



## **Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee**

### **AGENDA**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
2:00 PM**

**WRCOG  
1955 Chicago Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92507**

**Remote Meeting Locations:**

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

**Town of Apple Valley  
14955 Dale Evans Parkway  
Apple Valley, CA 92307**

**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: 842 8913 0749**

**Passcode: 699709**

**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 1955 Chicago Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA, 92507.

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](mailto:lfelix@wrcog.us). To ensure distribution to Committee members prior to the meeting, please submit comments no later than two hours before the meeting is scheduled to begin. Public comments will also be accepted in person and via Zoom during the meeting.

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](mailto: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 January 20, 2026, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting**

**Requested Action(s):** 1. Approve the Action Minutes from the January 20, 2026, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

**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. I-REN Energy Science Fair Award Winners**

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

**B. Public Sector Resource Allocation Policy Update**

**Requested Action(s):** 1. Revise the current I-REN Policy to remove the limitation of the number of projects an agency can complete at a single time, allowing for maximum project completion before the end of the current Business Plan cycle.

**C. Approval of I-REN's Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget**

**Requested Action(s):**

1. Approve I-REN's Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget.

**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, July 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in WRCOG's 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 Vice-Chair Chris Barajas at 2:03 p.m. on January 20, 2026, at WRCOG's office.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WRCOG's Casey Dailey led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

#### CVAG

- City of Indio - Oscar Ortiz

#### SBCOG

- City of Grand Terrace - Bill Hussey
- City of San Bernardino - Curt Hagman

#### WRCOG

- City of Eastvale - Christian Dinco
- City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas (Vice-Chair)

#### Absent

- City of San Jacinto
- Town of Apple Valley

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Hagman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Hussey
<b>AYES:</b>	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Dinco, Barajas

#### A. Action Minutes from the November 18, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

#### Action:

1. Approved the Action Minutes from the November 18, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

## 6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Hagman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Hussey
<b>AYES:</b>	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Dinco, Barajas

### A. Agreement Between WRCOG and PaulosAnalysis for the Development and Implementation of an I-REN Incentive Finder Tool

**Action:**

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to execute a Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and PauloAnalysis for the Development and Implementation of an I-REN Incentive Finder Tool.

### B. Public Sector Annual Update

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

### C. California Public Utilities Commission Business Plan Application (2028-2035) Filing

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Hagman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Hussey
<b>AYES:</b>	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Dinco, Barajas

**Action:**

1. Authorized submittal of the 2028-2035 I-REN Business Plan Application to the California Public Utilities Commission.

## 7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Bishop was not present for this meeting.

## 8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agenda.

## 9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

## 10. NEXT MEETING

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in

WRCOG's new office located at 1955 Chicago Avenue, Riverside.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.



# Inland Regional Energy Network

## I-REN Executive Committee

### Staff Report

**Subject:** I-REN Energy Science Fair Award Winners  
**Contact:** Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, [tmasters@wrcog.us](mailto:tmasters@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6732  
**Date:** April 21, 2026

#### **Recommended Action(s):**

1. Receive and file.

#### **Summary:**

The purpose of this item is to provide information on the I-REN recognized 2026 Science Fair energy projects from the Riverside County Science and Engineering Fair (RCSEF) and the San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties Science and Engineering Fair (SIMSEF).

#### **Discussion:**

#### **Background**

Since March 2024, I-REN has actively participated in the judging and sponsorship of the San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties SIMSEF, which is an annual competition of science projects from students who attend schools in each County. In 2024, four bright, young students were awarded for their innovative energy ideas and provided with a monetary award from I-REN for their projects. In March 2025, three students were recognized and awarded for their creative efforts. I-REN also received an appreciation award in recognition of their support of SIMSEF.

#### **Present Situation**

Continuing in that same tradition, I-REN supported the 2026 RCSEF and 2026 SIMSEF, by providing awards to local students for their energy related projects in the following three project categories: Elementary, Junior, and Senior Divisions. The students listed below are scheduled to attend the April I-REN Executive Committee meeting to be acknowledged and presented with their monetary award in the form of a VISA gift card.

**Riverside County:** On February 28, 2026, I-REN staff presented the three RCSEF project teams listed below with an I-REN Energy Award:

- Elementary Division (\$100): Rylan Ho, Sohumi Jain, and Rudra Patel, from Lincoln Fundamental Elementary School for their project, "Can Solar Paint Produce More Electricity than Solar Panels?"

- Junior Division (\$500): Luz de Luna Gomez from REACH Leadership STEAM Academy for her project, " Electrochemical Activity of Bacterial Species in a Microbial Fuel Cell."
- Senior Division (\$1,000): Adithyakrishna Ayyappan, Vaidya Cherukuri, and Caiden Voong from Eleanor Roosevelt High School for their project, "Power Path: Harvesting Footstep Energy with Hybrid Triboelectric and Electromagnetic Results."

The Junior Division winner will advance to the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge and to the California State Science and Engineering Fair.

San Bernardino County: On March 5, 2026, I-REN staff presented the three SIMSEF project teams listed below with an I-REN Energy Award:

- Elementary Division (\$100): Brandon Alexander Shih from Eagle Canyon Elementary School for his project, "Does Increasing Temperature Increase the Growth Rate of Sourdough Starter?"
- Junior Division (\$500): Stephanie Lee from Canyon Hills Junior High for her project, "Finding the Hidden Treasure Behind Green Waste - An Alternative Energy Source: Chlorophyll from Green Plant Waste."
- Senior Division (\$1,000): Abigail Cherian from Arrowhead Christian Academy for her project, "Sensor-Integrated Microclimate Monitoring Drone for Respiratory and Heat-Related Health Risk Assessment."

All students competed at both the local and County level to be considered for this award. Both the Junior and Senior Division winners from the SIMSEF will move on to the State level to promote their respective projects and bring awareness to energy efficiency. I-REN received its second appreciation award in 2026 in recognition of its continued support for the Fair.

**Prior Action(s):**

None.

**Financial Summary:**

Activities related to the Workforce Education & Training Sector are included under the I-REN Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget in Fund 180, under the Workforce Education & Training subprogram.

**Attachment(s):**

None.



# Inland Regional Energy Network

## I-REN Executive Committee

### Staff Report

**Subject:** Public Sector Resource Allocation Policy Update  
**Contact:** Karina Camacho, Program Manager, [kcamacho@wrcog.us](mailto:kcamacho@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6724  
**Date:** April 21, 2026

#### **Recommended Action(s):**

1. Revise the current I-REN Policy to remove the limitation of the number of projects an agency can complete at a single time, allowing for maximum project completion before the end of the current Business Plan cycle.

#### **Summary:**

This purpose of this item is to discuss the current progress of Cash for Kilowatts projects under the current resource allocation policy that only allows a maximum of two energy efficiency projects per agency at a time and a maximum of four projects at a time for counties. The current I-REN Business Plan funding cycle ends December 31, 2027. I-REN's unspent and uncommitted funding does not roll over to the next cycle, and unused Cash for Kilowatt funds will be forfeited. The aim of this discussion is to reassess the current policy and update it to allow for more Cash for Kilowatts projects before the current funding cycle ends.

#### **Discussion:**

#### **Background**

On January 16, 2024, the I-REN Executive Committee approved a policy establishing the number of projects an agency can complete at a single time as well as the total number of projects an agency can complete throughout the current Business Plan cycle. This policy provides support for a maximum of two energy efficiency projects per agency at a time and allows a maximum of four projects at a time for counties, for a maximum total of eight projects per agency and 16 per county, through the end of 2027. The goal of the policy is to evenly disburse funds for all eligible agencies wishing to complete projects without quickly depleting available resources as with a first-come, first-served basis policy, while also considering that not all agencies will utilize the full suite of project support offerings. The policy requires that a new project can be supported only after an existing I-REN Public Sector project is completed, following the established project criteria. Even if an agency is more active and has more than two projects they wish to complete, they would still need to wait to complete their existing two projects before beginning new ones. The I-REN Executive Committee asked staff to review the status of the Cash for Kilowatts Program and provide updates annually.

### **Cash for Kilowatts Process:**

Receiving I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts incentive is a multi-step process relying deeply on engagement from the public agency and strong collaboration with I-REN. Below is a simplified outline:

1. I-REN and agency onboarding & introduction.
2. Request energy data from SoCal Edison and SoCal Gas.
3. Identify potential projects:
  - a. Agencies may have projects ready to move forward for audits, and
  - b. Agencies receive a Preliminary Energy Resilience Roadmap to assess highest energy using facilities.
4. I-REN conducts energy efficiency audits:
  - a. Most commonly an on-site visit, and
  - b. If the agency has the project scope ready, a desktop analysis can be completed off-site.
5. I-REN presents the Initial Measures List with estimated costs and possible incentives.
6. Agency submits Letter of Intent to I-REN.
  - a. Since the Cash for Kilowatts incentive functions as a reimbursement, agencies need to secure funding for the upfront costs.
7. I-REN develops incentive application for CPUC approval:
  - a. Depending on project complexity, may require additional information from the agency.
8. I-REN submits application to the CPUC and receives approval.
9. Agency moves forward with construction and I-REN support:
  - a. Agency has an 18-month timeline to complete construction.
10. Construction is complete.
11. Three-month monitoring period to ensure energy savings:
  - a. 1st incentive check is provided to agency (40% of incentive).
12. 12-month monitoring period to ensure savings:
  - a. 2nd incentive check is provided to the agency (60% of incentive).

Progress on Cash for Kilowatts incentives varies greatly on where the agency is on project identification and complexity of the project. The timeline can range from at least nine months to two years from initial discussion to project application approval.

### **Cash for Kilowatt Projects:**

As of March 2026, I-REN has committed to dispersing over \$1.1M in Cash to Kilowatts incentives. Below is the list of 19 projects that have been approved by the CPUC.

1. Colton Joint Unified School District Joe Baca Middle School Lighting Retrofit.
2. San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) Lighting Valley College North Hall.
3. SBCCD Lighting Valley College Library.
4. Calimesa Senior Center.
5. Calimesa City Hall.
6. Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino Victorville Office.
7. Indian Wells Fire Station #55.
8. Indian Wells Public Works Yard.
9. Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino Admin Office Air Conditioning & Lighting.
10. Rancho Mirage Library Observatory.

11. Rancho Mirage City Hall.
12. Town of Apple Valley Corporate Yard.
13. Town of Apple Valley Development Services & Conference Center.
14. San Bernardino Council of Governments Santa Fe Train Depot.
15. Apple Valley Police Department.
16. Norco City Hall.
17. Palm Springs Fire Station #1.
18. Murrieta Library Lighting.
19. Beaumont Community Center Lighting.

Additionally, as of March 2026, I-REN has identified a total of \$4.9M in possible incentives for public agencies. I-REN is working with agency staff to submit incentive applications to the CPUC.

**Current Business Plan Funding:**

The current I-REN Business Plan funding cycle ends December 31, 2027. I-REN has a total budget of \$10M for Cash for Kilowatts incentives. I-REN's unspent and uncommitted funding does not roll over to the next cycle, so unused Cash for Kilowatt funds will be forfeited. Only funds from energy project applications approved by the CPUC by the end of 2027 can be accessed and will have a designated timeline to complete construction.

**Supporting More Projects:**

As the current resource allocation policy stands, I-REN may only support two energy efficiency projects per public agency at a time, with the exception of four projects at a time for the counties. Agencies must wait until after project completion to receive I-REN support for additional facilities.

As of March 2026, the following six agencies have a total of 37 projects on hold due to the current resource allocation policy:

1. City of Corona
2. City of Grand Terrace
3. City of Murrieta
4. Menifee Unified School District
5. San Bernardino County
6. San Bernardino County Fire Protection District

In many cases, there is interest to audit these facilities or they have already been audited. Due to the facilities' electrical meter configuration, the buildings need to be divided into separate projects.

Based on this information, staff is recommending suspension of the current policy of limiting the number of projects an agency can complete at a single time, to allow for maximum project completion before the end of the current business plan cycle.

**Prior Action(s):**

**January 16, 2024:** The I-REN Executive Committee approved the I-REN policy for the Public Sector

Technical Assistance Program by allowing a maximum of two energy efficiency projects per agency at a time and reserve funding for all eligible agencies, with a maximum of four projects at a time for both counties.

**Financial Summary:**

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

**Attachment(s):**

None.



# Inland Regional Energy Network

## I-REN Executive Committee

### Staff Report

**Subject:** Approval of I-REN's Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget  
**Contact:** Benjamin Druyon, Program Manager, [bdruyon@wrcog.us](mailto:bdruyon@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6727  
**Date:** April 21, 2026

#### **Recommended Action(s):**

1. Approve I-REN's Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget.

#### **Summary:**

This staff report presents the I-REN portion of the WRCOG Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget, detailing line items by sector and outlining the proposed I-REN budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027, with a comparison of key budget categories between the two years. The report identifies and explains the primary drivers of the anticipated budget increase, including higher contractor costs and escalating staffing expenditures. The information provided is intended to support transparent budget planning and to inform decision-making regarding resource allocation for I-REN activities within the WRCOG budget framework.

#### **Discussion:**

#### **Background**

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) was established as a collaborative initiative among the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), to address regional energy efficiency needs. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) formally approved I-REN's Business Plan in November 2021, authorizing a six-year budget of \$65.5 million for program years 2022 through 2027. This approval was the result of a multi-year planning process, which included the development and submittal of a comprehensive business plan, stakeholder engagement, and the execution of governance agreements among the partner councils of government. The CPUC's decision designated WRCOG as the administrative lead, responsible for fiscal management and contract administration, while SoCal Gas was named as the fiscal agent for the disbursement of CPUC funds to I-REN.

The initial program structure focused on three sectors: Public Sector, Codes & Standards, and Workforce Education & Training, with the intent to fill gaps not addressed by investor-owned utilities or other program administrators, particularly in hard-to-reach and underserved communities. Since inception, I-REN's budget and programmatic activities have been subject to annual and mid-cycle advice letters to the CPUC, allowing for adjustments based on actual expenditures and evolving regional

needs. The current committee consideration is necessitated by the approaching end of the initial funding cycle, the goal to fully expend allocated funds by 2027, and the need to align future budget requests with demonstrated outcomes and regulatory expectations for transparency and cost-effectiveness.

### **Present Situation**

As of March 2026, I-REN is in the final years of its initial CPUC-approved funding cycle, with program implementation accelerating across all three authorized sectors. The FY 2025/2026 I-REN budget, incorporated within the WRCOG agency budget, reflects a significant increase in both planned expenditures and programmatic activity compared to prior years. This increase is driven by several converging factors. First, the maturation of I-REN's portfolio has resulted in higher rates of contract execution and service delivery, particularly in the Public Sector, where technical assistance and incentive programs have expanded to meet growing demand from local agencies. Second, the Workforce Education & Training Sector has experienced increased participation, with the Energy Fellowship Program exceeding its annual placement goals and new partnerships established with county workforce development departments. Third, the Codes & Standards Sector has broadened its training and technical support offerings, including the launch of new online platforms and expanded language access.

The FY 2026/2027 budget proposal continues this trajectory, projecting further increases in contractor costs and staffing expenditures. Contract amendments approved in the previous fiscal year have extended the scope and duration of key implementer agreements, notably with The Energy Coalition and Frontier Energy, to support ongoing technical assistance, project management, and workforce development activities through 2027. Additionally, the need to address persistent staffing vacancies has led to the authorization of new analyst and program manager positions, with associated costs reflected in the budget. These staffing enhancements are intended to improve program delivery, compliance, and reporting, as well as to support the anticipated workload associated with the next CPUC business plan application.

The year-over-year increase in budget is underscored by several factors: the goal to fully expend CPUC-allocated funds within the authorized period, the need to demonstrate prudent fiscal management in light of increased regulatory scrutiny of ratepayer-funded programs, and the imperative to align budget allocations with measurable program outcomes. Any I-REN funding that is not fully expended or committed before December 31, 2027, is not carried over as an addition to requested funding for 2028 and beyond. Instead, it offsets any budget that I-REN may be awarded for 2028 and beyond. Recent technical analyses and evaluation studies have informed the allocation of resources, ensuring that budget increases are justified by documented needs and anticipated benefits. This Committee is now tasked with reviewing the detailed line items for both FY 2025/2026 and FY 2026/2027, assessing the reasonableness of projected increases, and providing guidance on resource allocation to ensure continued compliance with CPUC directives and the achievement of regional energy efficiency goals.

The notable changes for the FY 2026/2027 budget items are increases in COG staffing costs, consultant labor costs, incentive payouts, event support / membership dues, and an increased number of Fellows, which can be seen in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report. As a summary, the changes are as follows:

#### **Public Sector:**

- With consistent growth of I-REN and all its programs, each COG has indicated the need for more staff and has begun recruitment to increase capacity. As the fiscal administrator for I-REN,

WRCOG has started the process of filling four Analyst positions that were approved in the FY 2025/2026 budget. These positions will allow WRCOG to continue to effectively administer I-REN's programmatic needs and provide more support to COG partners.

- With the authorization to include Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSM - Solar, battery storage, and EV Charging measures) as part of the Public Sector Technical Assistance offerings, Public Sector consultants will be asked to provide more comprehensive audits and analyses in the next two years, contributing to escalating budget numbers.
- With the accomplishment of exceeding the annual goal of placing 27 Fellows throughout the I-REN region, the Cash for Kilowatts incentive program has seen an uptick in activity and I-REN has estimated paying out over \$500k in the upcoming fiscal year. More Fellows contribute to more Cash for Kilowatts projects. I-REN staff continue to work with agencies to get more incentive projects committed before the 2022-2027 program cycle ends.
- Finally, there is an increase shown in Event Support and Membership Dues. This increase is due to condensing the majority of Sponsorship and Membership activities to the Public Sector. Previously, I-REN split all of these expenses evenly amongst all sectors. For CPUC reporting purposes, I-REN has been simplifying its processes to become more efficient and will continue to do so.

#### **Workforce Education & Training (WET) Sector:**

- As mentioned previously, the Fellowship Program has exceeded its goal of placing 27 Fellows and expects to exceed it again for this final round. An increase in budget is necessary for this to happen.
- Memorandums of Understanding with Riverside County Workforce Development Department and San Bernardino Workforce Development Department were just initiated in the previous fiscal year and are starting to ramp up. Staff expects to see some great things happening this year with those relationships.
- COG staffing is the final piece of the increased budget for the WET Sector.

#### **Codes & Standards (CS) Sector:**

- The C&S budget did not increase as much as the other two Sectors. A slight increase for consultant expenses is due to I-REN offering additional trainings and one extra forum for the year.
- COG staffing increase is the other notable increase.

#### **Evaluation Measurement & Verification (EM&V):**

- The final piece of the budget is a stand-alone item, EM&V, which I-REN uses to conduct studies and analyses on ways to improve processes, assess needs of the region, address CPUC requirements, and enhance programs. I-REN completed its first round of six studies and will report on them at an upcoming I-REN Executive Committee meeting.
- I-REN is currently preparing for its second round of studies.

Staff recommends approval of I-REN's portion of WRCOG's Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Agency Budget.

#### **Prior Action(s):**

**May 20, 2025:** The I-REN Executive Committee 1) Approved the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Agency budget,

which detailed the I-REN portion of the WRCOG budget and included line-item allocations for Public, Workforce Education & Training, and Codes & Standards sectors; 2) Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Director execute Memorandums of Understanding with Riverside County and San Bernardino County for further development of the I-REN Workforce Education & Training Program, each in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000 for a term through December 31, 2027; and 3) Authorized submittal of the I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan for programs and services related to the Public, Workforce Education & Training, and Codes & Standards sectors, and directed staff to enhance coordination with existing energy efficiency programs in the Commercial, Residential, and Industrial sectors.

**Financial Summary:**

The proposed FY 2026/2027 I-REN budget is \$15,577,247 and is divided amongst the three authorized sectors: Public, Workforce Education & Training, and Codes & Standards. This budget will be formally approved by the WRCOG General Assembly on June 18, 2026.

**Attachment(s):**

[Attachment 1 - I-REN FY 2026/2027 Sector Budget Tables.pdf](#)

**CPUC Approved MCAL Budget**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
Public	\$ 4,514,208	\$ 8,397,047	\$ 11,198,939	\$ 12,540,910
Workforce, Education & Training	\$ 1,265,357	\$ 3,299,149	\$ 4,915,867	\$ 3,617,935
Codes & Standards	\$ 943,869	\$ 1,826,214	\$ 2,246,794	\$ 2,495,060
Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V)	\$ -	\$ 563,434	\$ 765,067	\$ 777,246
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,723,434</b>	<b>\$ 14,085,844</b>	<b>\$ 19,126,667</b>	<b>\$ 19,431,151</b>

<b>Public Sector</b>	<b>FY 25/26 Budget</b>	<b>FY 26/27 Budget</b>
The Energy Coalition	\$ 4,025,773	\$ 5,003,834
Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) Incentives	\$ 360,000	\$ 550,000
Alternative Energy Systems Consulting, Inc. (AESC) - BUC Software	\$ 218,333	\$ 126,000
ICF Resources (Marketing & Outreach)	\$ 83,333	\$ 41,667
Frontier Energy (I-REN Implementation Contract)	\$ 202,058	\$ 200,000
CivicPlus (Website Development)	\$ 20,501	\$ 20,501
Legal Counsel	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000
Event Support & Membership Dues	\$ 75,000	\$ 425,000
CVAG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000
SBCOG Staffin Reimbursement	\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000
WRCOG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 1,219,609	\$ 1,321,229
WRCOG Overhead	\$ 637,894	\$ 643,174
Miscellaneous Expenses (supplies & materials, computer equipment, tra	\$ 44,000	\$ 21,500
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 7,496,501</b>	<b>\$ 9,177,905</b>

<b>Workforce Education &amp; Training</b>	<b>FY 25/26 Budget</b>	<b>FY 26/27 Budget</b>
CivicSpark (I-REN Energy Fellowship Program)	\$ 837,000	\$ 1,053,500
Fellowship Reimbursements	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000
The Energy Coalition	\$ 165,299	\$ 165,299
Riverside Community College District	\$ 192,400	\$ 192,400
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000
I-REN Initiative (OPR)	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
CCEC and Annual Memberships - condensed and relocated to PS	\$ 202,000	\$ -
Burke Rix Communications	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000
CV Strategies	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,000
MOU's with Riverside County & San Bernardino County WDDs	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Webinars/Virtual Certifications	\$ 60,000	\$ -
ICF Resources (Marketing & Outreach)	\$ 83,333	\$ 41,667
Frontier Energy (existing contract)	\$ 202,058	\$ 200,000
CivicPlus (Website Development)	\$ 20,501	\$ 20,501
Legal Counsel - condensed and relocated to Public Sector	\$ 10,000	\$ -
COG Educational & Outreach Sponsorships (Event Support)	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Miscellaneous Expenses (supplies & materials, computer equipment, tra	\$ 82,200	\$ -
CVAG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 125,000	\$ 250,000
SBCOG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 125,000	\$ 250,000
WRCOG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 212,708	\$ 499,849
WRCOG Overhead	\$ 111,253	\$ 243,326
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 3,898,752</b>	<b>\$ 4,316,542</b>

<b>Codes &amp; Standards</b>	<b>FY 25/26 Budget</b>	<b>FY 26/27 Budget</b>
Frontier Energy	\$ 791,333	\$ 791,333
ICF Resources (Marketing & Outreach)	\$ 83,333	\$ 83,333
Frontier Energy (existing contract)	\$ 202,058	\$ 249,739
CivicPlus (Website Development)	\$ 20,501	\$ 20,501
BB&K (Legal Counsel) - condensed to Public Sector	\$ 10,000	\$ -
CVAG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000
SBCOG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000
WRCOG Staffing Reimbursement	\$ 141,978	\$ 361,901
WRCOG Overhead	\$ 74,259	\$ 176,173
Miscellaneous Expenses (supplies & materials, computer equipment, tra	\$ 4,500	\$ -
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 1,377,962</b>	<b>\$ 1,882,980</b>

<b>Evaluation Measurement &amp; Verification</b>	<b>FY 25/26 Budget</b>	<b>FY 26/27 Budget</b>
California State University of San Barnardino	\$ 120,000	\$ 200,000