



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

AGENDA

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025
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**

Members of the public are welcome to participate remotely from any location. Committee member participation is limited to locations that are listed on the published agenda.

[Public Zoom Link](#)

**Meeting ID: 886 4326 1379
Passcode: 585575
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 (Art Bishop, 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 15, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve the Action Minutes from the July 15, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

B. First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Frontier Energy for ongoing Codes & Standards Program Activities

Requested Action(s): 1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Frontier Energy for ongoing program support in the Codes & Standards Sector in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,956,195.00, for a term through December 31, 2027.

C. First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Alternative Energy Systems Consulting for ongoing Public Sector Program Activities

Requested Action(s): 1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Alternative Energy Services Consulting for ongoing program support in the Public Sector in an amount not-to-exceed \$855,000.00, for a term through December 31, 2027.

D. Approval of a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program for Service Year 2025/2026

Requested Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 24 full-time Fellows, and up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows, within the I-REN service territory for program service year 2025/2026.

E. First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with ICF Resources, LLC, for I-REN Marketing Support Through 2027

Requested Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with ICF Resources, LLC, for marketing services through December 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. Approval of 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the schedule of Executive Committee meetings for 2026.

B. Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Activities Update

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

C. Third-Party Residential Coordination Activities

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Art Bishop, Town of Apple Valley

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, November 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., in **WRCOG's new office at 1955 Chicago Avenue, Riverside.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

12. AGENCY ACRONYMS

Inland Regional Energy Network Acronym Guide

3C-REN – Tri-County Regional Energy Network (Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura)
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
CAISO – 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 Governments
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 gas
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
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 Oscar Ortiz at 2:00 p.m. on July 15, 2025, at WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CVAG staff Steve Smith led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

CVAG

- City of Indio - Oscar Ortiz (Chair)

SBCOG

- City of Grand Terrace - Bill Hussey
- County of San Bernardino - Curt Hagman*
- Town of Apple Valley - Art Bishop (Vice-Chair)

WRCOG

- City of Eastvale - Christian Dinco
- City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas
- City of San Jacinto - Crystal Ruiz

*Arrived after Roll Call

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. SELECTION OF I-REN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, AND 2ND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Ruiz
SECONDER:	Hagman
AYES:	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Bishop, Dinco, Barajas, Ruiz

A. Selection of I-REN Executive Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair Positions for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

Action:

1. Selected Art Bishop as Chair, Chris Barajas as Vice-Chair, and Oscar Ortiz as 2nd Vice-Chair, for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Hagman
SECONDER:	Ruiz
AYES:	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Bishop, Dinco, Barajas, Ruiz

A. Action Minutes from the May 20, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Action Minutes from the May 20, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Ruiz
SECONDER:	Barajas
AYES:	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Bishop, Dinco, Barajas, Ruiz

A. Approval of an Agreement between WRCOG and the Inland Empire Community Foundation to Administer the California Energy Commission Equitable Building Decarbonization Program

Action:

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the Inland Empire Community Foundation for the administration of the California Energy Commission Equitable Building Decarbonization Program in the I-REN region.

B. Third-Party Commercial and Industrial Coordination Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. I-REN Regulatory and Reporting Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Ortiz had nothing to report.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environment, recommended that the Committee cancel its August 19, 2025, meeting and shared that I-REN will be presenting an incentive check for \$88k to the Colton Joint Unified School District for the lighting project at Joe Baca Middle School.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., in WRCOG's office located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Frontier Energy for ongoing Codes & Standards Program Activities

Contact: Benjamin Druyon, WRCOG Program Manager, bdruyon@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6727

Date: October 21, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Frontier Energy for ongoing program support in the Codes & Standards Sector in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,956,195.00, for a term through December 31, 2027.

Summary:

Frontier Energy's existing Codes & Standards (C&S) contract ends on December 31, 2025. I-REN has utilized Frontier's services to develop and implement C&S programs. Continuous support is needed through the remainder of the current Business Plan cycle, which ends December 31, 2027. While the next Business Plan is under development, uninterrupted access to Frontier's services and trainings is essential in maintaining program stability.

Discussion:

Background

After reviewing WRCOG's procurement procedures in late 2022, staff selected Frontier Energy as the consultant to help develop and implement I-REN's C&S programs and activities. A Professional Services Agreement (PSA) between WRCOG and Frontier was approved in January 2023, and the work began.

Present Situation

Staff seeks to continue working with Frontier Energy on the C&S Programs, uninterrupted, until the next Business Plan is filed and has been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The proposed Amendment 1 would allow Frontier Energy to continue to meet the needs of WRCOG and I-REN for C&S consulting support related to the following items, which are detailed in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report.

- Consulting services within the scope of the existing 12/6/2022 PSA, for which WRCOG requests

additional ongoing support.

- Additional enhancements to services and offerings since the signing of the 12/6/2022 PSA.

Training and Education Program

As the C&S Training and Education Program matures, unique enhancements are recommended to further explore and meet regional needs, including:

- Development of a database: Launch a secure cloud-based database to host program management dashboards, training and forum registration information, outreach and engagement data, audience lists, and reporting metrics within a single platform.
- Design and implementation of a Building Professional Training and Certification offering: In coordination with the Workforce Education and Training program, this is a full-service education offering which conducts an initial market assessment for jurisdiction workforce, codes training, and related certification needs; explores and develops pathways for participation; and ultimately offers support on specific certification costs for participants. This may include but is not limited to Energy Code Compliance Rater certification, California Energy Analyst certification, Certified Building Officials (CBO), Plans Examiners, and related International Codes Council certifications.
- Launch a learning management system to host ongoing virtual training recordings, Spanish-translated trainings, and improve engagement tracking. Once implemented, I-REN will offer an accessible library of on-demand, no-cost, Spanish-translated code trainings—building on I-REN's recent leadership as a REN in expanding equitable access to educational resources.
- Expand code training partnerships with local American Institute of Architects chapters: Develop and deliver two educational trainings for architects, serving as a liaison to local AIA chapters, facilitating partnership and cross-promotion, and conducting email and phone outreach to architectural firms for these trainings.
- Expand technical code trainings specific to contractors by enlisting training providers to develop live and on-demand multi-part training addressing HVAC and heat pump installation best practices, as related to the code. All parts to be simulcast and translated in Spanish.
- Increase the frequency of virtual events: Up to 24 trainings per year (previously 12 - 16 trainings) and quarterly forums (previously biannual).

Technical Assistance Program

The passing of AB 306 and AB 130 presents an opportunity to bolster the Technical Assistance Program's offerings and resources. In the coming years, the Program can drive deeper understanding and enforcement of the prevailing code for local building professionals, and also leverage this pause in the code cycle to develop deeper jurisdictional relationships, and understand regional practices and needs. Listed below, Frontier Energy is proposing additional Technical Assistance activities designed to identify opportunities for enhanced Program engagement and efficacy.

- Develop a tracking resource for third-party plan checking agencies and other organizations that jurisdictions leverage for permitting support. Conduct outreach to establish relationships with third-party plan check companies and conduct a survey to determine broader code assistance and training needs.
- Conduct an exploratory permitting study to understand regional permitting, data availability, potential barriers to code compliance, and software usage. This study will be used to inform the design of broader technical assistance, training, and education offerings.

- Expand the Energy Code Support offering by designing and implementing an Energy Code Special Inspection offering. The goal of the offering is to work directly with local agencies to directly leverage no-cost energy code enforcement expertise from a certified energy code inspector, and cross-promote the existing HERS (now Energy Code Compliance) rater program statewide.

For these reasons, staff's recommendation is to recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute an Amendment #1 to the PSA with Frontier Energy for C&S Services through 2027.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

An amendment for Frontier's services was anticipated and included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget under the I-REN Fund (Fund 180).

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - First Amendment to the PSA with Frontier](#)

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
FRONTIER ENERGY, INC.**

1. PARTIES AND DATE.

This First Amendment is made and entered into this 3rd day of November 2025, by and between the Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency ("WRCOG") and Frontier Energy, Inc., a California corporation and professional services firm delivering energy efficiency, market transformation, and financial solutions through technical consulting, program development and implementation, and technology development ("Consultant"). WRCOG and Consultant are sometimes individually referred to as "Party" and collectively as "Parties."

2. RECITALS.

2.1 Master Agreement.

WRCOG and Consultant have entered into that certain Professional Services Agreement dated February 21, 2023 ("Master Agreement").

2.2 First Amendment.

WRCOG and Consultant desire to enter into this First Amendment for the purposes of amending the Scope of Services, extending the term of the Master Agreement and providing additional compensation for ongoing energy efficiency support as it pertains to WRCOG's Regional Energy Network development ("Services").

3. TERMS.

3.1 Extending Master Agreement Length.

Pursuant to Master Agreement section 3.1.2, the term of the Master Agreement shall be extended to December 31, 2027.

3.2 Additional Services.

The Services, as that term is defined by the Master Agreement, shall be amended to include additional services as described in Exhibit "A-1", attached hereto to this First Amendment and incorporated herein by this reference. From the date of this Amendment, all references to Exhibit "A" of the Master Agreement shall be deemed to refer to Exhibit "A-1".

3.3 Additional Compensation.

The maximum compensation for Services performed under this First Amendment shall not exceed one million five hundred eighty-two thousand four hundred seventy-eight dollars (\$1,582,478.00) without written approval of WRCOG's Executive Director. Work shall be performed in manner that is consistent with the terms of the Master Agreement, including Exhibits.

The total not-to-exceed-value of the Master Agreement and this First Amendment shall be increased from two million three hundred seventy-four thousand dollars (\$2,374,000.00) to three million nine hundred fifty-six thousand one hundred ninety-five dollars (\$3,956,195.00). Exhibit "C" of the Master Agreement is hereby replaced with Exhibit "C-1", attached hereto to this First Amendment and incorporated herein by this reference. From the date of this Amendment, all references to Exhibit "C" of the Master Agreement shall be deemed to refer to Exhibit "C-1".

3.4 Continuation of Existing Provisions.

Except as amended by this First Amendment, all provisions of the Master Agreement, including without limitation the indemnity and insurance provisions, shall remain in full force and effect and shall govern the actions of the Parties under this First Amendment.

3.5 Counterparts.

This First Amendment may be executed in duplicate originals, each of which is deemed to be an original, but when taken together shall constitute one instrument.

3.6 Electronic Delivery of Agreement; Electronic Signatures.

A manually signed copy of this First Amendment which is transmitted by facsimile, email or other means of electronic transmission shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original executed copy of this First Amendment for all purposes. This First Amendment may be signed using an electronic signature.

[Signatures on the following page]

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

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

**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

By: _____
Kurt Wilson
Title: Executive Director

FRONTIER ENERGY, INC

By: _____
Jean Krausse
Title: Vice President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

By: _____
Steven DeBaun
General Counsel
Best Best & Krieger LLP

By: _____
Its: _____

*A corporation requires the signatures of two corporate officers.

One signature shall be that of the Chairman of Board, the President or any Vice President, and the second signature (on the attest line) shall be that of the Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, the Chief Financial Officer or any Assistant Treasurer of such corporation.

If the above persons are not the intended signators, evidence of signature authority shall be provided to WRCOG.

EXHIBIT “A-1”

SCOPE OF SERVICES

I-REN's Codes & Standards Program Objectives

- a. Improve the understanding of energy efficiency codes and standards among local building departments and the building industry to increase implementation and compliance and enforcement.
- b. Make code compliance and enforcement a valuable element of the region's energy efficiency goal attainment with engagement regionwide.
- c. Deliver locally informed resources and tools that streamline code compliance and enforcement and increase permit closeout.
- d. Provide information to local governments on policy tools available at the local level, including reach codes.

SOW 1: Codes & Standards Training & Education Program

This SOW includes professional services for the tasks and deliverables described below, for implementation of I-REN's Codes & Standards Training & Education Program. This program is a non-resource program to establish and implement training and education for building department staff and the building industry to support, understand, and effectively implement energy efficiency codes and standards, including where gaps exist in the Statewide IOU Compliance Improvement program and enforcement activities. The program will also include outreach to engage, educate and involve regional construction firms, architects, industry experts, and building departments, and support compliance and enforcement within regional energy efficiency programs and customers.

To implement the program, the consultant will assist in developing a training curriculum to address gaps in compliance with current requirements and offer ongoing training on changes and trends in codes and standards. The consultant will promote training through I-REN governing agencies' existing marketing channels, through local government partnerships, and through building industry communication networks. The consultant will also collaborate with local governments to design and deliver effective messaging to building departments and private industry during code transitions. It is imperative that the consultant be knowledgeable of existing IOU programs and offerings when developing I-REN's programs to avoid duplication of efforts, which is a requirement of the CPUC.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The Frontier team provides I-REN with deep expertise in energy program strategy development and technical assistance to help local governments achieve their energy goals. We will draw on recent team perspectives and experience with 3C-REN and the BayREN Codes & Standards program to help I-REN refine existing or design new strategies using the four steps discussed below to maximize the Program's impact.

Research. We will leverage the team's expertise and informational channels, based on decades of Codes and Standards development and local government, utility, and industry relationships, to provide I-REN with cutting edge and technically sound analysis, market characterization, and performance data on advanced energy programs and technologies. This research will

encompass major issues at the center of current T24 and local reach code implementation, such as: heat pumps, renewable generation, and storage technologies; zero emission vehicles; grid integration and demand management strategies; contractor and workforce development; and incentive and financing options. This body of research provides I-REN with an accurate foundational understanding of the market and barriers and opportunities for code compliance and energy policies, on which it can build successful program models.

Design and Refine. The Frontier team can support any type of C&S Program initiative I-REN may elect to pursue. We have designed multiple programs for energy codes and standards implementation, technology commercialization, residential and commercial building retrofits, and building professional education and engagement. We have created program implementation plans, program manuals, program logic models, enrollment and application forms, tracking and reporting processes, and desktop quality assurance and field quality control protocols. We evolve programs through collaboration with embedded/internal and third-party EM&V activities, from technical assistance to trainings to IT solutions.

Implement. Our staff have earned the confidence of our local government partners. We can either lead or provide support to ensure I-REN representatives are fully able to implement program activities. We have in-house resources for technical analysis; events, workshops, and trainings; marketing and outreach; electronic and traditional communications; IT and web development, and data systems and data security. We also understand how and when to support the I-REN representatives based on our work with I-REN since its inception and decades of experience serving similar initiatives in the Bay Area and other local governments.

Measure and Evaluate. The Frontier team understands the importance of defining EM&V activities early during program design. Clearly documenting program goals, objectives, performance targets, and processes not only makes for successful EM&V but for successful programs. We are experienced with systems and tools used by other programs including Salesforce and energyOrbit. We can continue to assist Program development and refinement, drawing on our experience with past successful EM&V collaborations and our deep knowledge of the CPUC Technical and Regulatory process.

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

The Frontier team will further amplify the opportunities and impacts of the C&S Program by ensuring meaningful and regular communication and networking opportunities to increase feedback loops and maximize the impact of program resources. We propose the following efforts to strengthen communication between staff and with other local governments and increase the spread and reach of those communications, both in outgoing channels from I-REN to its stakeholders and in input and feedback loops from those stakeholders to I-REN. We will:

Create a Central Hub. Easy access to current, complete and relevant information will allow I-REN staff the ability to leverage work in other communities to accelerate impact, avoid redundant efforts, and reduce administrative time.

Strengthen Communication. Consistent communication platforms and strategies enhance regular communication and access to information. We will use Adobe Connect to create a C&S “Virtual Meeting Room” to increase collaboration and gather more insight during C&S Committee meetings, and external meetings. Unlike Google Docs, Adobe Connect offers tools to encourage engagement and easily share content.

Make Connections. Access to expertise and information about relevant experiences from other

regions and/or sectors create shared learning opportunities and support more action and impact.

WHY THIS APPROACH

Past C&S efforts have delivered substantial benefits, and we envision continuing and refining these activities to maximize added value. Moving forward, this vision for the I-REN C&S Program encompasses:

Building a strong foundation for this program. Collaborating with the I-REN team on strategy development to address the most relevant building codes with significant potential savings in the Inland Empire. Prioritizing areas and topics that are of interest to code setting bodies and the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) will help ensure savings opportunities are realized. I-REN is best positioned continue compliance improvement efforts “on the ground,” including targeted compliance efforts and development of electronic compliance infrastructures, to ensure potential savings from advocacy are realized.

Supporting multifaceted objectives. California’s diverse energy and climate-related policy goals include energy efficiency, demand reduction, renewable energy, onsite generation, grid connectivity, automated demand response, energy storage capacity, ZNE buildings, water efficiency, public health, zero emission vehicle infrastructure, sustainability, and equity. I-REN is uniquely positioned to accelerate progress toward these goals, with a C&S Program that is designed and implemented to drive and potentially unite these multifaceted objectives at the local level. We believe I-REN and the C&S Program can recognize and pursue activities that have both indirect energy impacts and non-energy benefits while maintaining energy efficiency as a foundational goal, as we have seen first-hand how this can be accomplished.

Task 1.1: Program Design

The consultant will provide leadership for program design activities in collaboration with the I-REN team. The program’s design must be aligned with I-REN’s Energy Efficiency Business Plan (I-REN BP),¹ CPUC Decision 21-11-013 approving the I-REN BP,² and all other applicable requirements for REN energy efficiency programs. The consultant will be responsible for each activity listed below:

- Conduct a kick-off meeting with the I-REN Team within two weeks of final contract execution.
- Develop a program delivery model that supports I-REN’s goals for the Training & Education Program, overcomes public and private sector participation barriers, and prioritizes service to vulnerable communities.
- Support I-REN in engaging with local and regional stakeholders to ensure the program design fits the needs of local governments and other stakeholders in the region.
- Define program eligibility guidelines and program team roles; document program processes and procedures.
- Establish coordination process with other I-REN energy efficiency programs, services, and implementers, e.g., the Codes & Standards Technical Support Program included in this RFP, to maximize program participation and benefits to customers.
- Identify administrators of other Codes & Standards programs and related offerings in the

region and establish coordination process to assist I-REN public and private sector customers with enrolling and participating in those programs.

- Develop participant forms and other collateral.
- Conduct regular (e.g., weekly or biweekly) meetings with I-REN to provide status updates.
- Assist I-REN in the facilitation of a regularly scheduled Codes & Standards Working Group meeting.
- Track and document quantifiable measures to be used to report the successes of the programs.
- Whenever possible, incorporate existing successful models and programs into the I-REN program portfolio.

Deliverables:

- Develop a kick-off meeting agenda and notes and execute the meeting with the assistance of the I-REN team.
- Work with I-REN staff to develop key program documents which are crucial to getting the program on the right track from the start. The Frontier team will develop a Program Manual and Implementation Plan content in compliance with regulatory requirements. This will also include a definition of program eligibility guidelines, Program team roles and responsibilities, a program process flow diagram, and a logic model. When possible, Frontier will identify existing successful models of other programs and incorporate those practices into the I-REN program portfolio.
- Construct a program delivery model focused on the goals of the program, which includes overcoming public and private sector barriers for participation and puts a strong emphasis on service to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. This will include supporting I-REN in engaging with local and regional stakeholders to ensure that the program design is fitting their needs. Their feedback will be critical in identifying those barriers and finding the best path forward.
- Utilizing our experience with similar programs, the Frontier team will assist the I-REN team in developing streamlined participant forms and other collateral which make involvement in the program as user-friendly as possible. This includes identifying administrators and processes of other Codes & Standards programs and related offerings in the region, so that we can assist public and private sector customers with any questions they might have about enrollment or participation in those programs.
- Critical to improving the program and molding the future of Codes & Standards in the region, the Frontier Team will provide monthly and quarterly status reports with all quantifiable measures to report the successes and areas of improvement of the programs. This will also include weekly meeting agendas and status updates, and any other ad hoc requests from the I-REN team.

Task 1.2: Outreach & Engagement

Program-specific marketing, outreach, and stakeholder engagement activities will be led by the consultant in collaboration with I-REN staff, I-REN's marketing consultant, and other I-REN program implementers as applicable. The consultant will be responsible for each activity listed below:

- Review existing I-REN branding, marketing strategies, templates, and other relevant materials and recommend needed changes.
- Recommend and assist in the development of marketing and outreach collateral in

various formats targeted to Codes & Standards customer audiences.

- Develop culturally specific strategies to reach communities where language, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, etc. have historically been a barrier.
- Assist in the development of marketing content for e-communicators, social media, and other channels to promote the training sessions, online Code Hub and building professionals' regional forums.
- Support outreach to potential speakers and presenters.
- Identify and implement strategies for outreach to local jurisdictions and agencies and building professionals to educate them about the program offerings, e.g., providing presentations at meetings and with key decision makers.
- Identify Codes & Standards champions and build relationships with them.
- Set targets and milestones for outreach and engagement (including hard-to-reach communities) and report on progress.

Deliverables:

- Upon contract execution, the Frontier team will review existing I-REN branding, marketing strategies, templates, and other relevant materials to determine which areas need to be prioritized for updating. The Frontier team will then make recommendations and assist in developing the necessary marketing and outreach collateral that is designed to target the customer audiences identified for Codes & Standards. This will include strategies to educate local jurisdictions, agencies, and building professionals to ensure they're up-to-date on program offerings. Frontier is experienced in collaborating with marketing firms to ensure program-specific materials align with overall REN communications and branding.
- The Frontier team puts a high priority on developing and successfully executing a strategy to engage and involve communities where language, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, and gender have been a barrier. Frontier will engage with local Non-Government Organizations and regional stakeholders to identify these barriers from the people who are experiencing them and collaborate with the I-REN team to roll out a plan to reach those communities and involve them in shaping Codes & Standards.
- Our team will also prioritize identifying and involving key success stories and allies, such as Codes & Standards Champions, potential speakers and presenters, and case studies that highlight local wins we can use to create buy-in with the community. This will include an emphasis on finding such champions and success stories within the disadvantaged communities.
- Pulling from our team of experienced content creators, Frontier will develop an outreach plan to engage with local and regional stakeholders. This plan will utilize e-newsletters, social media, and other channels to promote Codes & Standards resources, but will also heavily emphasize a Code Hub where industry professionals can share best practices and collaborate. The Code Hub will also have a listing of events, resources, and tools for local governments and building professionals.
- The Frontier team will provide monthly and quarterly status reports with all quantifiable measures to report the successes and areas of improvement of the programs. This will also include weekly meeting agendas and status updates, and any other ad hoc requests from the I-REN team.

Task 1.3: Program Implementation

The consultant will lead all Training & Education Program implementation activities in coordination with the I-REN team. The consultant will develop a training curriculum to address gaps in compliance with current Codes & Standards requirements and changes and trends in Codes & Standards. The consultant will assist I-REN in supporting local governments and the building industry during transitions to new codes to deliver effective messaging and resources and increase timely compliance with updated requirements. The consultant will also foster the development of an online Code Hub community for sharing best practices amongst building departments and the building industry and assist with coordination of Regional Forums. The consultant will be responsible for each activity listed below:

- Deliver up to 24 training sessions and quarterly Regional Forums per year.
- Collate information from attendee surveys following each training session.
- Perform updates of training module content and delivery mechanisms to ensure trainings are responsive to key target audience needs.
- Support participation in online training modules.
- Support coordination with International Code Council (ICC), and any required curriculum updates, to facilitate the ability of I-REN to award Continuing Education Units to attendees of I-REN trainings.
- Track and provide information on California and national codes, including updates to Title 24 Parts 6 (California Energy Code) and 11 (California Green Building Standards Code).
- Perform updates to training curriculums to reflect adopted changes to Title 24 Parts 6 and 11.
- Collect, report, and maintain metrics relative to training and education, including numbers of sessions, numbers of and contact information for attendees, and other relevant metrics as needed.
- Provide recommendations, based on analysis of metrics and knowledge of the field, for improvements to I-REN's training program and topics for potential new training sessions.
- Consistent with available budget and direction from I-REN, develop new training modules for in-person or online delivery.

Deliverables:

- The Frontier team will develop a Training & Education Program Implementation Plan that includes timeframe/schedule, roles and responsibilities and proposed curriculum. This plan will also include a strategy to promote online training modules for local jurisdictions and building professionals and updates to the training modules and delivery mechanisms to ensure that the trainings are responsive to key target audience needs. Consistent with available budget and direction from I-REN, Frontier will develop new training modules for in-person or online delivery.
- Part of developing accurate training modules will be coordinating with the International Code Council and ensuring that any required curriculum updates are included to ensure the ability of I-REN to offer Continuing Education Units to attendees of I-REN trainings. Frontier will track and provide information on California and national codes, including updates to Title 24 Parts 6 and 11, which will be included in any updates to the training curriculum.
- Drawing from our experience at IHACI and coordinating online forums for contractors and building departments and jurisdictions, Frontier will deliver up to 24 training sessions and quarterly Regional Forums per year throughout the I-REN territory. This will include

assistance with event logistics, and follow-up activities, documentation of participant interaction, and our team will collate information from the attendees following each event.

- Launch a learning management system to host ongoing virtual training recordings, Spanish-translated trainings, and improve engagement tracking. Once implemented, I-REN will offer an accessible library of on-demand, no-cost, Spanish-translated code trainings—building on I-REN’s recent leadership as a REN in expanding equitable access to educational resources.
- Expand code training partnerships with local American Institute of Architects chapters: Develop and deliver two educational trainings for architects, serving as a liaison to local AIA chapters, facilitating partnership and cross-promotion, and conducting email and phone outreach to architectural firms for these trainings.
- Expand technical code trainings specific to contractors by enlisting training providers to develop live and on-demand multi-part training addressing HVAC and heat pump installation best practices, as related to the code. All parts to be simulcast and translated in Spanish.
- Frontier will collect, report, and maintain metrics relative to training and education, including numbers of sessions, numbers of and contact information for attendees, and other relevant metrics as needed. Based on this data, Frontier will provide recommendations for improvements to I-REN’s training program and topics for potential new training sessions.
- The Frontier team will provide monthly and quarterly status reports with all quantifiable measures to report the successes and areas of improvement of the programs. This will also include weekly meeting agendas and status updates, and any other ad hoc requests from the I-REN team.

Task 1.4: Other Services

The consultant will also be responsible for the activities listed below:

- Provide program-specific content and/or review of content as needed for I-REN regulatory documents and filings, e.g., Joint Cooperation Memorandum (JCM), Annual Report, Portfolio True-Up and Mid-Cycle Review Advice Letters, and responses to evaluator and intervenor data requests.
- Collect program data to inform CPUC reporting, program metrics, targets, indicators, and other measures of program performance.
- Contribute to program performance analysis and evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) activities for tracking program achievements and informing continuous improvement.

Deliverables:

- Development of a database: Launch a secure cloud-based database to host program management dashboards, training and forum registration information, outreach and engagement data, audience lists, and reporting metrics within a single platform.
- Design and implementation of a Building Professional Training and Certification offering: In coordination with the Workforce Education and Training program, this is a full-service education offering which conducts an initial market assessment for jurisdiction workforce, codes training, and related certification needs; explores and develops pathways for participation; and ultimately offers support on specific certification costs for participants. This may include, but is not limited to: Energy Code Compliance Rater

certification, California Energy Analyst certification, Certified Building Official (CBO), Plans Examiners, and related International Codes Council certifications.

- Develop program-specific content and edits or updates to content for I-REN regulatory filings.
- Provide program data in alignment with CPUC reporting templates.
- Document metrics, indicators, and other performance measurements.
- Provide analysis of program performance and recommendations for future program improvements.

SOW 2: Codes & Standards Technical Support Program

This SOW includes professional services for the tasks and deliverables described below, for implementation of I-REN's Codes & Standards Technical Support Program. This program is a non-resource program to develop technical assistance tools and resources to assist building departments and the building industry with understanding, evaluating, and permitting the energy codes to support improved enforcement and compliance. I-REN will also develop regionally appropriate model ordinances, vet and refine them with participating local governments, provide ongoing technical assistance for adoption and implementation, and deliver model ordinance updates to reflect the triennial code cycle.

To implement the program, the consultant will assist in developing technical assistance tools and resources to assist building departments and the building industry with understanding, evaluating, and permitting the energy codes. This includes suggesting strategy, conducting research, designing programs and services, and supporting implementation of programs and services to increase energy code compliance rates. The consultant will promote training through I-REN governing agencies' existing marketing channels, through local government partnerships, and through building industry communication networks. The consultant will also assist I-REN in improving consistency in code enforcement and compliance resources across the region by facilitating cooperation among local governments.

The goal of the Technical Support program is to support local jurisdictions in hard-to-reach, disadvantaged, underserved, and environmental and social justice communities by delivering locally informed resources and tools that streamline code compliance and enforcement and increase permit closeout. This program will coordinate with local and statewide programs in providing technical assistance and layer efforts to maximize the benefits attainable in the region.

The Team will design a set of technical assistance tools and resources to assist building departments and the building industry with understanding, evaluating, and permitting the energy codes to support improved enforcement and compliance. In consultation with I-REN and their partners, the Team will conduct program assessments to understand the value of, and barriers to implementing compliance improvement activities together with findings and recommended changes and improvements; and strategic action plans that will be informed by market trends and local or statewide policies, to increase energy code compliance rates and align with I-REN direction, the C&S Implementation Plan, and I-REN Business Plan. The consultant will promote training through I-REN governing agencies' existing marketing channels, through local government partnerships, and through building industry communication networks. The team will leverage existing resources, such as permitting guides, permitting e-tools, load calculators, reference sheets, permitting checklists, and will be customized to fit the needs of the jurisdiction.

The Team's proposes to engage jurisdictions interested in advancing their activities related to climate change through targeted and tailored energy efficiency approaches defined in one of the

following plans or documents: climate action plans, community development plans, local and regional resiliency plans, local building stocks and climate conditions, and local workforce capabilities and needs. The team will work with Making Hope Happen Foundation, Inland SoCal Housing Collective, and Inland Equity Partnership to provide boots-on-the ground engagement with jurisdictions.

Stakeholder input and discussion of technical, policy, and operational processes will be vital to the successful adoption and implementation of ordinances and energy code that advance local climate goals. The Team has been successful with a three-prong stakeholder engagement strategy deployed during phases of model reach code development and energy code updates that ensures stakeholders understand project opportunities and concerns.

Identification of key stakeholders. The Team, in coordination with I-REN and its partners, will leverage existing contacts to identify key stakeholders. The Team will work with I-REN to define timeline, specific objectives for engaging individual groups, and general desired outcomes. This process will be completed in a meeting with I-REN and/or local jurisdictions.

Conduct outreach and engagement. The Team, along with Making Hope Happen Foundation, Inland SoCal Housing Collective, and Inland Equity Partnership, will support I-REN to solicit stakeholders to engage in proposed meetings, charrettes, trainings. To ensure that a broad range of people attend these events, the Team will use client recommendations, social media channels, and their own contacts with industry associations to drive attendance to events and share content. This effort underpins having the right stakeholders present and engaged in the process to build support.

Share information and obtain feedback. The Team will support I-REN to engage diverse groups that can contribute to or will be affected by new ordinances or energy code changes to provide balanced input in code development and enforcement. Based on experience, important constituents for this process include code councils, developers, energy experts, community-based organizations, apartment associations, and economic and community development organizations. The Team will collaborate with I-REN to identify other organizations and constituent groups. The Team will work with I-REN and its partners to evaluate approaches for balancing the level of engagement from stakeholder groups during project phases, including: Larger public meetings focused on in-person information sharing but with a remote option. Small meetings with key organizations to build greater support for the process and approach. Small internal meetings with jurisdiction and appropriate councils. Electronic distribution of materials (potentially with the inclusion for electronic comment).

The Team will support meeting facilitation to elicit feedback, document comments and questions, and provide notes and summaries of findings from stakeholder outreach. This three-pronged approach will be applied to each specific activity, as discussed below.

Lead Development of Model Reach Codes

Engage stakeholders to gain broad support and understand concerns to inform a draft of model reach codes. While this process will not capture the nuances of each jurisdiction, it will capture consistent and important conditions for implementation within the region. The Team will: Support initial stakeholder engagement, draft stakeholder interview questions, and attend initial stakeholder meeting and up to six organizational meetings of specific groups. Support stakeholder feedback process on draft model codes and attend charrettes and final stakeholder meeting.

Identify Tools and Processes for Adoption and Implementation

The Team will engage jurisdictions' stakeholders who will be involved in local adoption and implementation processes to obtain feedback on development and drafts of tools and templates. To streamline this process, a select number of jurisdictions will be targeted collaboratively with I-REN.

Develop Cost-Benefit Analysis

Test assumptions in the cost-benefit analysis with a target group of stakeholders to support a productive charrette and stakeholder engagement process for reach code development. Considerations that could be vetted may include, but are not limited to, costs for new construction or costs for remodel scope.

Provide Technical Assistance for Municipalities for Code Adoption

Conduct internal engagement from specified personnel at interested jurisdictions and a public stakeholder process to understand the specific code application for the jurisdiction and determine the ordinance requirements, triggers, and target for the local ordinance. The Team will coordinate with I-REN to identify jurisdictions and work with jurisdictional leads to identify local stakeholders. The Team will coordinate with jurisdictional staff to refine the ordinance to account for local processes and provide information for council/board and public meetings. The Team will support presentations about the specific ordinance structure, answer technical questions, and create a framework to obtain feedback for implementation. The Team will work with the jurisdiction to respond to meeting comments and incorporate feedback into a revised ordinance as needed.

Provide Technical Assistance for Municipalities for Code Implementation

Stakeholder engagement will focus on clear communication and accessible implementation for internal and external stakeholders who will be impacted by implementation and compliance with the ordinance. The Team will coordinate with jurisdictional staff to define the stakeholder groups and deliver trainings that will focus on the specific impacted building types and address the topics proposed, including:

Overview and Technical Requirements. The audience for this training will be key stakeholders, public professionals, and city staff who will benefit from understanding of ordinance and energy code (i.e., zoning, customer service staff, building department staff, sustainability department staff, etc.). The training will also provide general education to broader internal stakeholders and public stakeholders to support increased compliance and awareness. Training content may include but not be limited to:

Overview and key components of ordinance and/or energy code.

Communication of ordinance requirements to stakeholders.

General education of benefits.

Technical review of ordinance requirement and standards.

Operational and Implementation Training. The audience for this training will be plan checkers, building inspectors, and other building department staff who will implement the ordinance and/or energy code. The training will support implementation staff as they learn compliance processes and work with permit applicants to ensure consistent application and a high level of compliance. Training content may include, but not be limited to:

Required compliance at appropriate stages in permit application (planning/zoning, building, etc.).

Review of compliance elements for plan check and field inspections.

Tools and processes required for implementation, including tracking process, permit triggers,

compliance, and compliance documentation.
Process and documentation for enforcement of ordinance and energy code.

Task 2.1: Program Design

The consultant will provide leadership for program design activities in collaboration with the I-REN team. The program's design must be aligned with I-REN's Energy Efficiency Business Plan (I-REN BP),³ CPUC Decision 21-11-013 approving the I-REN BP,⁴ and all other applicable requirements for REN energy efficiency programs. The consultant will be responsible for each activity listed below:

- Conduct a kick-off meeting with the I-REN team within two weeks of final contract execution.
- Develop a program delivery model that supports I-REN's goals for the Technical Support Program, overcomes public and private sector participation barriers, and prioritizes service to vulnerable communities.
- Support I-REN in engaging with local and regional stakeholders to ensure the program design fits the needs of local governments and other stakeholders in the region.
- Define program eligibility guidelines and program team roles; document program processes and procedures.
- Establish coordination process with other I-REN energy efficiency programs, services, and implementers, e.g., the Codes & Standards Training & Education Program included in this RFP, to maximize program participation and benefits to customers.
- Identify administrators of other Codes & Standards programs and related offerings in the region and establish coordination process to assist I-REN public and private sector customers with enrolling and participating in those programs.
- Develop participant forms and other collateral.
- Conduct regular (e.g., weekly or biweekly) meetings with I-REN to provide status updates.
- Assist I-REN in the facilitation of a regularly scheduled Codes & Standards Working Group meeting.
- Track and document quantifiable measures to be used to report the successes of the programs.
- Whenever possible, incorporate existing successful models and programs into the I-REN program portfolio.

Deliverables:

- Develop a kick-off meeting agenda and notes and execute the meeting with the assistance of the I-REN team.
 - Work with I-REN staff to develop key program documents which are crucial to getting the program on the right track from the start. The Frontier team will develop a Program Manual and Implementation Plan content. This will also include a definition of program eligibility guidelines, Program team roles and responsibilities, a program process flow diagram, and a logic model. When possible, Frontier will identify existing successful models of other programs and incorporate those practices into the I-REN program portfolio.
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- Construct a program delivery model focused on the goals of the program, which includes overcoming public and private sector barriers for participation and puts a strong emphasis on service to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. This will include supporting I-REN in engaging with local and regional stakeholders to ensure that the program design is fitting their needs. Their feedback will be critical in identifying those barriers and finding the best path forward.
- Utilizing our experience with similar programs, the Frontier team will assist the I-REN team in developing streamlined participant forms and other collateral which make involvement in the program as user-friendly as possible. This includes identifying administrators and processes of other Codes & Standards programs and related offerings in the region, so that we can assist public and private sector customers with any questions they might have about enrollment or participation in those programs.
- Critical to improving the program and molding the future of Codes & Standards in the region, the Frontier Team will provide monthly and quarterly status reports with all quantifiable measures to report the successes and areas of improvement of the programs. This will also include weekly meeting agendas and status updates, and any other ad hoc requests from the I-REN team.

Task 2.2: Outreach & Engagement

Program-specific marketing, outreach, and stakeholder engagement activities will be led by the consultant in collaboration with I-REN staff, I-REN's marketing consultant, and other I-REN program implementers as applicable. The consultant will be responsible for each activity listed below:

- Review existing I-REN branding, marketing strategies, templates, and other relevant materials and recommend needed changes.
- Recommend and assist in the development of marketing and outreach collateral in various formats targeted to Codes & Standards customer audiences.
- Develop culturally specific strategies to reach communities where language, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, etc. have historically been a barrier.
- Assist in the development of marketing content for e-communicators, social media, and other channels to promote the Technical Support Program.
- Identify and implement strategies for outreach to local jurisdictions and agencies and building professionals to educate them about the program offerings, e.g., providing presentations at meetings and with key decision makers.
- Collaborate with local governments, tribes, and special districts and building professionals to design and deliver messaging to the community to promote local leadership in Codes & Standards compliance by highlighting local success stories.
- Set targets and milestones for outreach and engagement (including hard-to-reach communities) and report on progress.

Deliverables:

- Upon contract execution, the Frontier team will review existing I-REN branding, marketing strategies, templates, and other relevant materials to determine which areas need to be prioritized for updating. The Frontier team will then make recommendations and assist in developing the necessary marketing and outreach collateral that is designed to target the customer audiences identified for Codes & Standards. This will include strategies to educate local jurisdictions, agencies, and building professionals to

- ensure they're up-to-date on program offerings.
- The Frontier team puts a high priority on developing and successfully executing a strategy to engage and involve communities where language, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, and gender have been a barrier. Frontier will engage with local Non-Government Organizations and regional stakeholders to identify these barriers from the people who are experiencing them and collaborate with the I-REN team to roll out a plan to reach those communities and involve them in shaping Codes & Standards. The team will set key performance metrics to ensure accountability for engaging hard-to-reach communities.
- Our team will also prioritize identifying and involving key success stories and allies, such as Codes & Standards Champions, and case studies that highlight local wins we can use to create buy-in with the community. This will include an emphasis on finding such champions and success stories within the disadvantaged communities.
- Pulling from our team of experienced content creators, Frontier will develop an outreach plan to engage with local and regional stakeholders. This plan will utilize e-newsletters, social media, and other channels to promote Codes & Standards resources, but will also heavily emphasize a Code Hub where industry professionals can share best practices and collaborate. The Code Hub will also have a listing of events, resources, and tools for local governments and building professionals.
- The Frontier team will provide monthly and quarterly status reports with all quantifiable measures to report the successes and areas of improvement of the programs. This will also include weekly meeting agendas and status updates, and any other ad hoc requests from the I-REN team.

Task 2.3: Program Implementation

The consultant will lead all Technical Support Program implementation activities in coordination with the I-REN team. The consultant will help I-REN address the areas of greatest need for improved code compliance, in collaboration with local governments and the building industry. The consultant will also provide general support for reach code development and implementation. The consultant will be responsible for each activity listed below:

- Develop and deploy effective survey instruments to gather data and use that data to inform the design of resources to assist building departments and industry professionals.
- Work with local jurisdictions, CEC, CALBO, HERS providers, and other key stakeholders on Title 24 Parts 6 and 11 documentation.
- Develop permit guides or other materials (e.g., checklists, frequently asked questions, e-newsletters) to improve regional best practices for compliance improvement, including:
 - a. Support distribution and placement of guides for public and staff use with local building departments;
 - b. Update guides as necessary based upon feedback from users and participating agencies and businesses;
 - c. Consistent with available budget and I-REN direction, create new guides or other materials for priority areas of compliance improvement.

Assist in developing model reach code ordinances for each Inland Empire climate zone; consistent with available budget and direction from I-REN, tailor ordinances for specific cities based on their building stock, calculate energy, cost and GHG reductions, document cost-effectiveness studies, and prepare adoption, outreach, and implementation materials, in each case using materials developed by the Statewide Codes & Standards Program where available.

Deliverables:

- Develop survey instruments.
- Provide training programs in coordination with the Codes & Standards Training & Education Program included in this RFP.
- Develop permit guides.
- Assist with reach code adoption and implementation materials.
- Provide documentation of participant interactions.
- Provide bi-annual reports on compliance improvement efforts, including metrics and recommendations for program improvement.
- Provide monthly and quarterly status reports.
- Conduct regular biweekly meetings.
- Provide meeting agendas and status updates.
- Provide summaries on California and national grant funding opportunities.

Task 2.4: Other Services

The consultant will also be responsible for the activities listed below:

- Develop a tracking resource for third-party plan checking agencies and other organizations that jurisdictions leverage for permitting support. Conduct outreach to establish relationships with third-party plan check companies and conduct a survey to determine broader code assistance and training needs.
- Conduct an exploratory permitting study to understand regional permitting, data availability, potential barriers to code compliance, and software usage. This study will be used to inform the design of broader technical assistance, training, and education offerings.
- Expand the Energy Code Support offering by designing and implementing an Energy Code Special Inspection offering. The goal of the offering is to work directly assist local agencies to directly leverage no-cost energy code enforcement expertise from a certified energy code inspector, and cross-promote the existing HERS (now Energy Code Compliance) rater program statewide.
- Provide program-specific content and/or review of content as needed for I-REN regulatory documents and filings, e.g., Joint Cooperation Memorandum (JCM), Annual Report, Portfolio True-Up and Mid-Cycle Review Advice Letters, and responses to evaluator and intervenor data requests.
- Collect program data to inform CPUC reporting, program metrics, targets, indicators, and other measures of program performance.
- Contribute to program performance analysis and evaluation, measurement and verification (EM&V) activities for tracking program achievements and informing continuous improvement.

Deliverables:

- Provide program-specific content and edits or updates to content for I-REN regulatory filings.
- Provide program data in alignment with CPUC reporting templates.
- Document and provide metrics, indicators, and other performance measurements.
- Provide analysis of program performance and recommendations for future program improvements.

EXHIBIT “C-1”

COMPENSATION BILLING RATES

2026-2027 Budget

Task	2023 - 2025 Totals	2026-2027 Totals	First Amendment NTE	2026	2027
1: Training and Education	\$1,582,253.00	\$1,054,835.33	\$2,637,088.33	\$527,417.67	\$527,417.67
2: Technical Assistance	\$791,464.00	\$527,642.67	\$1,319,106.67	\$263,821.33	\$263,821.33
TOTALS	\$2,373,717.00	\$1,582,478.00	\$3,956,195.00	\$791,239.00	\$791,239.00

Estimated direct cost for both SOW 1 and SOW2 include but are not limited to:

- Travel, mileage, airfare, hotel
- Technology and communications platforms
- Materials production and collateral
- Marketing and outreach subcontractors
- Subcontractors: In Balance Green Consulting
- Venue rental and logistics
- Training event hosting services including catering
- Instructor and training subcontractor

Frontier Energy

Category	2026	2027		
President	364	386		
Vice President	358	379		
Sr. Director	358	379		
Director / Principal Consultant	335	355		
Sr. Manager / Engineering Manager	298	316		
Manager	264	280		
Sr. Engineer / Sr. Program Mgr	241	255		
Engineer / Program Mgr	200	212		
Sr. Program Consultant / Sr. Analyst	182	193		
Program Consultant / Analyst	158	167		
Sr. Program Coordinator / Sr. Technician	134	142		
Program Coordinator / Technician	116	123		
Program Associate / Direct Install Technician	96	102		
Administrative	80	80		

Subcontractor: In Balance Green

Role	Staff Name	2026 Rate	2027 Rate
Principle LEED AP	Andy Pease	\$185	\$190
Principle Energy Analyst	Jennifer Rennick	\$185	\$190
LEED PM/CEA	Grant Murphy	\$155	\$160
	Michelle Zimney		
Analyst	Tatiana Soglin	\$120	\$130



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Alternative Energy Systems Consulting for ongoing Public Sector Program Activities

Contact: Benjamin Druyon, WRCOG Program Manager, bdruyon@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6727

Date: October 21, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and Alternative Energy Services Consulting for ongoing program support in the Public Sector in an amount not-to-exceed \$855,000.00, for a term through December 31, 2027.

Summary:

Alternative Energy Systems Consulting's (AESC) existing contract ends on December 31, 2025. I-REN has relied on AESC's services to develop and implement the Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) software program and will need their continued support through the remainder of the current Business Plan cycle, which ends December 31, 2027. As the next Business Plan is being developed, uninterrupted access to AESC's software is essential in maintaining program stability.

Discussion:

Background

In late 2022, the I-REN Executive Committee selected AESC as the consultant to help develop and implement I-REN's BUC software program, which allows an agency to track and monitor energy use of one or more facilities. A Professional Services Agreement (PSA) between WRCOG and AESC was approved in January 2023, and AESC began developing the BUC software program based on I-REN's needs.

Present Situation

The BUC was released in 2023, and multiple agencies have access to it, giving them a powerful tool to assist with benchmarking existing buildings, monitoring energy usage on their facilities, and obtaining reports on the energy usage of their facilities.

I-REN and AESC continue to collaborate on ways to improve the BUC and ways to entice member agencies to use the software program frequently. BUC is proprietary software, owned by AESC, but

customized to I-REN's needs, and can be further customized, based on feedback from I-REN staff and member agencies.

AESC's original contract amount is for \$655,000 through December 31, 2025. As of September 2025, AESC has only used approximately \$400,000 of their existing budget. If approved, the proposed Amendment will extend the duration of the PSA through December 31, 2027, using the remainder of the existing budget for 2026, plus an amount of \$200,000 for 2027 for ongoing licensing fees and any alterations I-REN needs to make to the BUC software, bringing the total not-to-exceed amount to \$855,000.

For these reasons, staff is recommending that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute an amendment to the PSA with AESC for ongoing BUC software services through 2027.

Prior Action(s):

February 21, 2023: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized the WRCOG Executive Director to execute Contract #2023-80-2080-002 between the Western Riverside Council of Governments and Alternative Energy Systems Consulting, Inc., for Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) Software Development Services for a not to exceed amount of \$655,000 for a three-year term with no more than two options to renew or amend.

Financial Summary:

A PSA amendment for AESC's services was anticipated and included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget under the I-REN Fund (Fund 180).

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - WRCOG First Amendment to the PSA with AESC](#)

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS CONSULTING, INC.**

1. PARTIES AND DATE.

This First Amendment is made and entered into this 3rd day of November 2025, by and between the Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency ("WRCOG") and Alternative Energy Systems Consulting, Inc., a California corporation and professional services firm delivering energy efficiency, market transformation, and financial solutions through technical consulting, program development and implementation, and technology development ("Consultant"). WRCOG and Consultant are sometimes individually referred to as "Party" and collectively as "Parties."

2. RECITALS.

2.1 Master Agreement.

WRCOG and Consultant have entered into that certain Professional Services Agreement dated January 17, 2023 ("Master Agreement").

2.2 First Amendment.

WRCOG and Consultant desire to enter into this First Amendment for the purposes of extending the term of the Master Agreement and providing additional compensation for ongoing energy efficiency support as it pertains to WRCOG's Regional Energy Network development ("Services").

3. TERMS.

3.1 Extending Master Agreement Length.

Pursuant to Master Agreement section 3.1.2, the term of the Master Agreement shall be extended to December 31, 2027.

3.2 Additional Compensation.

The maximum compensation for Services performed under this First Amendment shall not exceed four hundred and sixty-four thousand dollars (\$464,000.00) without written approval of WRCOG's Executive Director. Work shall be performed in manner that is consistent with the terms of the Master Agreement, including exhibits .

The total not-to-exceed-value of the Master Agreement and this First Amendment shall be increased from six hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$655,000.00) to eight hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$855,000.00). Exhibit "C" of the Master Agreement is hereby amended to include additional terms as outlined in Exhibit "C-1", attached hereto to this First Amendment and

incorporated herein by this reference. From the date of this Amendment, all references to Exhibit "C" of the Master Agreement shall be deemed to refer to the combined terms of Exhibit "C" and "C-1".

3.3 Continuation of Existing Provisions.

Except as amended by this First Amendment, all provisions of the Master Agreement, including without limitation the indemnity and insurance provisions, shall remain in full force and effect and shall govern the actions of the Parties under this First Amendment.

3.4 Counterparts.

This First Amendment may be executed in duplicate originals, each of which is deemed to be an original, but when taken together shall constitute one instrument.

3.5 Electronic Delivery of Agreement; Electronic Signatures.

A manually signed copy of this First Amendment which is transmitted by facsimile, email or other means of electronic transmission shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original executed copy of this First Amendment for all purposes. This First Amendment may be signed using an electronic signature.

[Signatures on the following page]

**SIGNATURE PAGE TO
FIRST AMENDMENT TO
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS CONSULTING, INC.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have made and executed this First Amendment as of the date first written above.

WRCOG

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS

By: _____
Dr. Kurt Wilson
Executive Director

CONSULTANT

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS
CONSULTING, INC.

By: _____
Antonio Corradini
President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Steven C. DeBaun
General Counsel
Best Best & Krieger, LLP

EXHIBIT “C-1”**COMPENSATION
BILLING RATES**

Task	2023-2025 Unspent	2026 Annual Budget (rollover of unused)	2027 Annual Budget	Total NTE
Launching, hosting, maintaining, and customizing the software (Fixed Fee)	\$ 264,000.00	\$264,000.00	\$120,000.00	
Additional customization and Reporting (T&M)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 264,000.00	\$264,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$ 464,000.00

*Any Time & Materials (T&M) charges will be billed at the rates set forth below.

Staffing Classification	Hourly Rate
Director/Principal	\$289.50
Senior Program Manager	\$251.50
Program Manager/Engineer	
Section Lead	\$247.25
Senior Engineer	\$217.50
Staff Engineer/Project Manager	\$198.50
Engineer/Analyst	\$175.00
Associate Engineer	\$141.00



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program for Service Year 2025/2026

Contact: Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, tmasters@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6732

Date: October 21, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 24 full-time Fellows, and up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows, within the I-REN service territory for program service year 2025/2026.

Summary:

The I-REN Energy Fellowship Program 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, 13 Fellows were placed with public sector agencies to continue advancing energy initiatives, with program administration now under the Public Health Institute (PHI). The proposed contract amendment supports the continued implementation of the I-REN Energy Fellowship, which will place 24 full-time Fellows, and up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows, with public agencies to advance energy efficiency and workforce development objectives in the subregion.

Discussion:

Background

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

The I-REN Energy Fellowship was launched in March 2023 as one of the first Workforce, Education & Training (WE&T) initiatives, with the explicit goal of placing up to 27 Fellows annually in public agencies across the subregion to support energy efficiency projects and build local capacity. The Program was

designed to leverage the CivicSpark AmeriCorps model, which had previously operated under CivicWell, but transitioned to the Public Health Institute (PHI) in 2024 to expand operational capacity and align with broader public health and climate objectives. The transition to PHI was undertaken to ensure Program continuity, compliance with federal AmeriCorps requirements, and to provide a more robust infrastructure for Program delivery.

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 AmeriCorps-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. This budget was increased to \$861,240 to include additional professional growth opportunities that I-REN could provide to its I-REN Energy Fellows through CivicSpark.

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

The I-REN Energy Fellowship is now entering its third program service year, with demonstrated growth in both agency participation and applicant interest.

2023/2024 I-REN Fellowship service year: In its first service year, 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 service year: 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 13 Fellows at their sites for the next 11-months to support each agency with their energy initiatives. The participating I-REN public sector agencies for the 2024/2025 program cycle include the Cities of Corona, Chino Hills, Norco, Ontario, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, and Riverside, as well as the Town of Apple Valley, the San Bernardino Community College District, CVAG, and WRCOG.

During service year 2024/2025, three Fellows were hired full time within the I-REN subregion. Two were hired by their respective host sites, the City of Norco, and the San Bernardino Community College District, and one was hired by the San Bernardino Council of Governments after participating in the Fellowship for two years at the City of Chino Hills. This lends to I-REN's long-term goal of the Program by providing the energy capacity that is needed within the subregion.

2025/2026 I-REN Fellowship service year: On October 6, 2025, 24 full-time Fellows were placed at local public sector agencies, with up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows positions available starting in January 2026. The participating I-REN public sector agencies that received Fellows in October 2025 include the Cities of Adelanto, Corona, Indio, Rancho Cucamonga, and Riverside, as well as the Colton Unified School District, Cucamonga Valley Water, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Fontana Unified School District, Jurupa Community Services District, Mission Spring Water District, Riverside County Workforce Division, San Bernardino Council of Governments, San Bernardino County Workforce Division, San Bernardino Community College District, and WRCOG.

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.

Technical analysis and program evaluation to date indicate that Fellows have contributed to the successful implementation of 26 energy efficiency projects at 12 agencies, resulting in over \$1.1 million in agency savings and representing nearly 40% of public sector incentive dollars secured through I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts Program. These outcomes underscore the Program's effectiveness in advancing both energy and workforce objectives and highlight the necessity of timely budgetary adjustments to sustain and expand these impacts.

In the current 2025/2026 service year, to support PHI's ability to support its operations infrastructure, PHI has increased the host site contribution fee from \$31,000 to \$35,000 for a full-time Fellow. I-REN will continue to provide this funding for participating I-REN public sector agencies; however, this does increase the overall budget and requires a budget amendment from not-to-exceed \$861,240 to \$1,165,740.

I-REN staff propose that the I-REN Executive Committee recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark, under PHI, to continue support and deployment of the I-REN Energy Fellowship.

Prior Action(s):

December 2, 2024: The WRCOG Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director 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.

October 15, 2024: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized 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.

Financial Summary:

All costs associated with the development of an I-REN Energy-Efficiency Fellowship Program are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Agency Budget under the I-REN (Fund 180) in the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

Attachment 1 - First Amendment to I-REN PHI CivicSpark Partner 2025-2026



**FIRST AMENDMENT TO
AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

THIS FIRST AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT (“Amendment”) is made and entered into as of August 31, 2025 (“Effective Date”) by and between Western Riverside Council of Governments (“Partner”) and the Public Health Institute (“PHI”), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.

RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, the Partner and PHI have entered into the Agreement (as defined below); and
- B. WHEREAS, the Partner and PHI desire to modify the Agreement on the terms and conditions set forth herein to update contractual clauses.

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. **Agreement.** Refers to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor dated December 2, 2024 between the Partner and PHI.
- 2. **Definitions.** Defined terms not otherwise defined in this Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.
- 3. **Modifications to the Agreement.** The Agreement is hereby modified as follows:
 - a. **Exhibit B - Scope of Services.** *Exhibit B – Scope of Services, Item 3 is hereby added:*

2025-26 Project Specific Scopes of Work

- **Full-time**
 - a. City of Adelanto / City of Barstow
 - b. Colton Joint Unified School District
 - 1. Ignite: Sustainable Futures Fellowship
 - c. City of Corona
 - 1. Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
 - d. City of Corona
 - 1. Replacement of Traffic Signals & Street Lighting
 - e. Cucamonga Valley Water Districts (CVWD)
 - 1. Water Use Efficiency Programs Promotion and Implementation
 - f. Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District/Water Employee Services Authority (CA)
 - 1. Partner in a Forward Thinking and Results Oriented Water/WW Utility Agency
 - g. Fontana Unified School District (2 fellows)
 - 1. Student Led Enterprise



- h. City of Indio
 - 1. Creating a Sustainable City
 - i. Jurupa Community Services District
 - 1. Climate Change Action Plan
 - j. Mission Springs Water District
 - 1. Conservation as a Way of Life
 - k. City of Rancho Cucamonga
 - 1. Fostering Active Transportation and Micromobility via Safe Routes to School Program Initiatives
 - l. City of Riverside
 - 1. Municipal Energy Efficiency and Zero Emission Vehicle Initiatives
 - m. City of Riverside
 - 1. Development of the Office of Sustainability and its Citywide Climate Action Plan
 - n. City of Riverside
 - 1. Implementation of the City's Grow Riverside and Green Business initiatives
 - o. Riverside County Housing & Workforce Solutions, Workforce Development Division
 - 1. Empower IE: Advancing Clean Energy Careers
 - p. San Bernardino Community College District (2 fellows)
 - 1. Sustainable Campus Infrastructure and Energy Resiliency Project
 - q. San Bernardino County - Workforce
 - 1. Workforce Board's Energy Workforce Initiative
 - r. San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) /SBCTA
 - 1. I-REN & SBCOG Government Programs, Policies, Leadership, and Efficiency Assistance
 - s. Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) – 2 fellows
 - 1. Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) / I-REN - Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) & Western Riverside Council of Governments
 - t. WRCOG
 - 1. Clean Cities Coalition
 - u. WRCOG
 - 1. Energy Resilience Plan 2.0
- Three-Quarter-Term (TQT)
 - a. City of Beaumont
 - b. Coachella Valley Association of Governments, ICARP
 - 1. I-REN/CVAG Energy Efficiency Program Support - Community Education and Outreach
 - c. Cathedral City
 - 1. Leadership in Energy Project
 - d. City of Palm Springs (2 Fellows)
 - e. City of Grand Terrace (CA)
 - 1. Blue Mountain Energy Conservation Initiative
 - f. Riverside Community College District (RCCD)
 - g. Riverside County Office of Education / Science Technology Engineering Partnership



1. STEM Programming Liaison - STEP
- h. San Bernardino County- Land Use Services
 1. Renewable Energy Research for Policy Optimization Initiative
- i. University of Riverside
 1. Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3)
- j. Western Municipal Water District (CA)
 1. Energy management and optimization in water and wastewater systems and plants.

b. Exhibit C – Partner Responsibilities. *Exhibit C – Partner Responsibilities, Section (1)(b) Support Responsibilities is amended to add:*

(ii) Service Year 2025/2026

1. Adelanto/Barstow: Dr. Gil Keinan, gil@localequity.com
2. Cathedral City: Deanna Pressgrove, dpressgrove@cathedralcity.gov
3. CJUSD: Jay Kim, jay_kim@cjud.net
4. Corona (2 fellows): Sarah Arce, sarah.arce@coronaca.gov
5. CVAG: Jacob Alvarez, jalvarez@cvag.org
6. CVWD: Erin Morales, erinm@cvwdwater.com
7. EVMWD: Jase Warner, jwarner@evmwd.net
8. FUSD (2 fellows): Hillary Wolfe, hillary.wolfe@fUSD.net
9. Grand Terrace: Luis Gardea, Lgardea@grandterrace-ca.gov
10. Indio: Sara Toyoda, stoyoda@indio.org
11. JCSD: Bryan Smith, bsmith@jcsd.us
12. MSWD: Marion Champion, mchampion@mswd.org
13. Rancho Cucamonga: Clarence de Guzman, clarence.deguzman@cityofrc.us
14. Riverside County: Maria Pelaez, mpelaez@rivco.org
15. Riverside (3 fellows) Fortino Morales III, fomoraes@riversideca.gov
16. San Bernardino County – Land Use services: Vince Acuna, vincent.acuna@lus.sbcounty.gov
17. San Bernardino County: Fred Burks & Robert Chavez, fburks@wdd.sbcounty.gov; robert.chavez@wdd.sbcounty.gov
18. SBCCD (2 fellows): Yash Patel, ypatel@sbccd.edu
19. SBCOG: Jennifer Aguilar, jaguilar@gosbcta.com
20. STEP/RCOE: Debra Johnson, step.stem@gmail.com
21. WMWD: Candi Judd, cjudd@wmwd.com
22. WRCOG: Tyler Masters, tmasters@wrcog.us
23. WRCOG – Clean Cities: Taylor York, tyork@wrcog.us
24. WRCOG – ERP 2.0: Daniel Soltero, dsoltero@wrcog.us

b. Exhibit D - Compensation. *Exhibit D – Compensation, Paragraph 2 is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:*



PHI will receive no more than \$1,641,980 for 48 Fellow(s) for performing the services set forth in this Agreement: \$476,240 for 13 Fellow(s) (2024-25) (5 returning and 1 three-quarter time) and \$1,165,740 for 24 Full-time (2 returning) and 11 TQT Fellow(s) (2025-26). The compensation includes reimbursable expenses as outlined in Exhibit E for performing the services set forth in this Agreement.

2025-26 Fellows

	Number of Fellows:	Cost Per Fellow	Total Costs
Full Time Fellows:	24 Fellows (22 first-year fellows, 2 returning fellows)	\$35,000 \$40,000 (returning fellow)	\$850,000
Three-Quarter Time Fellows:	11	\$26,500	\$291,500
Half Time Fellows:	0	\$17,500	\$0
Total			\$1,141,500

Full-Time Per Fellow Benefits	
Costs	\$35,000/Fellow
Project Support	11 Months, 1,300+ project hours
Additional Benefits	Up to 80 additional project-prep hours. Up to 100 volunteer engagement hours.
Timeframe	October 6, 2025 – September 4, 2026 (Orientation: October 6-8, 2025)

Three-Quarter Time Per Fellow Benefits	
Costs	\$26,500/Fellow
Project Support	7.5 Months, 920+ project hours
Additional Benefits	Up to 40 additional project-prep hours. Up to 70 volunteer engagement hours.
Timeframe	January 12, 2026 – September 4, 2026 (Orientation: January 12-14, 2026)

Half-Time Per Fellow Benefits	
Costs	\$17,500/Fellow
Project Support	6 Months, 690+ project hours
Additional Benefits	Up to 20 additional project-prep hours. Up to 50 volunteer engagement hours.
Timeframe:	March 2, 2026 – September 4, 2026 (Orientation: March 2-4, 2026)

Exhibit D – Compensation, Paragraph 4 is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:



Lump Sum Payment — \$452,000 (2024-25) and \$850,000 for Full-Term and \$291,500 for TQT (2025-26), Totaling \$1,593,500

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 initial contract signing and the signing of future amendments each year**. 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 responsible for the full contract amount regardless of 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.

*d. **Exhibit E – Reimbursable Expenses.** Exhibit E – Reimbursable Expenses, Partner 4 is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:*

The total amount of project-related reimbursable expenses shall not exceed \$48,480 (which includes cost of administrative fee and indirect costs): For 2024-25: \$24,240 and for 2025-26: \$24,240, 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.

*c. **Exhibit F – Timeline.** Exhibit F – Timeline, is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:*

All tasks enumerated in Exhibit B – Scope of Services for 2024-25 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. The Scope of Services for 2025-26 are expected to start on October 6, 2025, with a CivicSpark program Orientation on October 6-8, and will begin at the host site on October 9, 2025. Fellow activities for the 2025-26 service year should be completed by September 4, 2026. This is a multi-year agreement and will include participation for program year 2026/2027 in future amendments that include additional scopes of work and funding amounts.

4. Conflict or Inconsistency. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Amendment and the Agreement, the terms and conditions of this Amendment shall prevail. Except as modified by this Amendment, all provisions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect and are reaffirmed.

5. Entire Agreement; Amendment. This Amendment, together with the Agreement, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter of the Agreement and this Amendment. No provision of this Amendment may not be amended or added except by an agreement in writing signed by the parties hereto or their respective successors in interest.

Dated as of the Effective Date set forth above.



PARTNER:

Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency

By: _____

Name: Dr. Kurt Wilson

Title: Executive Director

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____

Name: Best Best & Krieger

Title: WRCOG General Counsel

Date: _____

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE;

Public Health Institute, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation

By: _____

Name: Rebecca Silva

Title: Vice President of Program Award Management

Date: _____



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with ICF Resources, LLC, for I-REN Marketing Support Through 2027

Contact: Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, tmasters@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6732

Date: October 21, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with ICF Resources, LLC, for marketing services through December 2027.

Summary:

The First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with ICF Resources is being presented for consideration to extend marketing and communications support for I-REN marketing services through December 31, 2027. This action is intended to update the PSA's term, proposing a shift of billing to time and materials, and reduce the annual compensation in alignment with ongoing program needs. Approval of this Amendment will ensure continued delivery of I-REN marketing services as authorized by the I-REN Executive Committee.

Discussion:

Background

In late 2022, the I-REN Executive Committee selected ICF Resources to provide marketing consultant services for I-REN. In February 2023, a contract between WRCOG and ICF was executed, and ICF commenced development of I-REN's brand and other collateral and outreach materials.

Present Situation

ICF began work in 2023 and established I-REN's brand and developed an initial set of collateral and outreach materials, in addition to establishing I-REN's presence in the digital and social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

ICF's original PSA amount is for \$750,000 through December 31, 2025, with no more than two options to renew or amend. While the majority of work developing the brand and collateral materials has been completed, I-REN staff have identified the continued need for selected focused marketing support needs including but not limited to the development of annual reports, developing and scheduling cross-sector

outreach materials on digital outreach platforms, and regular review and advisement on I-REN's website. This proposed Amendment will extend the duration of the PSA through December 31, 2027, and reduce the not-to-exceed annual budget to \$125,000 per year, bringing the total not-to-exceed amount to \$1,000,000.

For these reasons, staff's recommendation is for the I-REN Executive Committee to recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute an amendment to the PSA with ICF for ongoing marketing services through 2027.

Prior Action(s):

February 21, 2023: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized the WRCOG Executive Director to execute Contract #2023-80-2080-004 between the Western Riverside Council of Governments and ICF Resources, LLC, for I-REN portfolio-wide marketing and communications services for an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for a three-year term with no more than two options to renew or amend.

Financial Summary:

An amendment for ICF Resources' services was anticipated and included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget under the I-REN Fund (Fund 180).

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - I-REN Amendment No. 1 to ICF PSA](#)

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT 2023-80-2080-004
WITH ICF RESOURCES, LLC**

This Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement for is made and entered into as of November 3, 2025 ("Effective Date") by and between the Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency ("WRCOG") and ICF Resources, LLC, a limited liability company ("Consultant"). WRCOG and Consultant are sometimes referred to herein individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties."

RECITALS

A. WHEREAS, WRCOG and the Consultant have entered into an agreement, dated February 21, 2023, for the purpose of providing marketing and communications services (the "Original Agreement").

B. WHEREAS, the Parties now desire to amend the Original Agreement in order to extend the term of the Original Agreement, update the not-to-exceed amounts and shift the Original Agreement to a Time & Materials basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above recitals and the mutual covenants, conditions, and promises contained in the this Amendment No. 1 and the Original Agreement, the Parties mutually agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. Incorporation of Recitals. The recitals listed above are true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein by this reference.

2. Term. Pursuant to the extension options outlined in the Original Agreement, the term of the Original Agreement shall be extended through December 31, 2027, unless earlier terminated.

3. Amendment to Section 3.3.1 of the Original Agreement. Section 3.3.1 of the Original Agreement shall be amended to read in its entirety as follows:

"3.3.1 Compensation. Consultant shall receive compensation, including authorized reimbursements, for all Services rendered under this Agreement at the rates set forth in Exhibit "C-1" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The total compensation shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) per year for a total of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) over the term of the Original Agreement, without written approval of I-REN Executive Committee. Extra Work may be authorized, as described below, and, if authorized, said Extra Work will be compensated at the rates and manner set forth in this Agreement."

4. Full Force. Except as amended by this Amendment No. 1, all provisions of the Original Agreement, including without limitation the indemnity and insurance

provisions, shall remain in full force and effect and shall govern the actions of the Parties under this Amendment No. 1.

5. Electronic Transmission. A manually signed copy of this Amendment No. 1 which is transmitted by facsimile, email or other means of electronic transmission shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original executed copy of this Amendment No. 1 for all purposes. This Amendment No. 1 may be signed using an electronic signature.

6. Counterparts. This Amendment No. 1 may be signed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

**SIGNATURE PAGE FOR
AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT 2023-80-2080-004
WITH ICF RESOURCES, LLC**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Amendment No. 1 on the Effective Date first herein above written.

**WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNSEL OF ICF RESOURCES, LLC
GOVERNMENTS**

APPROVED BY:

Kurt Wilson
Executive Director

APPROVED BY:

Loretta Baker
Sr. Contracts Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steven DeBaun
General Counsel
Best Best & Krieger LLP

ATTEST:

Michele Vasselli
Contract Manager

*A corporation requires the signatures of two corporate officers.

One signature shall be that of the Chairman of Board, the President or any Vice President, and the second signature (on the attest line) shall be that of the Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, the Chief Financial Officer or any Assistant Treasurer of such corporation.

If the above persons are not the intended signators, evidence of signature authority shall be provided to WRCOG.

EXHIBIT “C-1”**COMPENSATION
BILLING RATES for
January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027**

Labor Category	ICF Rate Card				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Senior Director 3	\$377.00	\$390.00	\$404.00	\$418.00	\$433.00
Senior Director 2	\$320.00	\$331.00	\$343.00	\$355.00	\$367.00
Senior Director 1	\$276.00	\$286.00	\$296.00	\$306.00	\$317.00
Director 3	\$246.00	\$255.00	\$264.00	\$273.00	\$283.00
Director 2	\$225.00	\$233.00	\$241.00	\$249.00	\$258.00
Director 1	\$210.00	\$217.00	\$225.00	\$233.00	\$241.00
Marketing Manager 3	\$199.00	\$206.00	\$213.00	\$220.00	\$228.00
Marketing Manager 2	\$188.00	\$195.00	\$202.00	\$209.00	\$216.00
Marketing Manager 1	\$176.00	\$182.00	\$188.00	\$195.00	\$202.00
Sr. Marketing Specialist 3	\$168.00	\$174.00	\$180.00	\$186.00	\$193.00
Sr. Marketing Specialist 2	\$159.00	\$165.00	\$171.00	\$177.00	\$183.00
Sr. Marketing Specialist 1	\$150.00	\$155.00	\$160.00	\$166.00	\$172.00
Marketing Specialist 3	\$143.00	\$148.00	\$153.00	\$158.00	\$164.00
Marketing Specialist 2	\$136.00	\$141.00	\$146.00	\$151.00	\$156.00
Marketing Specialist 1	\$129.00	\$134.00	\$139.00	\$144.00	\$149.00
Analyst 3	\$119.00	\$123.00	\$127.00	\$131.00	\$136.00
Analyst 2	\$114.00	\$118.00	\$122.00	\$126.00	\$130.00
Analyst 1	\$109.00	\$113.00	\$117.00	\$121.00	\$125.00
Production Specialist 3	\$102.00	\$106.00	\$110.00	\$114.00	\$118.00
Production Specialist 2	\$96.00	\$99.00	\$102.00	\$106.00	\$110.00
Production Specialist 1	\$90.00	\$93.00	\$96.00	\$99.00	\$102.00

Summary

Original Contract Value:	\$ 750,000
Increase of Amendment No. 1	\$ 125,000
Total Contract Value:	\$1,000,000

Budgets	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Task 1 Develop marketing plan	\$28,073	\$16,073			\$44,146
Task 2 Implement marketing plan		\$214,715	\$187,135	\$195,005	\$596,855
Task 3 Other Services	\$9,406	\$40,532	\$32,846	\$24,792	\$107,576
Total	\$37,479	\$271,320	\$219,981	\$219,797	\$748,577

Exhibit “A”

Amendment No. 1 to

I-REN Scope of Service

Marketing & Communications Support

Jan 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027 (2 years)

Objective

The purpose of this Scope of Work is to provide continuation of support I-REN’s marketing and communications objectives through consistent content development, digital channel management, performance reporting, and meeting facilitation. This also includes strategic support for the Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) program.

Scope of Work

Website Content Management

- Review existing website content for accuracy, consistency, and alignment with I-REN branding.
- Provide recommendations and suggested updates to enhance user experience, clarity, and accessibility.
- Support implementation of approved content updates.
- Maintain website performance dashboard (Google Analytics).
- Develop and update content for up to four “Collaborator/Partners” featured in the “Collaborative Partner” section of the website (Quarterly).

Social Media Management

- Manage and populate I-REN’s social media platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram.
- Develop content calendars with recommended post topics in collaboration with the other implementors.
- Create posts, including copy and imagery.
- Coordinate with client for content approvals.
- ICF leads in executing and scheduling all approved social media content for I-REN and its implementation partners, through HubSpot.
- Engage in ongoing monitoring to ensure consistent posting cadence.
- Showcase WE&T program benefits and success stories on social media to boost recruitment and highlight career development opportunities.

Newsletter & Program Promotion

- Assist with I-REN-wide and WE&T program outreach by developing and distributing newsletter content.
- Assist in amplifying program visibility, awareness, and recruitment efforts across digital channels.
- Ensure alignment of messaging and scheduling with the broader I-REN strategy, while also coordinating overall COG timing.

Paid Media

- Manage monthly Google keyword allocation for targeted paid media campaigns to raise I-REN awareness.
- Target segmented communities and priority areas to reach audiences needing program information.
- Allocate and manage a focused paid media budget to maximize reach and engagement.
- Track performance and provide regular reporting on engagement, impressions, and keyword effectiveness.

Reporting

- Provide monthly performance reports covering social media metrics, website analytics, and engagement insights.
- Maintain website dashboard to track key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Present insights and recommendations for continuous improvement.

Meeting Development & Facilitation

- Plan and develop content for quarterly all-implementor meetings.
- Summarize and manage social content approvals and posting related to the meeting for the all-implementor meeting.
- Maintain oversight of bi-monthly program meeting activities, including agenda creation, presentation materials, and coordination.

Annual Report

- Lead editing, creative development, and final production of the Annual Report.
 - I-REN/Codes and Standards Team will provide content and data graphs.
 - ICF is responsible for reviewing and editing content for grammar, applying formatting standards, and designing and laying out the annual report, delivering a digital file optimized for both web and print use. This process includes two rounds of client review to ensure accuracy and satisfaction before final delivery.

Marketing Plan & Strategy

- Develop an annual Marketing Strategy outlining key deliverables, timing, and budgetary allocation for I-REN Wide and WE&T activities agreed upon for each program year.

Roles & Responsibilities

ICF to:

- Provide strategic guidance, content development, and channel management.
- Create, manage, and report on all agreed-upon deliverables.
- Lead development of Annual Report and Marketing Strategy.
- Communicate progress and results with I-REN POC.
- Own and manage the social posting platform, HubSpot.
- Design the email template (content and images) for I-REN to deploy through their own email platform.

I-REN to:

- Provide timely approvals for content and deliverables based on approved review document.
- Share relevant program updates, resources, or materials as needed.
- Participate in scheduled status meetings and quarterly all-implementor sessions.
- Send emails using the designed template and approved content through I-REN's email platform.
- Maintain and manage the website platform.

Timeline

- Ongoing engagement: Jan 1, 2026 – Dec 31, 2027
- Quarterly meetings scheduled in advance with client input.
- Annual Marketing Strategy delivered by Q4 of each calendar year.
- Annual Report finalized and delivered by April of each calendar year.

Reporting & Check-Ins

- Continue biweekly team calls to share updates, address action items, and coordinate project activities among stakeholders.
- Monthly check-ins call to review performance reports.
- Quarterly “all implementor” call with I-REN and fellow implementors to review progress, discuss challenges, and set priorities for the upcoming period. Facilitated and managed by ICF.

Budget

This Amendment 1 will span a total of two years, with billing conducted on a Time and Materials basis each month.

Contract Year (2026)	\$125,000
Contract Year (2027)	\$125,000



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

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

Date: October 21, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Approve the schedule of Executive Committee meetings for 2026.

Summary:

The purpose of this item is to discuss and obtain approval of a meeting schedule for 2026.

Discussion:

Background

In July 2024, the Executive Committee approved a monthly meeting schedule through the end of 2025, meeting on the 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., on January 21, April 15, July 15, and October 21.

In January 2025 the Executive Committee approved a meeting schedule to meet every two months, starting in January, on the below dates, to accommodate approval of time sensitive action items including contract amendments, regulatory filings, and, most critically, the I-REN 2028 Business Plan.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	18	Dark	15	20	Dark	15	19	Dark	21	18	Dark

Present Situation

I-REN's next Business Plan is due February 15, 2026, and can take from eight months to a year to prepare, if timed properly. Through multiple discussions at multiple meetings throughout 2025, staff have taken the feedback heard and are using it to inform the next Business Plan Application. Staff have also completed necessary contracts, contract amendments, and other anticipated action items for 2025, to carry I-REN through the next year and beyond. For these reasons, staff requests that the Executive Committee consider the below quarterly meeting schedule for 2026.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	Dark	Dark	21	Dark	Dark	21	Dark	Dark	20	Dark	Dark

Prior Action(s):

January 21, 2025: The Executive Committee approved a modified schedule of Executive Committee meetings for 2025.

July 16, 2024: The Executive Committee approved the schedule of Executive Committee meetings for 2025.

Financial Summary:

The recommended action for this item causes no fiscal impact.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Activities Update
Contact: Karina Camacho, Analyst III, kcamacho@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6724
Date: October 21, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Summary:

In 2024, the California Energy Commission awarded \$329 million to the Southern California Equitable Building Decarbonization Coalition to launch a residential decarbonization program, with I-REN receiving \$1.35 million for outreach in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Partnering with the Inland Empire Community Foundation, I-REN will distribute up to \$1.14 million to local organizations for education and engagement, while coordinating regularly with program implementors.

Discussion:

Background

In 2024, the California Energy Commission (CEC) awarded a proposed \$329 million 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. 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.

I-REN is a partner of the SoCal EBD Coalition to support implementation and outreach efforts in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Of the \$329 million, each partner will receive a specified amount to be used only for marketing and outreach of the program. I-REN will receive approximately \$1.35 million for outreach efforts. The CEC, SoCal EBD Coalition members, and stakeholders have been working collaboratively to prepare all necessary agreements, hoping to launch program activities in the second quarter of 2025, with residential project installations beginning by mid-2025.

The following provides a brief outline of the activities that would likely be included. This is not an exhaustive list, but rather an informative description of the activities, products, and tasks related to the Marketing, Education, and Outreach support being sought through the Program in the region. The Scope of Work may include the following elements:

- Support the Program Administrator with description of the target audience, geographic area, and communication channels for outreach and engagement specific to the community being reached.
- Support the development of a summary of the culturally appropriate outreach materials to be developed and customized for the community being reached, including the content, format, language, and distribution methods.
- Support with the development of a plan for conducting outreach and engagement activities in each community, including the frequency, duration, and objectives of each activity, and the metrics and indicators to measure the effectiveness and outcomes of each activity.
 - Specific outreach activities could include:
 - Planning and attending community events, such as workshops, webinars, fairs, or festivals, to promote the Program and its benefits, and to recruit eligible participants.
 - Follow-up with interested participants in the community, providing them with information and assistance on how to enroll in the Program, and addressing any questions or concerns they may have.
 - Directing questions to the Decarb Concierge, a dedicated staff person who can help participants navigate the Program and connect them with contractors and other resources. Participating in targeted communication campaigns, such as social media, newsletters, flyers, or radio, to raise awareness and interest in the Program among the target audience.

Present Situation

Initial Community Focus Areas

Using demographic and equity data, including environmental hazards, socio-economic challenges, and climate vulnerability, the CEC identified Initial Community Focus Areas (ICFA) that will be the first target communities for EBD outreach. Additional communities will also be included for EBD outreach, but the first outreach strategies will be tailored to ICFA.

ICFAs in the Inland Empire:

- Hesperia
- Indio
- Moreno Valley
- Riverside / Highgrove
- San Bernardino
- Victorville / Apple Valley

As part of the outreach process, the Area Coordinator Team, contracted by Los Angeles County, will provide I-REN and the Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) with census tract maps to identify target communities in the ICFA. I-REN can suggest additional communities that are presently involved in decarbonization efforts to be included in the rapid start retrofits.

For more information on ICFA, please visit the [CEC EBD website](#).

Household Goals for ICFA

Los Angeles County has not designated dollar amounts for each of the subregions but instead has identified target household goals in ICFAs to prioritize equitable distribution of projects throughout disadvantaged communities in southern California. It is important for I-REN and subcontractors to have a successful outreach campaign and active participation from residents to ensure CEC funding reaches the Inland Empire. The more I-REN can engage our communities, the more resources our region will receive.

EBD Program Implementors have established household enrollment goals for each of the ICFAs based on number of eligible households and property type.

Household goals for the ICFAs in Riverside and San Bernardino and Counties:

Subregion Name	Indio	Moreno Valley	Riverside / Highgrove	Hesperia	San Bernardino	Victorville / Apple Valley
Eligible Household Count	16,511	26,363	12,979	14,178	53,735	38,172
Single Family	61	97	48	52	197	140
Mobile Home	24	38	19	20	78	55
Multifamily	5	8	4	4	17	12
Total	90	143	71	76	292	207

Program Advisor

Los Angeles County will be contracting a Program Advisor (PA) dedicated to supporting the EBD direct installs in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. After collecting participant's contact information and verifying eligibility, CBOs will hand off the participant to the PA to facilitate the direct installation of decarbonization measures. The PA is responsible for engagement with all project stakeholders associated with the participant and their property. The PA will work with each participant as their main point of contact to move them through the main stages of the Program, including home energy assessment, decarbonization plan, direct install, quality control, and wrap up. The PA will be the participants' advocate if an issue or concern arises.

Training Sessions

Los Angeles County has contracted a team of Area Coordinators from The Energy Coalition, many of which have experience as the I-REN Public Sector Implementor, to support community partner's local outreach efforts. Area Coordinators are hosting a series of four trainings to provide community partners with Program details and plan outreach strategies. I-REN and IECF are attending training sessions and inviting CBOs to attend and help design the regional outreach plan in the local ICFAs.

Future Engagement

CBOs will be expected to attend a recurring bi-weekly meeting scheduled with the Area Coordinator to report on the progress, challenges, and lessons learned from the outreach and engagement activities, and to coordinate and collaborate on the sub-regional strategy.

Prior Action(s):

July 15, 2025: The I-REN Executive Committee recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with the Inland Empire Community Foundation for the administration of the California Energy Commission Equitable Building Decarbonization Program in the I-REN region.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to this item are included in the WRCOG Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Agency Budget under the I-REN Fund (Fund 180).

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Third-Party Residential Coordination Activities
Contact: Jacob Alvarez, CVAG Program Manager, jalvarez@cvag.org (760) 346-1127
Date: October 21, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Summary:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN)'s coordination with third-party residential energy efficiency programs in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in response to discussions about the 2028-2032 I-REN Business Plan at the I-REN Executive Committee meetings throughout 2025.

Discussion:

Background

In May 2025, following initial discussions on the 2028-2031 I-REN Business Plan, the I-REN Executive Committee directed staff to research third party residential energy efficiency programs within the Riverside and San Bernardino region. Staff has since met with one group and has contacted others to share resources and information that can benefit organizations across the I-REN territory.

This research identified several statewide and regional entities that support the residential sector and are pursuing similar goals aligned with I-REN. One such organization is [Maroma Energy Services](#) (MES), which provides support for residential dwellings. MES' network of contractors will install no-cost, energy conservation measures, including energy-efficient appliances, solar photovoltaics (PV) systems, and home weatherization in residential dwellings occupied by renters and homeowners. Residents must meet the program's eligibility requirements to receive these no-cost, energy-saving home improvements intended to reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

MES's initiatives include:

- **Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Program:** Provides no-cost, energy-efficient upgrades to eligible households to help them conserve energy and lower their utility bills.
- **Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWP):** Offers free energy efficiency services and/or solar PV systems to qualified farmworker households, aiming to reduce energy bills and

greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Building Electrification Program:** A program from Southern California Edison (SCE) that helps eligible homeowners and renters replace natural gas appliances with high-efficiency electric equipment at no cost.
- **Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Whole Home:** A collaborative pilot program between SCE, SoCalGas, and San Diego Gas & Electric that provides no-cost, whole-home energy-saving upgrades to eligible households in certain counties. Funding for this Program is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

MES' programs complement I-REN's efforts by providing comprehensive support for residential energy efficiency. Staff has already engaged with MES and will continue collaborating to promote these opportunities to relevant groups within the I-REN territory. Currently, I-REN and MES are developing a plan to engage with residents and property owners through referrals, leveraging I-REN's existing connections until a more comprehensive outreach and marketing strategy is in place.

Present Situation

By promoting these programs, I-REN can help ensure that funding and resources are fully leveraged to support local energy efficiency efforts across the Inland Empire. As the I-REN Fellowship Program begins its third cycle, staff will incorporate outreach for these residential, commercial, and/or industrial programs into the Fellowship activities. Staff will engage with each of the four identified MES programs along with Southern California's Equitable Building Decarbonization, the South Coast Air Quality District's Go Zero Program, and Southern California Edison-related programs to gain access to their materials and resources, with the goal of expanding outreach through community events, business sector events, and expos. This will help ensure that qualifying residents and businesses in I-REN territory are aware of and able to access these valuable opportunities.

I-REN is starting with these programs to provide energy efficiency support in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, with the long-term goal of becoming the region's central energy hub. The vision is for any customer to be able to contact I-REN to learn about available energy efficiency opportunities. While the exact approach is still under development, it may include a new website, marketing, engagement, and a dedicated database. Staff will continue to prioritize third-party relationships to fill regional gaps and support all sectors through education, awareness, and engagement.

There will be a presentation from MES on their efforts.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact. If these efforts are included in the upcoming business plan, they will be included in the upcoming funding cycle for I-REN.

Attachment(s):

None.

