

SoCalREN Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes & Action Items
Wednesday, July 26, 2023
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees

#	Name	Organization
1	Shanette Anderson	Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)
2	Pam Close Bold	High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
3	Scott Broten	ICF
4	Tessa Charnofsky	County of Los Angeles
5	Cody Coeckelenbergh	ICF
6	Sona Coffee	City of Irvine
7	Patty Cruz	Orange County Power Authority (OCPA)
8	Benjamin Druyon	Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)
9	Jesse Feinberg	ICF
10	David Freeman	Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
11	Kim Fuentes	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
12	Sumire Gant	Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
13	Allison Hart	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
14	Steven Halligan	Orange County Power Authority (OCPA)
15	Angie Hacker	California Climate and Energy Collaborative (CCEC)
16	Rebecca Hausheer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
17	Courtney Blore Kalashian	San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
18	Meaghan Laverty	The Energy Coalition (TEC)

19	Minh Le	County of Los Angeles
20	Benjamin Luca	City of Palmdale
21	Jamie Martin	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
22	Lujuana Medina	County of Los Angeles
23	Jennifer Mitchell-Jackson	Grounded Research
24	Chris Moore	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
25	Patrick Ngo	Lincus, Inc.
26	Joanne O'Neill	Clean Power Alliance (CPA)
27	Craig Perkins	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
28	Laurel Rothschild	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
29	Nicholas Ryu	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
30	Mallory Schaefer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
31	Tabaris Smith	Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)
32	Joe Susca	Culver City

Confirmed Action Items

- Please register for SoCalREN's 9/6 Leadership Luncheon 10-year Anniversary Event [here](#) September 6, 2023
 - Note the Q3 Advisory Committee meeting will be in-person (first time since March 2020!) in the afternoon following the luncheon
- Please complete the [Q2 Meeting Survey](#)
- Don't forget to follow us on social media!
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
- If interested, [register](#) for the [Equity and Access \(E&A\) Grant Program Webinar](#) happening on August 9th
- 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
- Contact Lujuana Medina (County of Los Angeles) if you have ideas on how Advisory Committee

members can share SoCalREN's 10-year accomplishments more broadly and statewide

- Tessa Charnofsky (County of Los Angeles) to connect directly with Sumi Gant (Gateway Cities Council of Governments/GCCOG) to provide information on how to get involved in SoCalREN's WE&T programs
- Rebecca Hausheer (The Energy Coalition/TEC) to provide link to SoCalREN's Public Agency Programs upcoming webinar on Tax Deduction 179D once date is confirmed
- Scott Brotten (ICF) to connect with Joe Susca (Culver City) directly to confirm if any Culver City schools have been engaged to date with the Kits for Kids program and to provide information on how to get involved

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
 - Western Riverside Council of Governments
 - Gateway Cities Council of Governments
 - San Bernardino Council of Governments
 - 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
 - Clean Power Alliance
 - Orange County Power Authority
 - Invited Guests
 - California Public Utilities Commission
 - California Climate & Energy Collaborative
 - Grounded Research
 - SoCalREN Staff, Implementers & Regional Partners
 - County of Los Angeles
 - The Energy Coalition (TEC)
 - ICF
 - High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
 - San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)
 - Emerald Cities Collaborative (EC)
 - 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)
 - Welcome Clean Power Alliance to the SoCalREN Advisory Committee!
 - 10-years of SoCalREN!
 - Success is due to our partnerships and the work we are all doing within our communities
- 2022 Annual Report Highlights (Lujana Medina, County of Los Angeles)
 - 2022 Accomplishments and 10-Year Achievements
 - Increasing impacts throughout SoCalREN's territory by
 - Delivering energy and climate impacts
 - Building capacity and economic resilience
 - Expanding access to EE benefits
 - 216 member agencies (60%+ underserved)
 - 135 GWh+ saved in communities
 - 20k+ students enrolled
 - 75k+ households impacted
 - 1,500+ jobs created
 - 95k+ GHG emissions avoided
 - Minh Le (County of Los Angeles) commented that while these numbers are impressive, they can be and should be even more impactful over the next ten years; and, we all need to ensure that we maximize the impact of our collective resources
 - Over 10 years we have built a far reaching and impactful network that will continue to grow
 - Within the 216 public agencies served:
 - \$40M incentives provided
 - \$20.3M annual energy cost savings
 - \$47.6M financing obtained
 - 21,290 cars off the road
 - 1,069 projects delivered
 - SoCalREN's Leadership Luncheon
 - SoCalREN's 10-year Anniversary Leadership Luncheon at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities in downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday, September 6
 - This celebratory event will honor the two-hundred and fifteen plus public agencies that are part of SoCalREN's network, including special recognition for SoCalREN Energy Champions who have taken it upon themselves to drive the policies, programs, and procedures necessary to achieve a sustainable future for their communities
 - Public Sector Programs Delivered on Core Values in 2022

- Delivering energy and climate impacts
 - 17,617,646 kWh
- Building capacity and economic resilience
 - \$2,458,311 in energy bill savings
- Expanding access to EE benefits
 - 151 underserved agencies
 - City of Tulare Pump Overhaul Project
 - City of Walnut Cash Incentives
- MultiFamily Program Delivered on Core Values in 2022
 - Delivering energy and climate impacts
 - 7,033,733 kWh
 - Building capacity and economic resilience
 - \$5,384,898 in incentives
 - Expanding access to EE benefits
 - 16,623 tenant units improved
 - Project Highlight: Villages at Fort Irwin
 - Kits for Kids Program
- WE&T 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Outlook
 - ACES Program Enrollment
 - Green Path Careers Program
 - Regional Workforce Alliance
 - Contractor Training and Coaching
 - ACES Student Spotlights
 - Future Green Leaders Summit
 - An all-day event for middle school students from that was held in March at the LA Convention Center that engaged, exposed and challenged students from low income and disadvantaged communities to explore the Green Energy Sector, one of the country's fastest growing job markets. This was done with interactive and inspiring day of activities and speakers
- Questions and Comments
 - Kim Fuentes (South Bay Cities Council of Governments/SBCCOG) commented: fantastic job!
 - Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles) thanked the SoCalREN Advisory Committee and mentioned that we (SoCalREN) could not do it without all of you!
 - Angie Hacker (California Climate and Energy Collaborative/CCEC) asked how Advisory Committee members can share these accomplishments more broadly and statewide?
 - Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles) responded that we definitely want to continue this conversations and if you have ideas, please share with the group (ACTION ITEM)
- Decision Adopting 2024 -2031 Business Plans (Lujana Medina, County of Los Angeles)

- What do the next 8 years have in store for us?
- SoCalREN Business Plan Decision Approval
 - A major achievement! In July, the CPUC approved D.23-06-055 which fully funds SoCalREN's energy efficiency budget request of \$583 million from 2024-2031!
 - This more than doubles SoCalREN's budget from the previous cycle and positions us to continue our leadership in delivering energy savings to our communities
 - In total the CPUC approved \$4.2 billion over four years across the state, and supports additional \$4.6 billion from 2028-2031, demonstrating strong continued support for energy efficiency
 - The Decision also affirmed the unique value of RENs:
 - SoCalREN to lead innovative Community-Based Program Design and Pilot
 - Approved Rural REN
 - Clarified RENs important role in working with IOUs on a host of critical issues
- SoCalREN Business Plan Sector Summary
 - New market sectors
 - Agriculture
 - Commercial
 - Codes and Standards
- SoCalREN 18-23 vs. 24-31

Sector	18-23' Programs	24-31' Programs
Residential	2	3
Public Agencies	4	10
Commercial	0	4
Agriculture	0	3
Workforce, Education & Training	1	5
Finance	1	2
Codes & Standards	0	1
Total Portfolio of Programs	8	28

- SoCalREN Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	New or Existing Sector	2024-2031 Budget	# of programs	# of Resource Acquisition	# of Equity	# of Market Support
Public	Existing	\$246.4M	10	3	3	4
Residential	Existing	\$121.4M	3	3	0	0
CC: WE&T	Existing	\$25.7M	5	0	3	2
CC: Finance	Existing	\$11.3M	2	0	1	1
Commercial	New	\$85.4M	4	0	2	2
Agriculture	New	\$61.4M	3	1	1	1
CC: Codes & Standards	New	\$7.0	1	0	0	1
Community Design Pilot	N/A	\$1.5M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EM&V	N/A	\$23.3M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	N/A	\$583.7M	28	7	10	11

- Minh Le (County of Los Angeles) commented how the energy challenges that face California are causing stress on utility rates, causing affordability issues for our communities and that we all need to remember that we are entrusted with these financial resources and it is absolutely crucial that our future impacts reflect the resources provided. Simply put, we need to double our effort and ensure we deliver over the next eight years!
- SoCalREN Business Plan Program Summary
 - Public Sector Approvals
 - The 4 existing SoCalREN Public Sector Programs and expands resources for these services to continue
 - 5 new additional public sector programs that will provide comprehensive approaches that align energy efficiency with business practices and goals to achieve long-term benefits
 - Develop EE and DER deployment roadmaps to strengthen the resilience of critical community infrastructure. Program will support agencies with regional planning and prioritization of project DER implementation

- Regional partners to test new and innovative intervention strategies that can then be scaled as appropriate to other regions
- Existing Approved
 - Project Delivery Program (PDP)
 - Streamlined Savings Pathway (SSP)
 - Distributed Energy Resource Disadvantaged Communities Program or Pathway to Zero
 - Metered Savings Program
- NEW Approved
 - Water Infrastructure Program
 - Water and WasteWater SEM
 - Underserved Schools SEM
 - Energy Resiliency Action Plan (ERAP)
 - Regional Partner Initiatives
- Residential Sector Approvals
 - The 2 existing SoCalREN Residential Sector Programs and expands resources for these services to continue
 - One new residential multifamily program that provides turnkey EE measures that reduce electric, natural gas and water consumption of small apartment buildings with less than 50 units that are classified as HTR or DAC. The measures will be applicable to both tenant units and common areas, thereby reducing energy costs for both owners and tenants
 - Existing Approved
 - Whole Building Comprehensive FEE MultiFamily
 - Kits for Kids
 - NEW Approved
 - Small HTR MultiFamily Direct Install
- WE&T Approvals
 - The existing SoCalREN WE&T Program is replaced by 3 new programs based on existing sub-strategies that have built best practice models
 - The programs will continue to prioritize disadvantage workers and SWMDVBES
 - New infrastructure needed to connect SoCalREN's minority contractors and disadvantaged workers to capacity-building resources and opportunities
 - A program that aims to develop a local skilled workforce that delivers high quality Agricultural EE services to the SoCalREN region. The trained workforce will accelerate energy savings through SoCalREN's Rural HTR Ag DI and Ag-Retrofit programs
 - Existing Approved
 - WE&T Program
 - NEW Approved

- ACES
- Green Path Careers
- E-Contractor Academy
- WE&T Opportunity HUB
- Agriculture
- Sumi Gant (Gateway Cities Council of Governments/GCCOG asked how GCCOG can get involved with WE&T programs.
 - Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles) mentioned that the County's WE&T Project Manager, Tessa Charnofsky can connect with Sumi directly to provide info on how to get involved (ACTION ITEM)
- Commercial Approvals
 - A new commercial sector portfolio that prioritizes small and local businesses
 - Will provide no-cost direct install retrofits at small commercial facilities
 - Will promote and expand the existing California Green Business Network (CAGBN) and offers services and incentives to achieve green business certification
 - Builds off a historical CDFA healthy stores grant program and expands this offering throughout SoCalREN territory designed to support corner stores and small businesses within food deserts across the SoCalREN region. It provides healthier food options and funds new energy-efficient refrigerators
 - Educate business owners about the cost of energy and the value of efficiency, connect owners to commercial sector EE programs, and support applications for low or no-cost financing for EE measures
 - NEW Approved
 - Food Desert Energy Equity Program
 - Small Commercial Direct Install Program
 - Small and Medium Business Energy Advisory
 - Can incorporate IRA tax credits
 - Minh Le (County of Los Angeles) mentioned that public agencies should also be aware of EE tax codes and opportunities to take advantage of these benefits
 - Rebecca Hausheer (The Energy Coalition/TEC) mentioned that SoCalREN's Public Agency Programs are planning an upcoming webinar on Tax Deduction 179D
 - Angie Hacker (California Climate and Energy Collaborative/CCEC) asked for a link to this webinar in order to share with CCEC's network

- Communities will have a direct opportunity to design energy efficiency programs, rather than simply be a recipient of programs designed by the RENs.
- SoCalREN to facilitate Collaborative beginning in 2024. SoCalREN will then launch a pilot that is developed through the process in 2026-2027 (\$1.5M authorized)
- SoCalREN will also coordinate with other portfolio administrators to replicate the success of community-based programs across the state in the next 2028-2031 funding cycle
- Questions/comments
 - Sumi Gant (Gateway Cities Council of Governments/GCCOG) mentioned that she is really excited about this program as GCCOG currently has a collaborative but this opportunity will provide additional funding for CBO participation
 - Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles) responded by mentioning that we want to design programs with our communities in mind and SoCalREN will begin developing a workplan over the next 6th months, although the program will not start until 2024
- New Opportunities: Non-Energy Benefits Study
 - A primary goal of SoCalREN is to serve hard-to-reach or underserved customers and disadvantaged communities under the Equity segment.
 - Equity programs can provide increased comfort and safety, improved indoor air quality and more affordable utility bills, but these are currently not quantified by traditional metrics.
 - The recent Decision requires RENs and IOUs to co-develop a NEB study, in order to:
 - Develop specific methods/approaches for quantifying Equity NEBs
 - Assess the success of these programs and whether they achieve their intended outcomes and provide tangible benefits to equity segment customers
 - SoCalREN will participate in the working group to develop the plan for the NEB study. Study will be complete by October 2026, in time for incorporation and tracking in the next portfolio cycle in 2028
- New CPUC Equity and Access Grant
 - \$30 million program to provide technical assistance and capacity building for California Native American Tribes and community-based organizations (CBOs). The Grant Program strives to address the need to include the voices of underserved and underrepresented communities in

CPUC decision-making processes. The program includes three grant accounts:

- Public Participation Grants: \$3.1 million grant account will award up to \$15,000 for participating in a CPUC activity, such as a working group, panel, or focus group.
- Equity, Engagement, and Education Grants: \$9.75 million grant account will award up to \$200,000 for work that will educate consumers or perform outreach within an underserved community on a CPUC matter.
- Clean Energy Access Grants: \$15.65 million grant account will award up to \$500,000 for work that will address access to or education about the Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP), Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), and Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative.
- Link to website: [Equity and Access \(E&A\) Grant Program](#)
 - Webinar:
 - WHEN: Wednesday, August 9, 2023
 - TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 - WHERE: Virtual [Register](#)
- Laurel Rothschild (The Energy Coalition/TEC) mentioned that she will send this link out to the Advisory Committee as a follow-up to this meeting (ACTION ITEM)
 - Chris Moore (California Public Utilities Commission/CPUC) mentioned that he is really glad SoCalREN is highlighting this!
 - Sumi Gant (Gateway Cities Council of Governments/GCCOG) mentioned she is also glad about this as well as CBO capacity building is really needed
- Business Plan Next Steps
 - Compliance requirements
 - File True-Up Advice Letter
 - Implementation Plans
 - SoCalREN will also be soliciting for all the work on the portfolio over the next 6-8 months
 - Will then develop marketing tools and materials developed for each program for community outreach
- Questions/Comments
 - Joe Susca (Culver City) said that he was very impressed with today's presentation and congratulated SocalREN on doubling its budget
 - Also mentioned that the Future Green Leaders Summit looks like a great accomplishment and that he is really glad to see the new Commercial sector on all the work
 - Finally, he asked what is in the Kits for Kids kit
 - Kits of Kids kit includes:
 - Two (2) LED Bulbs

- One (1) Efficient Showerhead
 - Two (2) Faucet Aerators
 - One (1) 1.5 GPM Kitchen Faucet Aerator
 - One (1) 1.0 GPM Bath Faucet Aerator
 - The Program also includes:
 - At-home activities with family (scavenger hunt)
 - \$1,000 grants for classroom participation
 - Scott Brotten (ICF) can connect with Joe directly to confirm if any Culver City schools have been engaged to date and to provide information on how to get involved (ACTION ITEM)
 - Laurel Rothschild (The Energy Coalition/TEC) will also share the program overview link with the Advisory Committee (ACTION ITEM)
- Regulatory Updates (Jesse Feinberg, ICF)
 - Regulatory Updates
 - Fixed Utility Bill Charges
 - Clean Energy Financing
 - Societal Cost Test
 - Other Proceedings
 - 2023: A Busy Year for Clean Energy Policy
 - Proposed fixed charges on utility bills based on income
 - Goal is to equitably boost home electrification. But there are concerns around unintended harm to energy efficiency, solar, storage, etc. Also known as “Income Graduated Fixed Charges”
 - New financing for non-residential customers for (almost) all clean energy technologies
 - Electrifying buildings and transportation, DERs, resiliency and more
 - Progress in measuring societal/environmental costs and benefits in programs
 - Measuring the value of the social cost of carbon, air quality, and methane leakage
 - Fixed Utility Bill Charges: A Live and Contentious Debate
 - What’s going on?
 - June 2022 AB 205 law requires CPUC to set *no less than three income graduated* fixed charges for residential electric utility bills based on customer’s income.
 - Doesn't increase IOU revenues, but shifts a portion of bill charges to fixed vs kWh-based
 - But why?!
 - Make monthly electric bills more affordable and equitable, by reducing average monthly bills for low-income customers, *increasing for all others*
 - Encourage widespread electrification (bills more stable even as homes electrify)
 - Clean Energy Financing: Not Just for Energy Efficiency Anymore
 - What is it?
 - CPUC is expanding on-bill financing (OBF) programs beyond EE –

- offering non-residential IOU customers access to building decarbonization, transportation electrification, resiliency and DERs
 - Why take advantage?
 - Zero interest, fees, or prepayment penalties. But failure to repay can result in disconnection
 - What happens next?
 - IOUs to propose eligible OBF clean energy technologies; CPUC must approve
 - Tariff on-bill working group to develop joint proposal in 6 months
 - Societal Cost Test: A Test Your Community Might Not Mind Taking
 - What's that?
 - SCT is a measurement of value of a distributed energy resource (DER) program to society, including environmental benefits (social cost of carbon, air quality, methane leakage)
 - Does it matter?
 - SCT is not new! But the CPUC now wants to know if it should apply more broadly to all DERs. Waiting for CPUC Decision
 - Other Proceedings:

Proceeding #	Proceeding Topic	Update
R.19-09-009	Microgrids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D.23-04-034 adopts Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) implementation rules. ● MIP handbook ~Oct 2023. ● First application window ~July 2024.
A.21-12-009	SCE Building Electrification Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of \$680M 2024-2027 Application ongoing ● PD expected 2024
R.22-10-013	DER Program Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should the CPUC adopt the Societal Cost Test?
R.22-07-005	Advance Demand Flexibility through Electric Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Track A: Income-Graduated Fixed Charge ● Track B: Adopting Demand Flexibility rates
R.18-12-006	Vehicle Electrification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complying with D.22-11-040 to set up 2025-2029 funding cycle

- Closing Remarks (Lujana Medina, County of Los Angeles and Laurel Rothschild, The Energy Coalition)
 - SoCalREN Leadership Luncheon 10-year Anniversary Event Reminder
 - Please be sure to register [here](#) to attend this event that will highlight our collective 10-year achievements, share best practices and resources, and celebrate our Energy Champions and 10-years of SoCalREN! (ACTION ITEM)
 - September 6, 2023

- The Q3 Advisory Committee meeting will be in-person (first time since March 2020!) in the afternoon following the luncheon on September 6
- Closing Reminders (Laurel Rothchild, The Energy Coalition)
 - Please complete the [Q2 Meeting Survey](#) (ACTION ITEM)
 - 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 sixteenth episode of ReEnergizing Communities was recently posted featuring Pam Bold from HSEF!
 - 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](#)
- The Q2 SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned