

SoCalREN Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes & Action Items  
Wednesday, March 23, 2023  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees

| #  | Name                | Organization          |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1  | Presley Aviles      | TEC                   |
| 2  | Mackenzie Bolger    | SGVCOG                |
| 3  | Pam Bold            | HSEF                  |
| 4  | Scott Broten        | ICF                   |
| 5  | Tessa Charnofsky    | County of Los Angeles |
| 6  | Frederick Chung     | County of Los Angeles |
| 7  | Cody Coeckelenbergh | ICF                   |
| 8  | Sona Coffee         | City of Irvine        |
| 9  | Fernanda Craig      | County of Los Angeles |
| 10 | Kim Fuentes         | SBCCOG                |
| 11 | Sumire Gant         | GCCOG                 |
| 12 | Steven Halligan     | OCPA                  |
| 13 | Angie Hacker        | CCEC                  |
| 14 | Rebecca Hausheer    | TEC                   |
| 15 | Meaghan Laverty     | TEC                   |
| 16 | Selene Lawrence     | City of Irvine        |
| 17 | Minh Le             | County of Los Angeles |
| 18 | Benjamin Luca       | City of Palmdale      |

|    |                   |  |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 19 | Lujuana Medina    | County of Los Angeles                  |
| 20 | Patrick Ngo       | Lincus, Inc.                           |
| 21 | Alelia Parenteau  | City of Santa Barbara                  |
| 22 | Craig Perkins     | TEC                                    |
| 23 | Laurel Rothschild | TEC                                    |
| 24 | Nicholas Ryu      | SGVCOG                                 |
| 25 | Joe Susca         | Culver City                            |
| 26 | Kristi Villegas   | 3D Networks/ECC Community Outreach Sub |

Confirmed Action Items

- Please complete the [Q1 Meeting Survey](#)
- Don't forget to follow us on social media!
  - [Facebook](#)
  - [LinkedIn](#)
  - [Twitter](#)
  - [Instagram](#)
- Contact Laurel Rothschild (The Energy Coalition) if you would like to present at a future SoCalREN Advisory Committee meeting and share resources with the group

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Notes/Key Takeaways

- Laurel Rothschild (TEC) began the meeting by reviewing the following administrative items:
  - Virtual meeting/Zoom features
  - Introductions/logos of invited participants
    - Advisory Committee Members
      - South Bay Cities Council of Governments
      - Coachella Valley Council of Governments
      - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
      - City of Culver City
      - City of Palmdale
      - City of Santa Barbara
      - County of Ventura
      - County of Santa Barbara
      - City of Irvine
      - Orange County Power Authority
      - Western Riverside Council of Governments
      - Gateway Cities Council of Governments

- San Bernardino Council of Governments
  - Invited Guests
    - California Public Utilities Commission
    - California Climate & Energy Collaborative
    - Grounded Research
  - SoCalREN Staff, Implementers & Regional Partners
    - County of Los Angeles
    - The Energy Coalition
    - ICF
    - High Sierra Energy Foundation
    - San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
    - Emerald Cities Collaborative
    - Lincus Incorporated
- Purpose of Advisory Committee
  - Guide and advise
  - Collaborate and innovate
  - Be informed
  - Be an advocate
- Meeting agenda
- SoCalREN Welcome (Minh Le, County of Los Angeles)
  - 10-years of SoCalREN!
- Networking (All)
- Regulatory Updates (Patrick Ngo, Lincus)
  - A.22-03-011 - SoCalREN 2024-2031 Business Plan
    - What: Authorization and funding for 2024-2031 EE programs
    - What's new:
      - ALJ canceling several 2023 procedural events (1/30)
        - Status conference, Evidentiary hearing, Briefs
      - PD on reducing incentives for EE gas measures (3/3)
        - 2022 Staff Proposal
    - What's next:
      - Final Party Comments due April 3. Replies due April 10
      - Final Decision expected by Q3 2023
      - SCR BP documents and public webinar recording can be found [here](#)
  - Phasing Out EE Natural Gas Incentives
    - What: Additional action is needed for CA to meet its decarbonization goals
    - Aug 2022 Staff Proposal provided draft schedule for 10-year incentive phase out
    - March 2023 PD Proposes:
      - Eliminating incentives for Residential and Commercial *New Construction* measures starting in 2024
      - Developing Technical Guidance on *Viable Electric Alternative*
      - Market Studies on low-income customer impact
    - What's next:

- Opening Comments due 3/23
- Replies due 3/30
- R.13-11-005 EE Rolling Portfolio/CAEECC

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>PD on CAEECC Compensation Task Force Motion</u></li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use unspent EE funds to allow underrepresented stakeholders to participate in EE proceeding</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft CPUC <u>Equity + Clean Energy Grant Programs</u></li> </ul> | Grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Participation</li> <li>• Equity Engagement</li> <li>• Clean Energy Access</li> </ul>    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>D.23-02-002</u> – EE Issues</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands Strategic Energy Management</li> <li>• IOU-REN Data Sharing</li> </ul>                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 4 REN Evaluation Study</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft report expected by March</li> <li>• To support development of REN performance metric</li> </ul>  |

- What's next:
  - Focus is on Business Plan review
- R.20-08-020 - NEM Net Billing Tariff
  - What: Tariff for customers who generate their own energy and receive credit for any surplus exported to the grid
  - What's new:
    - D.22-12-056 adopts new tariff structure (12/15)
      - Reduces credit customers receive for exports to the grid
      - Additional credit adder for residential and low-income customers
      - Encourages solar + battery storage systems w/ 9-year payback
    - Several requests for D.22-12-056 to be reheard by CPUC
    - CPUC to develop additional record on Virtual Net Energy Metering (VNEM) and Net Energy Metering Aggregation (NEMA)
  - What's next:
    - Develop VNEM and NEMA tariffs (2023)
    - Awaiting CPUC response on rehearing requests
- Other Proceedings

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|-------------|---|--|
| R.19-09-009 | Microgrids  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Proposed Decision</u> on Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) (2/09)</li> <li>• Commission vote held until April 6</li> </ul> |
| R.20-08-022 | Clean Energy Financing                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting PD on 2022 program proposals</li> </ul>  |
| A.12-12-009 | SCE Building Electrification Program              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of \$680M Application ongoing</li> <li>• PD expected by April 2023</li> </ul>  |
| R.22-07-005 | Advance Demand Flexibility through Electric Rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>PD</u> to adopt Rate and Demand Flexibility design principles (3/17)</li> </ul>  |
| R.21-06-017 | Modernize Grid for High DER Future                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kicking off Track 1: Distribution Planning Process</li> </ul>   |
| R.18-12-006 | Vehicle Electrification                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complying with <u>D.22-11-040</u> to set up 2025-2029 funding cycle</li> </ul>  |

- Questions/Answers
  - Phasing out EE Natural Gas Incentives
    - Joe Susca (Culver City): When fuel shifting from natural gas to electric - when they are talking about the viable source of electricity, in most cases where you are located it is a monopoly so the electricity delivery provider is required to build infrastructure to meet your needs- so are you saying that the utility companies don't have significant infrastructure or they intend to charge the person who is transitioning from gas to electric?
      - Patrick Ngo (Lincus): There is a current discussion on this topic and how it will impact customer rates.
        - Minh Le (County of Los Angeles): Electricity prices will lag natural gas prices. You can count on SCE rates going up because part of their energy mix comes from natural gas.
    - Ben Lucha (City of Palmdale): On the solid waste side we are probably going to see more generation of renewable natural gas - how will this be taken into consideration under this effort?
      - Patrick Ngo (Lincus): Right now we have not seen any consideration re: renewable natural gas and this may be something that needs to be considered and be part of the discussion.
  - R.20-08-020 - NEM Net Billing Tariff
    - Pam Bold (HSEF): When transferring do we need to complete any paperwork?

- Craig Perkins (The Energy Coalition): Continuation of NEM 2.0 is automatic. No action needs to be taken by the customer.
- Joe Susca (Culver City): Regarding the reduced credit customers receive, isn't it true that you are required to right size our system to meet your needs and therefore you can't really go into the business of producing excess power and what would be available to export would be minimal?
  - Patrick Ngo (Lincus): It is but they want to make a credit that is based on avoided cost throughout the day, adjusted accordingly.
  - Alelia Parenteau (City of Santa Barbara): Also it is not the aggregated amount you produce, it is when you produce it and the new NEM does allow you to overbuild up to 150% to prepare for electrification (as opposed to 80%).
  - Minh Le (County of Los Angeles): NEM 2.0 was an incentive that enabled commercial and residential customers to effectively net out the amount of kWh that they generated throughout the entire year. The new rules look at it from a finer time stamp so that it is instantaneous and this will result in smaller, less economic systems and the feed-in tariff will be significantly reduced (about 75%).
- Latest Grant Opportunities - Follow the Money (Angie Hacker, CCEC)
  - Opportunities
    - Policy Drives Investment
    - Agencies Scope/Design Assistance Programs & Gather Input
    - Applicants Apply to Funding Solicitation
  - Civic Spark - all local governments are eligible for Civic Spark Fellows
  - Opportunity Spotlight (Federal)
    - IRA-Funded EPA Climate and Environmental Justice Programs
      - Environmental Justice Government-to- Government Program (EJG2G) (\$70M)
        - Eligible: Partnerships between State, Local, Tribal Governments and CBOs
        - For: Building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, academia, etc.) to develop solutions to environmental or public health issue(s) at the community level.
        - Max Award: \$1 million
        - Apply by: April 10, 2023
      - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) (\$30M)
        - Eligible: CBOs
        - For: Gov activities that lead to measurable environmental/public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms
        - Max Award: \$500,000
        - Apply by: April 10, 2023

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program (\$5B)
  - Eligible: States, territories, tribes, air pollution control agencies, and local governments
  - For: Developing and implementing plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.
  - Max Award: Pending program guidelines
  - Apply by: Metro area Notice of Intent for Non-competitive planning grants due April 28, 2023, application due May 31, 2023
- Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant Program (\$3B)
  - Eligible: CBOs or partnerships between CBOs and Tribe, local government or institute of higher education
  - For: Financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities (e.g. mitigating air pollution and climate/health risks, climate resilience, facilitating State/fed engagement)
  - Max Award: \$500,000
  - Apply by: TBD Summer
- DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
  - SoCalREN has been reaching out to enrolled public agencies that have a formula grant allocation
- DOE Buildings Upgrade Prize
- DOE Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP)
  - County of LA submitted a full application last week; SCE submitted 2 applications and LADWP submitted 1 application
- Opportunity Spotlight (State)
  - OPR Adaptation and Resilience Grants
    - Adaptation Planning Grant Program (\$8M in competitive grants)
      - Eligible: Local and regional public agencies, special districts, non-profits, joint powers authorities, and California Native American Tribes
      - For: Identifying climate resilience priorities, and supporting the development of climate resilient projects across the state.
      - Max Award: \$650,000
      - Apply by: March 31, 2023
    - Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (\$21.3M for Round 1 in competitive grants)
      - Eligible: Local public entities, California Native American Tribes, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
      - For: Regional-scale climate change resilience planning activities and implementation projects
      - Max Award: \$150,000 for Planning, \$800,000 for Implementation
      - Apply by: Intent to apply survey open (+ request for help) now; NOFA anticipated April 26, 2023

- SGC Climate-related Programs
  - Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) (\$750M in competitive grants for Round 7) - due April 4, 2023
    - Eligible: A locality, developer or program operator, Tribal entity
    - For: Projects (esp in DACs/LI communities) that reduce GHG emissions by supporting more compact, infill development patterns, encouraging active transportation and transit usage, and protecting Agricultural Land from sprawl development. Project area types: Transit-oriented Dev, Integrated Connectivity, and Rural Innovation
    - Max Award: \$50M
    - Apply by: April 4, 2023
  - Regional Climate Collaboratives (\$8.5M in competitive grants for Round 2)
    - Eligible: California Native American Tribes, community-based organizations and nonprofits, local public agencies, small businesses, etc
    - For: Partnership development, project and plan development, establishment of technical assistance programs or hubs to pursue climate funding, data collection, training and education
    - Max Award: Small grants \$999,999; Large grants \$1.75M
    - Apply by: TBD, comment on draft guidelines by April 15, 2023
  - Transformative Climate Communities (\$99.2M in competitive grants for Round 5)
    - Eligible: CBOs, local governments, non-profit organization, joint powers authorities, councils of governments, etc (multiple applicants required)
    - For: Empowers communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution. Planning Grant addresses priority planning issues and prepares for future funding opportunities (up to 2 yrs). Project Development Grant funds pre-development activities (up to 2 yrs). Implementation Grants funds holistic proposals with multiple strategies and projects (up to 5 yrs)
    - Max Award: Planning: \$300K, Project Development: \$5M, \$29.5M
    - Apply by: August 1, 2023, free TA available now
- Access Clean California/GRID Alternatives
- Join LERN!
  - Next LERN meeting April 11, 2023
    - Share invitation with others
  - Check out our Funding Resources and Resource Library
  - Sign up for wEEKly update



- Join our [LinkedIn Peer-to-Peer Group](#)
  - Contact Angie at [ahacker@civicwell.org](mailto:ahacker@civicwell.org)
- Grant Best Practices & eSGV Case Study (Nicholas Ryu, SGVCOG)
  - The eSGV Program provides free home energy efficiency reviews for renters and homeowners in the SGV to save energy & money
    - The program assists residents in developing short and long-term energy efficiency plans during an appointment (either online or at the person's residence in-person)
    - SGVCOG staff identify opportunities for reducing energy consumption using a checklist and provide residents with information on applicable rebate and incentive programs
      - Rebates can include local utilities, state, federal, and even SoCALREN programs
      - [New Renter's Tip Guide](#)
    - eSGV appointments can be made online via [sgvcoog.org/esgv](http://sgvcoog.org/esgv) and take roughly 30 minutes to 1 hour to complete
  - eSGV Checklist
    - Building Materials
    - Heating and Cooling
    - Lighting
    - Kitchen Appliances
    - Laundry Appliances
    - Home and Office Electronics
    - Indoor Water Usage
    - Outdoor Water Usage
  - eSGV Highlights
    - CY 2022 Goal of 40 - Accomplished!
    - CY 2023 Goal of 60 - In Progress
      - 12 completed in 3 cities
      - The Cities of Alhambra, Claremont, El Monte, and South Pasadena are partnering with us to help promote the eSGV program to their city residents
  - eSGV Timeline
    - March 2015 - The SGVCOG launched EASY (Energy Assessments for Your Home)
      - Joint venture funded as the SGV EnergyWise partnership with SCE and SoCalGas
    - 2022 - EASY rebranded as eSGV (Efficient San Gabriel Valley)
      - Partnership with SoCalREN as an initiative
  - SGVCOG Program Funding Structure
    - Largely a grants and externally-funded organization
      - If we just collected funding from our member cities for general activities, we'd have about 4 staff vs. 40 current employees
    - Funding sources include:

- Member city dues
- City or JPA specific funding via partnership agreements/MOAs
- County Measures (Measure H, Measure W, etc...)
- State Grants (CalTrans, CalRecycle, CPUC, etc...)
- Federal Grants and Earmarks
- SGVCOG Program Funding Examples
  - Regional Energy Efficiency Programs
    - Funded via the SoCalREN energy partnership
    - Previous energy efficiency projects funded by local utility partnerships (SCE and SoCalGas)
    - Identifying grants through the DOE, DOT, CPUC, and CalTrans on grants related to renewable energy, energy storage, and EV infrastructure
  - Regional Water Resilience Program
    - Funded via a MOA between member cities in a regional watershed/stormwater compliance program (Upper LA River)
    - Funded for special studies through an annual competitive funding cycle and municipal program funds through LA County's Safe Clean Water Program (formerly Measure W)
  - Regional Food Recovery Program
    - Funded via general fund accounts through city MOAs for program implementation to achieve SB 1383 compliance
    - Applied for federal earmark funding through Senator Padilla and Senator Feinstein's offices
    - Actively awaiting CalRecycle implementation grants for this year
  - Fire Prep SGV
    - Funded via a Regional Mountains Conservancy Outreach and Education grant
    - Funded through two CalFIRE grants for outreach and education and to develop a regional community wildfire prevention plan
  - Neighborhood Coyote Education Program
    - Funded via general fund accounts through city MOAs for program implementation
    - Applying for a DOI Wildlife Grant
    - Searching for more city participation and funding to expand the program
  - Regional Broadband Program
    - Funded via a CPUC Local and Technical Assistance Grant for a regional broadband needs assessment and strategic plan
- JPA Funding Tips and Strategies
  - Identify grant applications that are eligible for JPAs or coordinate applications with cities or other partners that can apply on behalf of your JPA
  - Consider funding opportunities from other JPAs
  - Determine if applications can be completed by staff or consultants
  - Assess if funding sources can be renewed annually or have expiration dates

- Develop applications that account for at least 10% of funding going towards JPA staff time and overhead costs
- Assess funding amounts to apply for that can have your program last multiple years
- Develop letters of support from partners, member agencies, etc. that understand the importance of a JPA
- Closing Remarks (Lujana Medina, County of Los Angeles)
  - Save the Date
    - SoCalREN 10-year Anniversary Event
      - Please save the date to highlight our collective 10-year achievements, share best practices and resources, and celebrate our Energy Champions and 10-years of SoCalREN!
      - September 6, 2023
- Closing Reminders (Laurel Rothchild, The Energy Coalition)
  - Contact Laurel Rothschild (The Energy Coalition) if you would like to present at a future SoCalREN Advisory Committee meeting and share resources with the group (ACTION ITEM)
  - SoCalREN Podcast and Social Media
    - New SoCalREN Podcast!
      - The fourteenth episode of ReEnergizing Communities was recently posted!
        - Currently available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#) platforms
      - Don't forget to follow us on social media (ACTION ITEM)
        - [Facebook](#)
        - [LinkedIn](#)
        - [Twitter](#)
        - [Instagram](#)
    - [Online Resource for Advisory Committee Members](#)
    - 2023 Meeting Schedule
    - Please complete the [Q1 Meeting Survey](#) (ACTION ITEM)
- The Q1 SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned