

SoCalREN Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes & Action Items
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
in-person Meeting

Attendees

#	Name	Organization
1	Lujuana Medina	County of Los Angeles
2	Jacob Alvarez	Coachella Valley Association of Governments
3	Benjamin Lucha	City of Palmdale
4	Alelia Parenteau	City of Santa Barbara
5	Joe Susca	City of Culver City
6	Sumi Gant	Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
7	Nicholas Ryu	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
8	Mackenzie Bolger	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
9	Courtney Owen	ICF
10	Cody Coeckelenbergh	ICF
11	Patrick Ngo	Lincus, Inc.
12	Rebecca Hausheer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
13	Laurel Rothschild	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
14	Craig Perkins	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
15	Allison Hart	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
16	Fernanda Craig	County of Los Angeles
17	Pam Bold	High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
18	Tessa Charnofsky	ISD, Energy and Environmental Services

19	Jesse Feinburg	ICF
20	Presley Aviles	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
21	Mallory Schaefer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
22	Pamela Rittelmeyer	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
23	Christopher Moore	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
24	Angie Hacker	California Climate & Energy Collaborative
25	Ann D'Amato	3D Networks
26	Talia Perluss	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)

Confirmed Action Items

- Lujana Medina will connect Pam Bold to entities applying for the CEC EBD Direct Install Program in the Central Valley.
- Laurel Rothschild to send out decision language regarding the Awareness, Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior Program Metrics.
- Please complete the [Q4 Meeting Survey](#).
- Reach out if any of the 2024 Advisory Committee dates listed below do not work for you.
 - Q1: March 20th, In-person - location TBD, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
 - Q2: July 31st, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12 pm
 - Q3: September 25th, Possible in-person, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
 - Q4: December 11th, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12 pm

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
 - 3D Networks
- 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
- Welcome remarks from Lujana Medina thanking Advisory Committee members for their dedication and encouraged growth of Advisory Committee with other interested entities.
- Holiday Trivia Game
 - Champion: Alelia Parenteau!
- Regulatory Updates
 - CPUC Proceedings

Proceeding # and Name	Proceeding Info & Updates	Constituent & Local Government Impacts	SoCalREN Activity
R.13-11-005 Energy Efficiency (EE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viable Electric Alternative (VEA) • Indicators and Metrics, NEB Working Groups • NMEC Rulebook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEA working groups are developing methods to replace gas EE measures with electric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active in working groups, ongoing into Q1 • Advocating to avoid affordability challenges
A.21-12-009 SCE Building Electrification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPUC Proposed Decision denies application • Expected final 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denies \$700M heat pumps and panel upgrade program, with 40% to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support decarbonization investment in general, especially

	Decision in January 2024	low-income/ESJ communities	for underserved/vulnerable communities
R.20-08-020 Net Energy Metering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D.23-11-068 - VNEM and NEMA Decision, & other NEM issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision aligns payments for multifamily (MF) renters with single family, but may disincentivize schools, farms, MF common areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SoCalREN was successful in advocating for onsite "netting" for multifamily renters
R.22-07-005 Income Graduated Fixed Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proponents argue will reduce low-income bills, more bill stability, encourage electrification. Opponents argue harm EE and DER investment, unproven concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Decision March/April 2024 • Potential for large changes to rates (but not total utility costs). Benefit low-income, but hinder DER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory activity now largely complete. • Monitoring for CPUC Proposed Decision
R.19-09-009 Microgrids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microgrid Incentive Program (MIP) handbook released (SCE link); first application window expected mid-2024 • IOUs proposed Multi-Property Tariff. CPUC rulings and workshops in Q1 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments interested in microgrid development should review IOU's MIP handbook. \$25k available from IOUs for application support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor and provide updates
R.22-11-013 DER Cost-Effectiveness, Data Access and Use, Equipment Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPUC hiring a consultant launching a working group to identify data use cases, needs, barriers, recommendations for IOU DER data sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable customers, planners, RENS to make informed decisions on DER planning, and for local gov. to enhance resiliency, climate action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filed comments on scope, and will be active in working group to advocate for ease of access to data

- Focus Areas for the New Year
 - Successful Rollout of New Portfolio: LA County and SoCalREN will continue laying the regulatory groundwork for new programs to launch in your communities later next year.

- The CPUC authorized funding for 2024 through 2031
- The budget over 8 years is around \$580,000,000
- Program Metrics and Indicators: SoCalREN team participating in ongoing discussions and working groups to shape future mechanisms for tracking program success.
 - Equity and Market Support Indicators (e.g., count of equity participants and their energy savings, WE&T disadvantaged worker participation, etc.)
 - The CPUC is looking to understand better impacts on equity segment customers based on fuel substitution.
 - Non-Energy Benefits (e.g., access to capital, inclusion of diverse workers, energy savings for equity customers, etc.)
 - Awareness, Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior (e.g., customer and market actor awareness of EE products and services.)
 - Questions/Comments
 - Sumi Gant (Gateway Cities COG) asked if environmental justice could be considered as a non-energy benefit?
 - Lujana Medina replied that can be added as feedback for the working groups.
 - Pam Bold (High Sierra Energy Foundation) asked for more information on the Awareness, Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior program metrics.
 - Lujana Medina responded that it is currently outlined in the business plan, but they are working on conducting a study.
 - Laurel added she would send out the decision language included in the meeting follow-up. (ACTION ITEM)
- Other Complementary External Funding Activities
 - EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
 - SoCalREN and coalition of partners applied for Solar for All grant program funding to build on existing success.
 - Proposed program includes constituent-led resiliency hubs through residential solar + battery storage.
 - California Energy Commission
 - Equitable Building Decarbonization Program (EBDP) guidelines finalized
 - SoCalREN, IREN, and others in coalition will apply to administer SoCal EBDP.
 - CEC is considering incorporating IRA's HOME (\$292M) and HEERA (\$290M) for better alignment.
- What We're Reading
 - ACEEE

- [Adapting Energy Efficiency Programs to Reach Underserved Residents](#)
 - CEC
 - [Draft 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report](#)
 - Energy Institute at Haas
 - [Financing the Electrification of Homes](#)
 - [What's a Fair Electricity Bill?](#)
 - SoCalREN Ag HTR, Food Desert EE, and Public Sector Electrification Market Studies
 - [SoCalREN Agricultural Market Study](#)
 - [SoCalREN Food Desert Energy Efficiency Program Market Study](#)
- 10 Year Reflections
 - The Committee reviewed the history and timeline of SoCalREN, along with the collective impacts over the last ten years
 - The Committee reviewed highlights from the 10-year Anniversary Leadership Luncheon
 - Questions/Comments
 - Benjamin Lucha (Palmdale) said it was a great event and that SoCalREN has done many great things for the city and has realized a lot of energy savings.
 - Pam Bold (High Sierra Energy Foundation) said she is pleased that the RENs have been able to offer expanded services in place of the Local Government Partnerships sunsetting.
- 2024 Expansion and Beyond
 - SoCalREN New Programs
 - Scheduled to be launched mid-year 2024
 - Commercial Programs
 - SMB Direct Install
 - Healthy Stores Refrigeration Program
 - SMB Energy Advisor
 - Agriculture
 - Project Delivery Program
 - HTR Direct Install
 - Expanded Public Agency Programs
 - Strategic energy management programs
 - HTR Direct Install
 - Residential
 - HTR Direct Install
 - CEC Equitable Building DI Decarbonization Program
 - The Equitable Building Decarbonization Program (EBD Program) will help eligible residential customers electrify their homes at no cost, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing energy equity.
 - The EBD Program will also encourage resiliency to extreme heat, indoor air-quality improvements, energy affordability, grid reliability, and local workforce opportunities.

- The SoCalREN has formed and will lead a coalition of Southern California public agencies, CCAs, RENs and CBOs to apply for the Southern California Region funding
- EBD Direct Install Program
 - The EBD Statewide Direct Install Program will provide building decarbonization upgrades for low-income and moderate-income households in single-family, multifamily, and manufactured homes in under-resourced communities.
 - The program will be administered separately in Northern, Central, and Southern California.
- Program Funding
 - \$783M for the EBD Program (58% for Southern California region)
 - Projects will be funded at a 100% grant rate; projects that leverage other funds will be more competitive
 - Three administrators will be competitively selected (one per region)
- Questions/Comments
 - Pam Bold (High Sierra Energy Foundation) asked so your application will only include the Southern Cal region on the map, and not the whole SoCalREN territory?
 - Lujana Medina said yes, that is correct. Unfortunately, the CEC cut it that way, but Lujana can connect Pam to applicants applying for the Central Valley. (ACTION ITEM)
- The Community Based Design Collaborative and Program Pilot
 - California Public Utilities Commission Decision authorized energy efficiency portfolios for 2024-2027 included.
 - CPUC tasked Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) with designing a Community Based Collaborative and Program Pilot that facilitates community involvement in energy efficiency program design and delivery.
 - RFP released in January for facilitator/project implementer.
- REACH 2.0 Multi-family Charge4All
 - California Energy Commission approved \$4 million (with \$1 million match)
 - At least 212 chargers installed in multiple counties at DAC and non-DAC communities
 - Lead implementer is GreenWealth Energy
 - Workforce component—at least two trainees from Green Path Careers, receiving LA Cleantech Incubator/Chargepoint training will be placed. And two people trained with USGBC will be placed.
 - If anyone knows of apartment owners who would be interested, please reach out.
 - Questions/Comments
 - Alelia Parenteau (Santa Barbara) asked if there will be meetings with all the enrolled agencies to discuss these new programs?

- Lujana Medina said yes, meetings can be scheduled. Rebecca Hausheer added that SCR can meet with any enrolled agency at any frequency.
- Closing Reminders (Laurel Rothchild, The Energy Coalition)
 - Please complete the [Q4 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
 - SoCalREN Podcast and Social Media
 - Don't forget to follow us on social media
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Online Resource for Advisory Committee Members](#)
 - 2024 Meeting Schedule
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 - Please reach out if any of these dates do not work for you (ACTION ITEM)
- The Q4 SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.