiency programs are not drivers of skyrocketing energy bills. Since 1996, these funds have been collected through legislative mandates. Unlike wildfire-related spending and the pre-authorized overspending on capital expenditures for utility infrastructure, these low-income subsidies and energy programs directly alleviate affordability challenges and lower customer energy consumption and overall monthly bills. RENs are funded primarily by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC)-authorized Public Purpose Program (PPP) charge on energy bills. This charge for RENs is less than 1% of a customer's energy bill. RENs also secure supplemental funding from grant programs to expand their community services.

Between 2024 and 2027 energy efficiency programs yield \$3.99B of 'total system benefit' and cost \$4.05B.¹⁵ Total system benefit is the "life cycle energy, ancillary services, generation capacity, transmission and distribution capacity, and GHG benefits of energy efficiency activities, on an annual basis."¹⁶ The difference between the cost and benefit is roughly \$60M over four years, or \$15M a year, which hardly compares to the wildfire-related expenses and capital expenditure overspending, let alone to the \$44B in annual energy sales. Yet, the legislature, the Governor's office, and CalAdvocates continue to advance policy that eliminates the public purpose program funding source, which includes all of I-REN's funding.

What Is the CPUC Doing About It?

The following are solutions that the CPUC has outlined in their SB 695 Affordability Report. The rationale and drawbacks are discussed below. None of the solutions address the root causes of controlling the utility spending that drives the need for rates to increase, which are required to maintain the utilities' business model. This endless loop of authorizing expenses, raising rates, and discontent by the legislature and statewide governance, which isn't without external influence, must be addressed.

- Solution 1: Implementing a graduated income fixed charge
 - The rationale: Higher fixed charges and lower \$/energy consumed will encourage electrification and lower bills for low-income customers and increase bills for other customers.
 - The drawback: ALL customers have a higher portion of their electricity rate becoming unavoidable 'fixed charges' and there are fewer opportunities to decrease total monthly bills through energy efficiency and solar+storage.
- Solution 2: Offload grid investments to the general fund rather than charge through rates
 - The rationale: Spreading the costs over the statewide tax base rather than increasing electric customers' bills will ease the burden on customers.
 - The drawback: Absent of meaningful cost control mechanisms, the total societal cost of these upgrades may continue to escalate, despite reducing electric bills.
- Other solutions are discussed in the SB 695 report and can be accessed [here](#).

¹⁵<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/capublicutilities/viz/CPUC24-27BudgetFilingData/BudgetPlanDashboard>

¹⁶CPUC. Total System Benefit Technical Guidance.

<https://pda.energydataweb.com/api/view/2530/DRAFT%20TSB%20Tech%20Guidance%20081621.pdf>

Legislative and Regulatory Threats to I-REN's Role

What Happened This Legislative Session?

In this legislative session, multiple bills were considered in the assembly, senate, and the Governor's office. They primarily focused on lowering customer bills, yet focused on cutting customer programs, which are a very small part of customer bills and produce more benefits as a whole than the costs to deliver services. Fuelled by incorrect, incomplete, and misleading information at various committee hearings, the legislature deserves credit for the attempt to tackle the problem, but more importantly, deserves correct information from local governments and RENs.

Assembly Efforts: AB 3264, 3016, 2329, and 1182

The most activity came from Assembly Bill 3264¹⁷ and discussions at the Assembly Utilities and Energy (U&E) Committee. This bill was the vehicle for the legislature to reign in escalating energy bills by requiring actions for a 15% reduction in customer bills. However, instead of focusing on the clear driver of increases—unmitigated capital spending on infrastructure—it would have repealed all public purpose program (PPP) funding. Local government and environmental advocates became aware of specific language for an amendment to this bill (see appendix A) that originated from AB 3016. This change would have made the public utilities code that authorized PPP and REN funding 'inoperative' on January 1, 2026. It would only then authorize the PPP funds once a cost-effectiveness study was conducted and reported back to the legislature. Then, additional legislation would need to be enacted to preserve programs at their determination.

This process received strong pushback from a collection of local governments, industry groups, and RENs. A coalition letter (Appendix B) outlines the opposition to this bill, which was ultimately effective in stopping the bill from moving to the Governor's office. The noteworthy flaw of this bill was that it failed to recognize that energy efficiency funding serves objectives beyond single-purpose programs that directly save energy. PPP-funded programs include workforce training, the vast majority of the engineering contracts needed to create the California Title 24 codes and standards updates, programs directly related to the CPUC Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan (ESJAP), and programs that save energy, but require reasonable investments to offset the installation costs for income-qualified customers.

As mentioned above, the energy efficiency programs as a whole portfolio deliver benefits equal to or greater than the costs to deliver them. Singling out specific programs as not 'cost-effective' undermines our state energy, climate, and social justice goals, and directly threatens I-REN's existence. When considering what this means for low-income customers who need energy efficiency and REN programs the most, it is clear: their programs would be eliminated and only market-rate programs would continue for affluent customers. A nationally published study by the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory shows that the programs serving low-income customers required four times the investment than market rate programs.¹⁸

¹⁷ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB3264

¹⁸ Goldman, C.A.; Hoffman, I.; Murphy, S.; Mims Frick, N.; Leventis, G.; Schwartz, L. The Cost of Saving Electricity: A Multi-Program Cost Curve for Programs Funded by U.S. Utility Customers. *Energies* **2020**, *13*, 2369. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en13092369>

Given that RENs primarily serve hard-to-reach and low-income customers, RENs would fall below this legislative ‘axing’ criteria and would have been eliminated if this bill language was enacted.

A gut-and-amend revision to the bill would have created a cost framework for residential rates by mandating a two-pronged report on energy programs and electrical transmission grid metrics. It was amended and passed unanimously by the Senate Energy, Utility, and Communications Committee. This amendment was framed as a way to increase transparency through improved reporting from the CPUC on what is driving energy bill costs. The amendment was intended to create a framework for tracking and analyzing residential energy costs moving forward. It would have required large electrical and gas corporations to publish cost categories included in residential rates on their websites starting in 2026, and it also would have updated the performance reporting for demand-side management programs, including energy efficiency programs. This bill would have taken steps to improve understanding of costs and programs instead of making drastic cuts based on limited information.

Indeed, this would have provided meaningful oversight to grid investments and shed light on infrastructure spending compared to ‘non-wires’ alternatives and building energy savings that could avoid those expenses. However, the portion of this bill that required additional oversight for energy efficiency programs would have taken a line-by-line approach to every energy program regardless of its contribution to the overall portfolio of CPUC programs. As discussed above, the portfolio as a whole requires a balance of energy savings, equity, and social justice programs to help customer affordability, access to clean energy, and non-energy benefits. If enacted, this bill would have significant increases in impractical evaluation studies and resulted in unintentional equity program closures for the sake of vanity metrics in legislative action.

Two other relevant legislative efforts are below. Neither of these advanced in the legislative process but are worth discussion as the concepts may resurface in the next legislative session and they would have impacted energy efficiency funding.

[AB 2329](#) Muratsuchi – CA Affordable Decarbonization Authority

AB 2329 would have established the California Affordable Decarbonization Authority as a nonprofit public benefit corporation. This has been interpreted as a successor agency to the CPUC’s role in PPP funding and seems to mirror a CalAdvocates proposal to the CPUC to consolidate a significant portion of customer-oriented investments under this new agency. Given the similarity to the CalAdvocate’s proposal to the CPUC and the patterned regulatory position of cutting equity and ‘non-cost-effective’ programs, this was considered an overall threat to RENs and customer investment.

[AB 1182](#) Petrie-Norris – Decarbonization Funding Plan

AB 1182 had a similar intent to AB 2329 but a different approach in cataloging all decarbonization investment and creating a plan to achieve statewide climate goals. While both of these bills had promise to unlock energy efficiency and decarbonization savings, the sharp focus on line-item management of expenses was perceived as detrimental to the holistic approach of balancing low-income and equity programs with market rate energy programs. Therefore, both bills were ultimately suspended in the legislature.

Governor's Office

Following the stagnation of the above referenced legislative bills, the Governor's office advanced its own affordability package aimed at eliminating or downsizing certain energy efficiency and renewable customer programs with the intent of lowering customer's monthly bills. To achieve electric bill savings, sources said, the administration's proposal would have:

- Sunset CalSHAPE, a state program that funds upgrades to school HVAC systems.
- Reined in utility wildfire mitigation costs.
- Lowered the price of needed grid infrastructure investments.

This evolved into Assembly Bill AB 3121, which included cuts in funding for the SGIP, SOMAH, and CalSHAPE programs. However, it was withdrawn after significant opposition from environmental groups.

Currently, no bills propose significant cuts to energy efficiency program funding.

The legislature has been flooded with misinformation, primarily in the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee. Presentations from the CPUC's Public Advocate's Office (PAO) contained misleading and incomplete information about the drivers of energy cost increases.

What happened in recent regulatory proceedings?

CalAdvocates Petition P.24-03-013

CalAdvocates, a division of the CPUC that is accountable to the Governor and not the CPUC Commissioners, also launched a regulatory petition to consolidate a large number of program portfolios across multiple proceedings. The overall intent was not in question, but the mechanics and the detailed recommendations aligned with the above legislative bills created deep concern for local governments, environmental advocates, and RENs. This petition is still under consideration from the CPUC. An excerpt from the Joint REN comments, which included I-REN, is provided below:

"The proposed OIR would likely be unprecedented in the breadth of its scope, proposing to reform and combine rules for portfolios that seek to achieve different goals, are subject to specific and distinct statutory mandates, and have been developed over the course of decades. Such an expansive OIR faces the risks of getting bogged down as multiple issues and work streams need to be resolved and achieving meaningful progress will likely go beyond the 1-2 year(s) timeframe envisioned in the Petition. Furthermore, the integration of certain DSM programs may not be practical or create efficiencies."

On September 13th, 2024 the Commission found that the petition was too broad, did not state the relief requested, was duplicative of other proceedings, and failed to adhere to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The Commission notes various areas that proceedings may consider in the future:

- How the results from ongoing pilots could inform the Equity Segment, as well as potential further

synergies between programs that serve low-income customers.

- Enhanced ways to value and assess the energy efficiency portfolio at the program and/or portfolio level.
- Ways to further grow fuel substitution within the EE portfolios, including by exploring barriers that may exist in today's EE portfolios.
- How to better coordinate between Commission programs to ensure customer ease in participation and cost savings through efficiencies.

I-REN and its team will continue to update the executive committee on the developments of this proposal.

Recommendations

In summary, this report has reviewed the most recent threats to customer programs, I-REN's funding, and I-REN's ability to deliver programs to constituents. The following are recommendations for the I-REN Executive Committee to actively pursue in anticipation of the next legislative year.

- Understand the threats to I-REN funding
- Equip yourselves with talking points on benefits of RENs
- Know how to debunk misinformation about PPP funding
- Engage elected officials in strategic positions to preserve REN programs
- Prevent harmful legislation by working with I-REN and CalREN
- Advance beneficial legislation as an offense to expand REN funding
- Continuously monitor regulatory actions by reviewing and understanding I-REN briefs
- Create local action through municipal authority to diversify decarbonization policy
- Diversify funding as a risk mitigation factor for I-REN with state and federal funding agencies

Appendix A: AB 3016 Language Considered for AB3264

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AMENDMENTS TO ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3016 AS AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2024

Amendment 1

In the title, in line 2, strike out “Article 15.5 (commencing with Section”, strike out line 3, in line 4, strike out “Government Code,” and insert:

and repeal Section 25325 of the Public Resources Code, and to amend Section 381 of, and to add Section 380.7 to, the Public Utilities Code,

Amendment 2

On page 2, before line 1, insert:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Electric Affordability Act of 2024.

SEC. 2. Section 25325 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

25325. (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2026, the commission, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, Treasurer’s Office, Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, Independent System Operator, the Public Advocate’s Office, and other California balancing authorities, as defined in Section 399.12 of the Public Utilities Code, shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature a study, including findings and recommendations, identifying proposals to reduce the cost to ratepayers of expanding the state’s electrical transmission grid, as necessary, to achieve the state’s goals and meet the state’s requirements to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, as specified in statute, regulation, or executive order.

(2) The study submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(b) In conducting the study, the commission shall evaluate all of the following:

(1) Public financing of transmission projects, including approaches to lower the cost of financing, and the use of nonratepayer funds to pay a portion of the costs of transmission projects necessary to achieve relevant public policy goals. The study shall identify nonratepayer funding sources that may be suitable for this purpose.

(2) The costs and benefits of different ownership models, lease agreements, or other public-private arrangements necessary to build the transmission projects using public financing. In evaluating the different ownership models, the commission shall consider both of the following:

(A) How best to maximize state support for siting and permitting projects and obtaining land use rights.

(B) The potential impact that each proposal may have on the state’s liability for damages caused by transmission facilities, including damages resulting from wildfires.

(3) Other proposals identified by the commission or other consulted parties that, in the judgment of the commission, could accelerate the development of, and reduce the cost to ratepayers of, expanding the state’s electrical transmission grid.

(4) Estimated cost savings of each option.



(5) Thresholds or criteria for transmission projects to be considered eligible for public financing, including, but not limited to, project size, cost, location, or achievement of statewide policy.

(6) Appropriate cost limitations and protections in exercising public financing for this purpose.

(7) Relevant local, state, and federal statutes applicable to the public financing of transmission infrastructure.

(c) In conducting the study, the commission shall provide opportunities for public input on which proposals to consider and on draft findings and recommendations.

(d) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 3. Section 380.7 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

380.7. (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2026, the commission, in collaboration with the Energy Commission, and in a public process that allows input from other stakeholders, shall establish annual targets for statewide energy savings that will achieve a 15-percent reduction in retail customer total energy bills by January 1, 2030, to the extent doing so will not adversely impact public health and safety.

(2) The commission shall base the targets on an average customer bill, separated for each customer class and climate zone, in each electrical and gas corporation service territory. Representative customer electricity, natural gas, and gasoline bills shall cumulatively determine customer total energy bill baselines upon which the commission shall forecast target scenarios.

(b) Beginning with the 2027 edition of the annual cost report pursuant to Section 913.1, the commission shall provide recommendations and an update on progress toward achieving the targets established pursuant to this section. The commission shall also include, with the recommendations, an update of all of the following:

(1) An assessment of the measures contributing to both energy bill reductions and energy bill increases.

(2) Specific strategies for, and an update on, progress toward maximizing the energy bill savings for customers participating in the California Alternative Rates for Energy program pursuant to Section 739.1.

(3) An assessment of, and specific strategies for, reducing electrical corporation capital expenditures, with a focus on those expenditures with statewide benefits outside of improvements to electricity service and delivery.

(4) An assessment of any adverse impacts to public health and safety and energy system reliability as a result of the targets established pursuant to this section.

SEC. 4. Section 381 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

381. (a) To ensure that the funding for the programs described in subdivision (b) and Section 382 are not commingled with other revenues, the commission shall require each electrical corporation to identify a separate rate component to collect the revenues used to fund these programs. The rate component shall be a nonbypassable element of the local distribution service.

(b) The commission shall allocate funds collected pursuant to subdivision (a), and any interest earned on collected funds, to programs that enhance system reliability and provide in-state benefits as follows:

(1) Cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation activities.

labor imports

not bus need

new

(2) Public interest research and development not adequately provided by competitive and regulated markets.

(3) In-state operation and development of existing and new and emerging eligible renewable energy resources, as defined in Section 399.12.

(c) The commission shall order the respective electrical corporations to collect and spend these funds at the levels and for the purposes required in Section 399.8.

(d) Each electrical corporation shall allow customers to make voluntary contributions through their utility bill payments as either a fixed amount or a variable amount to support programs established pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (b). Funds collected by electrical corporations for these purposes shall be forwarded in a timely manner to the appropriate fund as specified by the commission.

(e) Paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) shall become inoperative on January 1, 2026, unless a review of programs implementing that paragraph by the appropriate policy committee of the Legislature is conducted and legislation is enacted providing for the continuation of those programs. The review shall evaluate the cost-effectiveness of those programs. The review shall consider the impact of program closure on meeting the statewide goals pursuant to Section 25310 of the Public Resources Code.

SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Amendment 3

On page 2, strike out lines 1 to 19, inclusive

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 11, 2024

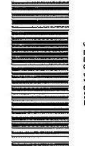
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3016

Introduced by Assembly Member Petrie-Norris

February 16, 2024



RN2412776

An act to add Article 15.5 (commencing with Section 12100.165) to Chapter 1.6 of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and repeal Section 25325 of the Public Resources Code, and to amend Section 381 of, and to add Section 380.7 to, the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

Amendment 1

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3016, as amended, Petrie-Norris. ~~Renewable electrical generation facilities; interagency coordination. Energy affordability.~~

Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission), in consultation with various entities, to adopt a strategic plan for the state electrical transmission grid that identifies and recommends actions required to implement investments needed to ensure reliability, relieve congestion, and meet future growth in load and generation.

This bill would require the Energy Commission, in consultation with specified entities, on or before January 1, 2026, to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a study, including findings and recommendations, identifying proposals to reduce the cost to ratepayers of expanding the state's electrical transmission grid as necessary to achieve the state's goals, and meet the state's requirements, to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, as specified.

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Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to allocate funds collected by electrical corporations from a rate component that is a nonbypassable element of the local distribution service for various programs, including programs for cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation activities.

This bill would make inoperative, on January 1, 2026, the requirement to allocate funds for cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation activities, unless a relevant policy committee of the Legislature conducts a review of programs funded by that allocation and subsequent legislation is enacted providing for the continuation of those programs, as specified.

This bill would require the PUC, in collaboration with the Energy Commission, on or before January 1, 2026, to establish annual targets for statewide energy savings that will achieve a 15% reduction in retail customer total energy bills by January 1, 2030, to the extent doing so will not adversely impact public health and safety.

Under existing law, a violation of an order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the PUC is a crime

Because a violation of a PUC action implementing certain provisions of this bill would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason

~~Existing law establishes the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to, among other duties, serve the Governor as the lead entity for economic strategy and the marketing of California on issues relating to business development, private sector investment, and economic growth. Existing law imposes various requirements relating to the environmental review and governmental approval of certain types of projects, including renewable electricity generation projects.~~

~~This bill would require the office, on or before January 1, 2026, to create and oversee a process for interagency coordination for all state and local agencies with known or likely environmental review or permitting jurisdiction relating to proposed renewable electrical generation facilities. The bill would request federal agencies with known~~

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~~or likely environmental review or permitting jurisdiction relating to proposed renewable electrical generation facilities to participate in the process.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: ~~no~~ yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- + SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- + *Electric Affordability Act of 2024*
- + SEC. 2. Section 25325 is added to the Public Resources Code,
- + to read
- + 25325. (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2026, the commission,
- + in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, Treasurer's
- + Office, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development,
- + Independent System Operator, the Public Advocate's Office, and
- + other California balancing authorities, as defined in Section 399.12
- + of the Public Utilities Code, shall submit to the Governor and the
- + Legislature a study, including findings and recommendations,
- + identifying proposals to reduce the cost to ratepayers of expanding
- + the state's electrical transmission grid, as necessary, to achieve
- + the state's goals and meet the state's requirements to reduce the
- + emissions of greenhouse gases, as specified in statute, regulation,
- + or executive order.
- + (2) The study submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted in
- + accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.
- + (b) In conducting the study, the commission shall evaluate all
- + of the following
- + (1) Public financing of transmission projects, including
- + approaches to lower the cost of financing, and the use of
- + nonratepayer funds to pay a portion of the costs of transmission
- + projects necessary to achieve relevant public policy goals. The
- + study shall identify nonratepayer funding sources that may be
- + suitable for this purpose.
- + (2) The costs and benefits of different ownership models, lease
- + agreements, or other public-private arrangements necessary to
- + build the transmission projects using public financing. In
- + evaluating the different ownership models, the commission shall
- + consider both of the following

Amendment 2

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- + (A) How best to maximize state support for siting and permitting projects and obtaining land use rights.
- + (B) The potential impact that each proposal may have on the state's liability for damages caused by transmission facilities, including damages resulting from wildfires.
- + (3) Other proposals identified by the commission or other consulted parties that, in the judgment of the commission, could accelerate the development of, and reduce the cost to ratepayers of, expanding the state's electrical transmission grid.
- + (4) Estimated cost savings of each option.
- + (5) Thresholds or criteria for transmission projects to be considered eligible for public financing, including, but not limited to, project size, cost, location, or achievement of statewide policy.
- + (6) Appropriate cost limitations and protections in exercising public financing for this purpose.
- + (7) Relevant local, state, and federal statutes applicable to the public financing of transmission infrastructure
- + (c) In conducting the study, the commission shall provide opportunities for public input on which proposals to consider and on draft findings and recommendations.
- + (d) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030, and as of that date is repealed
- + SEC. 3. Section 380.7 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:
- + 380.7 (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2026, the commission, in collaboration with the Energy Commission, and in a public process that allows input from other stakeholders, shall establish annual targets for statewide energy savings that will achieve a 15-percent reduction in retail customer total energy bills by January 1, 2030, to the extent doing so will not adversely impact public health and safety.
- + (2) The commission shall base the targets on an average customer bill, separated for each customer class and climate zone, in each electrical and gas corporation service territory. Representative customer electricity, natural gas, and gasoline bills shall cumulatively determine customer total energy bill baselines upon which the commission shall forecast target scenarios.
- + (b) Beginning with the 2027 edition of the annual cost report pursuant to Section 913 I, the commission shall provide

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- + recommendations and an update on progress toward achieving
- + the targets established pursuant to this section. The commission
- + shall also include, with the recommendations, an update of all of
- + the following:
- + (1) An assessment of the measures contributing to both energy
- + bill reductions and energy bill increases.
- + (2) Specific strategies for, and an update on, progress toward
- + maximizing the energy bill savings for customers participating in
- + the California Alternative Rates for Energy program pursuant to
- + Section 739.1.
- + (3) An assessment of, and specific strategies for, reducing
- + electrical corporation capital expenditures, with a focus on those
- + expenditures with statewide benefits outside of improvements to
- + electricity service and delivery.
- + (4) An assessment of any adverse impacts to public health and
- + safety and energy system reliability as a result of the targets
- + established pursuant to this section.
- + SEC 4 Section 381 of the Public Utilities Code is amended
- + to read:
- + 381. (a) To ensure that the funding for the programs described
- + in subdivision (b) and Section 382 are not commingled with other
- + revenues, the commission shall require each electrical corporation
- + to identify a separate rate component to collect the revenues used
- + to fund these programs. The rate component shall be a
- + nonbypassable element of the local distribution service.
- + (b) The commission shall allocate funds collected pursuant to
- + subdivision (a), and any interest earned on collected funds, to
- + programs that enhance system reliability and provide in-state
- + benefits as follows:
- + (1) Cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation activities.
- + (2) Public interest research and development not adequately
- + provided by competitive and regulated markets.
- + (3) In-state operation and development of existing and new and
- + emerging eligible renewable energy resources, as defined in Section
- + 399.12.
- + (c) The commission shall order the respective electrical
- + corporations to collect and spend these funds at the levels and for
- + the purposes required in Section 399.8.
- + (d) Each electrical corporation shall allow customers to make
- + voluntary contributions through their utility bill payments as either

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+ a fixed amount or a variable amount to support programs
+ established pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (b). Funds
+ collected by electrical corporations for these purposes shall be
+ forwarded in a timely manner to the appropriate fund as specified
+ by the commission

+ *(e) Paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) shall become inoperative
+ on January 1, 2026, unless a review of programs implementing
+ that paragraph by the appropriate policy committee of the
+ Legislature is conducted and legislation is enacted providing for
+ the continuation of those programs. The review shall evaluate the
+ cost-effectiveness of those programs. The review shall consider
+ the impact of program closure on meeting the statewide goals
+ pursuant to Section 25310 of the Public Resources Code.*

+ *SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
+ Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
+ the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
+ district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
+ infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
+ for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
+ the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
+ the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
+ Constitution.*

page 2

1 ~~SECTION 1. Article 15.5 (commencing with Section~~
2 ~~12100.165) is added to Chapter 1.6 of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title~~
3 ~~2 of the Government Code, to read:~~

4
5 Article 15.5. Interagency Coordination for Renewable Energy
6 Projects

+
8 ~~12100.165. For purposes of this article, "renewable electrical~~
9 ~~generation facility" has the same meaning as defined in Section~~
10 ~~25741 of the Public Resources Code.~~

11 ~~12100.166. (a) On or before January 1, 2026, the office shall~~
12 ~~create and oversee a process for interagency coordination for all~~
13 ~~state and local agencies with known or likely environmental review~~
14 ~~or permitting jurisdiction relating to proposed renewable electrical~~
15 ~~generation facilities.~~

16 ~~(b) Federal agencies with known or likely environmental review~~
17 ~~or permitting jurisdiction relating to proposed renewable electrical~~

Amendment 3

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18 generation facilities are requested to participate in the interagency
19 coordination process established pursuant to this article.

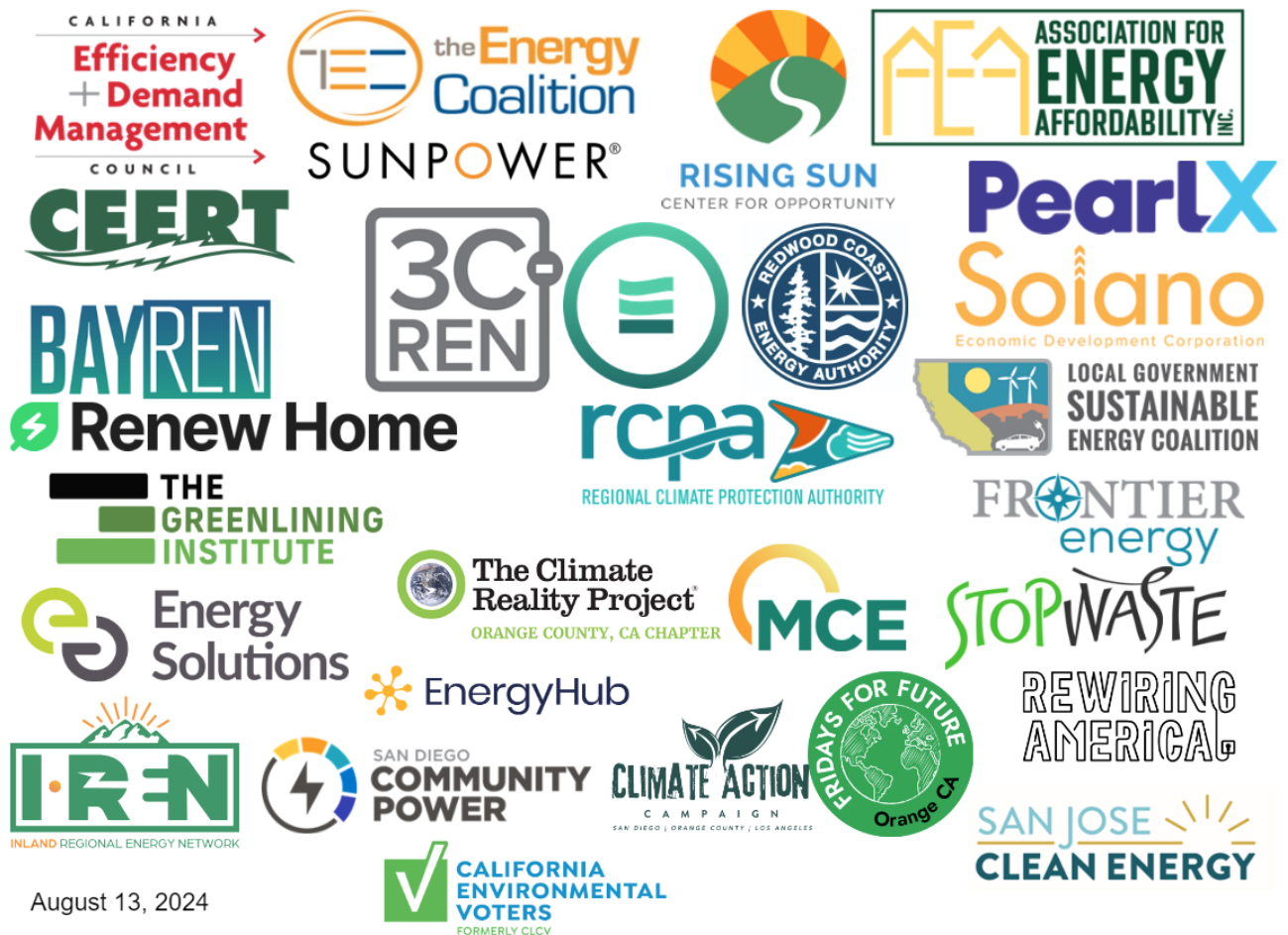
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Appendix B: Coalition Letter Sent to Legislature



August 13, 2024

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O. Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
1021 O. Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Protecting energy efficiency funding in Public Purpose Programs

Dear Speaker Rivas and President Pro Tem McGuire:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing in strong opposition to efforts that propose to eliminate all non-cost-effective energy efficiency program funding from Public Purpose Program (PPP) Funds. While we understand the Legislature's need to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, we see this additional auditing process as a misguided attempt to eliminate energy efficiency programs that have saved more than \$100 billion in utility bills¹ since the 1970s, benefitting ratepayers, the environment, and California's economy.

¹ California Energy Commission, Achieving Energy Efficiency.
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/core-responsibility-fact-sheets/achieving-energy-efficiency>

Energy efficiency lowers ratepayers' bills and eliminating this funding is counterproductive. Utility energy efficiency programs are funded through California ratepayers and regulated by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC). PPP Funds make up around 5-8% of a resident's electric bill and go far beyond energy efficiency, funding a variety of programs in the public's interest. PPPs include, but are not limited to, EPIC (research & development grants administered by the CEC and IOUs), AB 841 transportation electrification and school HVAC upgrades, and CARE/FERA discounts. Only 1.5-2% of a resident's bill is attributable to energy efficiency programs, or put another way, an average residential customer in Southern California with an electric bill of \$183 a month would only be investing \$3 on energy efficiency programs.

Energy efficiency reduces pressure on the distribution grid and supports equitable decarbonization. The CPUC and California Energy Commission (CEC) are focused on increasing loads and the distribution grid. Energy efficiency is critical in maintaining the state's grid reliability and mitigating costly distribution upgrades. In addition to reducing these utility-level costs, energy efficiency is also often the only way consumers can reduce the amount of money ratepayers spend on their utility bills without decreasing health, comfort, or safety in their homes. Eliminating energy efficiency as a use for PPP funds strips funding collected from, and promised to, residential and industrial consumers – including those in disadvantaged areas. Reallocating those funds for other purposes without plans or programs to unlock the funding to ratepayers whom they were promised to is a step backwards in our effort to make utility bills more affordable and equitable for Californians.

Programs that serve low-income, environmental justice, small businesses, and other hard to reach customers and communities are vital, but often not cost-effective under traditional tests. The customers who are bearing the brunt of the affordability crisis are also the customers who benefit the most from energy efficiency programs, which help them reduce their usage and lower their bills. Especially for customers in environmental justice communities, wildfire-prone areas, and other pollution-impacted communities, energy efficiency programs also provide essential health and safety benefits, in addition to more affordable bills. These customers are the least likely to be able to invest in efficiency upgrades on their own, and rely on robust incentive programs with reliable funding. Strict adherence to stringent, traditional cost effectiveness tests means that these groups of customers would likely not be served at all, which would have a detrimental effect on affordability for the very customers who are most in need of assistance.

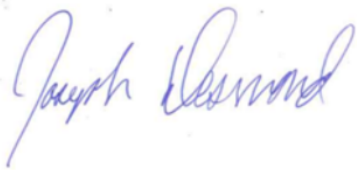
Energy efficiency is cost effective at the portfolio level and the misleading characterizations of non-cost effectiveness at the program level do not accurately capture the well evaluated and proven performance of energy efficiency. Program administrators of energy efficiency programs intentionally balance investments across an entire portfolio. The way this is currently achieved is by attributing all energy efficiency achieved up to code to the utilities' codes and standards program, but only "above code" savings to programs. This means that most of the actual energy savings of these boots-on-the ground programs are ignored for purposes of the CPUC's "cost effectiveness" test. The Public Advocates Office used an individual program analysis when stating individual programs are not cost-effective—which is not how the funding is appropriated or evaluated. The Public Advocates Office even includes measurement and verification of savings - ensuring ratepayer dollars are well-spent - as "non-cost-effective".

Certain energy efficiency programs are moving toward a pay-for-performance model. Energy efficiency has increasingly focused on pay-for-performance programming in recent years; under these programs, ratepayer funds are only spent on actual energy savings achieved and held back if the programs do not achieve the expected energy savings goals. Additionally program Administrators of energy efficiency are already reporting to the CPUC on metrics the legislature would need in order to evaluate program performance and value.

Energy efficiency is critical to reaching state goals of carbon reduction and electrification. In 2015, with the passage of the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (SB 350), the Legislature doubled energy efficiency savings goals. In the same year, AB 802 (Williams, Chapter 590, Statutes of 2015) allowed ratepayer funded incentive programs to support bringing older buildings up to and eventually beyond energy efficiency code levels using existing conditions baseline. Electrification can significantly increase bills if not paired with energy efficiency measures. For example, electrifying a drafty and unsealed building will lead to using a lot more electricity than if the work paired energy efficiency with electrification; this would increase not only customer bills but also total system costs, since more electricity would need to be procured to power an inefficient space.

We welcome conversations to discuss the background and potential alternatives to improve the Public Purpose Program, energy efficiency programs, and energy affordability. Unfortunately, the proposal to gut Public Purpose Program funding for non-cost-effective energy efficiency programs would move California further away from our energy and climate goals while stealing ratepayer incentive funding for other uses.

These organizations oppose proposed amendments to eliminate all non-cost-effective energy efficiency program funding from Public Purpose Program Funds.



Joe Desmond
Executive Director
California Efficiency + Demand Management Council



Julia Popolizio Hatton
President & Chief Executive Officer
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity



Craig Perkins
President & Executive Director
The Energy Coalition



Patrick Sterns
Director, Policy and Strategy, Western States
SunPower



Andrew Brooks
Senior Director
Association for Energy Affordability West

Mollie Corcoran
Director, Regulatory & Policy
PearlX Infrastructure



V. John White
Executive Director
Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable
Technologies (CEERT)



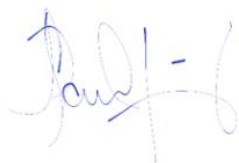
Cliff Staton
Head of Government Affairs and Community
Relations
Renew Home



Alejandra Tellez
Co-Director
Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN)



Jane Elias
Energy Section Director
Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)



J. Paul Harrington
Vice President
Solano Economic Development Corporation



Bernadette Austin
CEO
CivicWell



Demian Hardman-Saldana
Chair
Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition

Jordyn Bishop
Senior Legal Counsel, Energy Equity
The Greenlining Institute



James Cameron
Executive Director
Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority



Adam Walburger
President
Frontier Energy, Inc.

