

SoCalREN Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes & Action Items  
Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting

Attendees

#	Name	Organization
1	Minh Le	County of Los Angeles
2	Lujuana Medina	County of Los Angeles
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	Wendy Angel	Emerald Cities
12	Shanette Anderson	Emerald Cities
13	Rebecca Hausheer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
14	Laurel Rothschild	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
15	Craig Perkins	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
16	Allison Hart	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
17	Fernanda Craig	County of Los Angeles
18	Courtney Kalashian	San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization

19	Pam Bold	High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
20	Tessa Charnofsky	County of Los Angeles
21	Jesse Feinberg	ICF
22	Presley Aviles	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
23	Mallory Schaefer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
24	Pamela Rittelmeyer	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
25	Christopher Moore	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
26	Talia Perluss	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
27	Kim Fuentes	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
28	Joanne O'Neill	Clean Power Alliance
29	Sona Coffee	Clean Power Alliance
30	Selene Lawrence	City of Irvine
31	David Freeman	Coachella Valley Association of Governments
32	Nataly Morales	Orange County Power Authority
33	Kathy Wells	CalChoice
34	Kimberly Jaeger Johnson	ILLUME

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

---

Notes/Key Takeaways

- Laurel Rothschild (The Energy Coalition) 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 (WRCOG)
    - Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
    - San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
    - South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
    - Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
    - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
    - 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, LA County)
  - Minh Le shared thoughts on why we are implementing the program we implement
    - Challenges our communities are facing
      - Affordability is challenging right now
    - Our organizations are bringing resources to our communities, focusing on affordability
- Regulatory Updates (Jesse Feinberg, ICF)
  - Discussion topics

- Transportation Electrification (TE) (R.23-12-008)

- 

Previous Scoping Issues (R.18-12-006)	How CPUC addressed issue in 2022 Decision
Funding for behind-the-meter charging infrastructure	Established up to \$1B for a light-, medium-, and heavy-duty EV charging infrastructure program starting in 2025
Lack of limits to IOU behind-the-meter spending on TE programs	Established funding cycle approach to IOU TE spending
Lack of clarity on the IOU role in TE	IOUs support TE market by acting as utility-side-of-the-meter infrastructure and fuel providers

- 

Proposed Scoping Issue	Fundamental Question
Locational Considerations	What info does the CPUC need to prepare the grid to accelerate TE?
Data Needs and Planning	What data inputs are needed need to quantify future TE load?
Electrical Corporation Constraints	How should the CPUC direct IOUs to assess cost, timing, and regional constraints to support planning?
Informing Grid Planning Processes	How should this data inform existing grid planning processes?

- Craig Perkins (The Energy Coalition) asked does the Proceeding also look at bi-directional charging opportunities?
  - Bi-directional charging was dropped from the proceedings
- Energization Timelines (R.24-01-018)
  - Significant concerns about energization delays across all of California’s major economic sectors.
  - Will implement requirements of from two recent laws:
    - SB 410: Promote timely energization of customer connections in California

- AB 50: CPUC to set criteria for timely energization for electric customers
  - Proposed scope:
    - Establish average and maximum target time periods
    - Procedures for customers to report delays
    - Criteria for timely service and reporting
  - Other issues that should be included:
    - Customer perspective must be central
    - Explore root cause of delays and develop actionable solutions
- Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSM) (A.22-02-005)
  - Since 2012, the CPUC has permitted demand-side management measures to be incorporated alongside energy efficiency (EE)
  - But innovation and holistic approaches have been limited due to strict CPUC rules on funding and permissible activities
  - 2023 EE Decision permits more flexibility to use EE funding to support DERs for load shifting and reduction
  - SoCalREN proposes to provide DER audits and technical assistance through its existing EE programs.
- Facility Equipment Inventory Spotlight (Talia Perluss, South Bay Cities Council of Governments)
  - Process
    - The project consists of cataloging all equipment that uses energy: lighting, HVAC, water systems, office equipment, etc. The information is compiled into a workbook and provided to city staff to assist in understanding the energy equipment currently operating in their municipal facilities. The SBCCOG & SoCalREN also use the information to guide agencies in implementing efficient equipment strategies that will reduce energy use and utility costs, as well as enhance comfort in their facilities.
  - Sample workbooks for the program can be located in the meeting slides
  - 43 inventories were completed
    - Findings
      - 897,000+ kWh saved annually
      - Savings would be 9.5% of SoCalREN's 2022 kWh savings goal
      - GHG equivalency
        - 677 Tons of CO2 GHG equivalency
        - 1.6 million miles driven every year
      - \$259,744 Upfront cost for LED replacements
        - Does not include fixtures and installation costs
      - \$296,040.64 Annual savings
      - 92 HVAC Units will be replaced
  - Implementation Next Steps
    - Incorporation of Facility Equipment Inventory workbooks and findings into SoCalREN Energy Analysis Services (CEA)

- LA County will help identify funding opportunities such as the Metered Savings Program
  - Questions/Comments
    - Courtney Kalashian (SJVCEO) asked how they keep the workbooks current?
      - SBCCOG is exploring this now and had one-on-one meetings with cities on how to keep the workbook up to date
      - Still looking for an overall process on workbook updating
    - Laurel Rothschild (TEC) shared that this program is almost a decade in the making and asked SBCCOG to share the vision behind it
      - It came out of decisions around incentives at the time
      - Decided to do all city halls to create a big statement about the program
      - Hoping the cities will look at the upgrades needed and find incentives on how to get them done
    - Fernanda Craig (LA County) added that SBCCOG is helping develop an implementation plan to help launch this program in other Regional Partner territories
    - Sona Coffee (CPA) will be reaching out to SBCCOG to discuss collaboration with the CPA
  - CCA Community Programs Panel
    - CPA Customer Programs (Joanne O'Neill, CPA)
      - Community Choice Aggregator serving 35 member jurisdictions in LA & Ventura Counties
      - Adopted in 2020, the Plan sets a 5-year vision for programs, focused on 3 pillars:
        - Resilience & Grid Management
        - Building & Transportation Electrification
        - Local Procurement
      - Cross-Cutting Program
        -

Implementation Phase	Program	Target Audience	Timeline
New Program	Energized Communities	Member agencies	Begin recruitment Q1 2024
	Energized Communities Innovation Grants	Member agencies	Issue first funding opportunity Q3 2024

- Resilience & Grid Management
        -

Implementation Phase	Program	Target Audience	Timeline
Program Continuation / Expansions	Power Ready No-cost clean energy backup systems for critical facilities	Local government and community buildings	On-going
	Power Response	Residential, commercial, and public	On-going

■ Electrification

Implementation Phase	Program	Target Audience	Timeline
Program Continuation / Expansions	Reach Code Program for Building and Transportation Electrification	Member agencies	On-going
	EV Charger Rebates	Multifamily, commercial, and public	On-going
New Programs	Energy Advisor	Residential & small commercial	RFP in process
	EV Charging infrastructure technical assistance & incentive	Multifamily and small to medium businesses in DACs	RFP anticipated in 2024

■ Local Procurement

Implementation Phase	Program	Target Audience	Timeline
Program Continuation / Expansions	Power Share (DAC-GT)	Residential	On-going
	Community Solar (CSGT)	Residential	On-going

New Programs	Sun Storage Rebates	Residential	RFP in 2024
	Low and Moderate Income Solar + Storage	Residential	Prepare RFO in 2024

- CalChoice Energy Program Highlights (Kathy Wells, CalChoice)
  - CalChoice is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) created with Lancaster and San Jacinto for the purpose of helping municipalities launch their own CCA
  - Although a JPA, each CCA manages its own CCA program with its Board of Directors – Individual Benefits include:
    - Independent Rate Setting
    - Customized Energy Procurement
    - Innovative, Local Energy Programs
    - Economic Development
    - Added Revenue Stream for the Community
  - There are currently eight active member cities, including Lancaster, San Jacinto, Pico Rivera, Rancho Mirage, Apple Valley, Pomona, Santa Barbara, and Palmdale
  - Power Choice Program
    - Solar+Battery program option for CalChoice CCA residential customers with a new and unique structure
      - \$0 upfront costs to homeowners
      - Long-term customer pricing stability
      - Available to all customers--no credit check
      - No operational and maintenance costs to homeowners
      - 100% renewable energy and emergency backup power
  - Power Choice Expansion Programs
    - Power Choice+
      - Modeled after the residential program but for Commercial and Industrial
    - Power Choice Battery
      - Retrofit process for residential customers with existing solar PV to add battery storage
    - Power Choice Renters
      - Offered to single-family home rental customers with landlord consent
    - Power Choice Homebuilders
      - Expansion program geared to work with new home developers looking to comply with the California solar mandate
  - Energy Efficiency “Elect to Administer”
    - May 15, 2023 – CalChoice filed Petition for Modification of D.14-01-033
      - The historical average of “local” funds diminishing



- Not enough funds for CCAs to deploy meaningful programs
  - Proposed minimum funding for ETA programs
- February 29, 2024 – ALJ Fitch issued a proposed decision granting the PFM of D.14-01-033
  - Establishes a minimum threshold of funds for CCAs to access program offerings to their customers
  - 4% of the applicable IOU portfolio budget is dedicated to statewide and regional programs in the most recently authorized program cycle
- CCA Community Programs Panel (Nataly Morales, OCPA)
  - Energy Programs
    - OhmConnect: A free online platform that helps users save energy and money by reducing their electricity usage during periods of high demand
    - OCPA Marketplace: Residential customers are eligible to receive discounts and rebates on energy-efficient products
    - Community Advisory Committee (CAC): provides a venue for ongoing citizen support and engagement guidance in the strategic direction, goals, and programs of the OCPA
  - Reinvesting in the Community
    - Bright Futures Grant program (\$70,000): Grants are given to non-profits for creative and innovative ideas to educate communities about the benefits of renewable energy
    - Low-income customer programs remain available:
      - CARE, FERA, Medical Baseline, etc.
    - Future energy programs include the Community Power Plan
  - Community Power Plan (CPP) Goals & Objectives
    - Develop a Community Power Plan with innovative programs to invest back into local communities and enhance environmental performance in the Orange County region by helping our communities achieve their climate action goals
    - Refine goals into both an overall community investment strategy and a series of program offerings OCPA could undertake as it matures as an agency
    - CPP - Community Needs Assessment
      - Needs Assessment would identify the community's energy needs, existing programs to leverage, gaps in existing programs, and methods and strategies OCPA could employ to meet community needs, overcome challenges
- Santa Barbara Clean Energy (Alelia Parenteau, Santa Barbara Clean Energy)
  - Vehicle electrification
    - Residents can get electric vehicle rebates
  - Building electrification
    - Working on a regional concierge program

- Resident education & workforce education
  - Bike equity
    - Struggling to get EV charging infrastructure in lower-income communities
      - Bridging this gap by creating an EV bike program
  - Innovation grants
  - Resilience programs
    - Creating resilience hubs and information hubs for communities during disasters
  - Questions/Comments
    - Laurel Rothschild (TEC) asked how you measure program success?
      - Joanne O’Neill (CPA): Looking at customer satisfaction, number of participants, distribution of participants among differing communities
      - Kathy Wells (CalChoice): Education and customer outreach have helped with program success
    - Fernanda Craig (LA County) asked about the Power Choice Renters and how landlord approval works
      - Kathy Wells (CalChoice): One hurdle is “vacancy mode,” when the renter leaves after 12 months
        - The system will keep generating power, but where will that power go? They are still figuring this process out.
    - Laurel Rothschild (TEC) asked if anyone wanted to add to barriers to customer engagement
      - Alelia Parenteau (Santa Barbara): Customer education, people don’t want to think about their energy and where it comes from and what kind of appliances they use- creating a narrative that appeals to each customer ideology is difficult
    - Laurel Rothschild (TEC) asked what excites you most about the upcoming work in 2024
      - Alelia Parenteau (Santa Barbara): Program budget expanding this year
      - Nataly Morales (OCPA): Community Power Plan that is being launched soon
      - Kathy Wells (CalChoice): The battery retrofit program
      - Joanne O’Neill (CPA): Energize Communities program and how it adds to other work we’re doing with local communities
    - Sumi Gant asked if OCPA is set up county-wide?
      - It is just by city, and any city can join
- Closing Remarks (Lujuana Medina, LA County)
  - Lujuana expressed excitement about new upcoming programs and grant partnerships
- Closing Reminders (Laurel Rothchild, The Energy Coalition)
  - Please complete the [Q1 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
  - Q1: March 20th, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
  - Q2: August 8th, In-person - Location TBD, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
  - Q3: September 25th, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
  - Q4: December 11th, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12 pm
    - Please reach out if any of these dates do not work for you
- The Q1 SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.