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Southern California REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

The logo for the Southern California Regional Energy Network features a stylized map of California in white, set against a circular background of colorful segments in shades of green, yellow, orange, and red.

Spotlight: Alhambra Unified School District



Photo: Mark Keppel High School, Alhambra Unified School District

Modernizing Alhambra Unified high schools while saving energy and money!

We are excited to feature [Alhambra Unified School District \(AUSD\)](#), a public agency with big energy efficiency goals that prioritize improving student and teacher learning environments. AUSD used SoCalREN's project management and technical consulting services to complete a retro-commissioning project at Mark Keppel and Alhambra High School in December 2019. Each school reprogrammed its energy management system and optimized HVAC equipment in their facilities, **saving the District over \$73,300 in annual costs** and achieving **750,400 kWh in annual energy savings**. That's the same emissions benefit as taking 115 cars off the road! This project's benefits go beyond saving energy and money—the District modernized their schools, ensuring high school students have access to safe and healthy environments.

What's next for AUSD?

Since their enrollment in December 2017, the school district has prioritized energy bill savings, comfort, student performance, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction when deciding on projects. SoCalREN identified an opportunity for their next project, energy efficiency improvements and other renovations at ten elementary schools using a Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) approach, where project savings and incentives are measured at the meter. We applaud Alhambra Unified for taking the time and effort to invest in their schools and their students. During this time of school closures, we are continuing to work with Alhambra to complete additional energy efficiency upgrades that will be waiting for students when they return.

Are you a school district with similar sustainability goals to Alhambra USD, but facing shifting priorities due to school closures? SoCalREN can provide the legwork needed to move energy efficiency projects forward so you can focus on your new priorities. Contact your Project Manager today to get started!

Spotlight: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District



Photos: (left) Section of aeration basin with installed diffusers; (right) post-installation turbo blower

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) is a [champion in sustainability](#) and first enrolled in the SoCalREN Public Agency Programs in 2015. For the past five years, LVMWD has worked with SoCalREN to implement a number of energy efficiency projects at their wastewater treatment plants. This past March, LVMWD completed yet another project to provide aeration diffuser and blower upgrades at their Tapia Wastewater Reclamation Plant, which optimizes the overall efficiency of the plant. The agency used several of SoCalREN's no-cost services, including technical feasibility and financial analyses, unbiased peer review of proposals, implementation support, as well as SCE's Water Infrastructure and System Efficiency ([WISE™](#)) program to complete the project and **save over \$174,000 annually**.

Project Details:

- Over 1,780,000 in annual kWh savings
- Over \$170,000 SCE utility incentives received
- Over \$174,000 in annual cost savings
- Blower efficiency improvement: existing blowers were replaced with new high-efficiency turbo compressors with flow control provided by built-in variable frequency drives (VFDs)
- Diffuser System: upgraded and completed uniform optimization of placement and materials across aeration basin

What's Next for LVMWD?

Two potential pump sequencing efficiency projects have been identified at the Tapia wastewater treatment plant to save even more energy and money. We appreciate LVMWD's dedication to completing efficiency projects and look forward to supporting their next venture. Great job, LVMWD!

We are proud to support essential facilities such as LVMWD's Tapia Wastewater to ensure they are running efficiently while providing essential services for their communities. Are you interested in achieving similar savings without interrupting your current priorities? SoCalREN is here to help. Contact your Project Manager to launch a new energy efficiency project now!

Want to Hear More Stories like Alhambra Unified and LMVWD? Access our library of case studies at socalren.org/casestudies/!

Faces of SoCalREN

At SoCalREN, we have an impressive team implementing our energy efficiency services and achieving unprecedented energy savings. Faces of SoCalREN allows you to get to know the team behind the savings!



Faces of SoCalREN 

MEET CODE | SR. PROJECT COORDINATOR

Describe your role at SoCalREN:

I provide support to our Project Managers in aiding public agencies throughout energy efficiency projects. This includes all facets of the project from auditing the facility to applying for the incentives. Within our organization, I serve as the IOU coordination lead, and I also help maintain and update our financial analysis tool and project proposal template.

How did you get started in the sustainability field?

Growing up in the groves of Corona, CA, I soon realized that we, as people, get everything from the Earth and I wanted to give back. This led me through my education in zoology and sustainability, and ultimately to my career in energy.

What is one of your favorite projects you've worked on so far?

My favorite project is an easy choice: **Corona City Hall's whole building project**. Being from Corona, I've been to City Hall many times and to now get to help my city save money and increase reliability of its grid is something special.

Upcoming Happenings

Do you have a **virtual event** you'd like to share with the SoCalREN community? Contact us at info@socalren.org to be included in our next newsletter.

Recent Happenings



SoCalREN Featured in *Electrical Contractor Magazine!*

Last month, SoCalREN was featured in *Electrical Contractor Magazine's* spotlight article, "Paving the Way Towards LEDs"! The article explains many benefits for cities to switch to LED lighting, and touts SoCalREN as a public agency resource for removing barriers to achieve energy savings. Read the full article [here](#).

Digital Outreach and Engagement Twitter Chat with SGVCOG - 4/27

Did you miss our twitter chat with San Gabriel Council of Governments (SGVCOG) on April 27th? No worries, you can catch the full conversation on our [SoCalREN twitter account](#) and [SGVCOG's twitter account](#). SoCalREN joined 11 other public agencies and organizations to discuss best practices and challenges that agencies face when conducting online public outreach efforts. Thank you SGVCOG for having us, we look forward to participating in similar events in the future!



Conversations with SoCalREN



Conversations with SoCalREN

Thank you to everyone who attended our first two "Conversations with SoCalREN" webinars on 4/15 and 5/6! We had excellent attendance from public agencies and SoCalREN partners, notably Culver City, West Hollywood, Newport-Mesa Unified School District, and more! We are hosting ongoing "conversations" on energy efficiency topics based on agency feedback. To view our webinar schedule, visit our [events page](#).

New Network Toolkit Resources Added!

continues to serve as your one-stop-shop for all public agency resources. Last month, we added our "Working Virtually with SoCalREN" webinar recording for your viewing pleasure.

Having trouble accessing your toolkit? Contact tchamberlin@energycoalition.org for support, or if you're not an enrolled agency, register at socalren.org/join.



Welcome to our Network! The Newest SoCalREN Public Agency Enrollments

We are so excited to welcome the newest SoCalREN Agencies: **City of Woodlake** and **City of Tulare**!

Each new enrollment is unique and adds to the diverse portfolio of public agencies that SoCalREN serves. Stay tuned as we welcome more public agencies in the near future! Interested in joining us? Click [here](#)!

New Regional Partnerships

SoCalREN Public Agency Programs are proud to partner with the [San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments](#) (SGVCOG) and [South Bay Cities Council of Governments](#) (SBCCOG) to bring our suite of no-cost services to California energy customers in the eastern and southwestern regions of the Greater Los Angeles area. Through these partnerships, SGVCOG and SBCCOG will leverage their local knowledge and relationships to share SoCalREN's no-cost support on energy-saving projects.



Join the SoCalREN Public Agency Programs network and receive our toolkit, which includes access to our resource library, tips to get started on energy efficiency projects, and an exclusive member web badge.



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