

SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes & Action Items

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Confirmed Action Items

- TEC to explore the following future Conversations with SoCalREN webinar topics for public agencies: Distributed Energy Resources (DER) and Time-of-Use (TOU) Rates
- Advisory Committee to reach out to SoCalREN team at anytime between quarterly meetings for any follow-up as needed and/or to provide any feedback
- Advisory Committee to reach out to Laurel Rothschild (TEC) and/or Julie Tan (County of Los Angeles) with ideas on how the Resiliency Working Group can help fulfill needs and/or to add additional members to the Working Group
- SoCalREN to add Christopher Moore (CPUC) to future Resiliency Working Group meeting invites
- Advisory Committee to reach out to Laurel Rothschild (TEC) if interested in the EE Training Series
- Advisory Committee members to complete [Q3 Meeting Survey](#)

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 Council of Governments
 - Coachella Valley Council of Governments
 - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
 - City of Culver City
 - City of Palmdale
 - City of Santa Barabra
 - City of Irvine
 - County of Ventura
 - County of Santa Barbara
 - City of Fullerton
 - County of Orange
 - Western Riverside Council of Governments

- Gateway Cities
 - San Bernardino Council of Governments
 - Invited Guests
 - California Public Utilities Commission
 - 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
 - Meeting agenda
- SoCalREN Welcome & Revisiting Advisory Committee Purpose (Minh Le, County of Los Angeles)
 - Minh Le (SoCalREN/County of Los Angeles) kicked off the meeting by welcoming all Advisory Committee members and invited guests to the 2020 Q3 meeting
 - We are in the middle of an energy crisis (whether we realize it or not) and we have the opportunity for big, positive change right now
 - The Advisory Committee is an incredibly important avenue to gather feedback on how to maximize SoCalREN for positive change
- Program Updates
 - Residential Sector Programs (Courtney Owen, ICF and Paul Kylo, ICF)
 - 2020 Multifamily Offerings
 - Whole Building
 - Projects with at least three energy efficiency measures
 - Comprehensive Common Area
 - Minimum two measures, one must be electric
 - Multifamily Program Goal Progress
 - Multifamily Program Updates
 - Covid-19 Impact Updates
 - Contractors continue to work, with many shifting focus to Common Area projects
 - SoCalREN developed a suite of materials to keep tenants informed about upgrades and share information about COVID-19 safety precautions required by the Program
 - Public Sector Programs (Rebecca Hausheer, TEC)
 - 2020 SoCalREN Public Agency Programs
 - Project Delivery Program

- Metered Savings Program
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Pathway to Zero
- Public Sector Program Updates
 - All programs and services continue
 - Virtual audits offered
 - Continued public agency engagement
 - 150 public agencies now enrolled
 - 5 more agencies enrolled just this week!
 - 212 active EE projects
 - 1st Pathway to Zero DER audit delivered, 8 additional in progress
 - Onsite and enhanced benchmarking activities underway
 - 1st RLF application submitted
 - Public sector financing EM&V study underway
- Goal Status Update
 - Program kWh Savings
 - Program Therm Savings
 - Regional Partners
 - Regional Reach by County
- Covid-19 Strategy Update
 - Marketing & Outreach
 - Conversations with SoCalREN Webinars
 - 10 webinars delivered to date
 - Capacity Building
 - Technical training opportunity for agency staff and fulfill unique maintenance and operations needs created by Covid-19
 - Focus on Covid-19 Opportunities
 - School districts
 - Water and wastewater districts
 - Financing opportunities
 - Energy Performance Contracting Facilitation Strategy
 - Poll question for the Advisory Committee regarding topics of interest for future SoCalREN Conversations with SoCalREN webinars
 - Top requested topic: tie (36%) between DER and TOU (ACTION ITEM)
- Workforce Education & Training Programs (Denise Fairchild, ECC and Wendy Angel, ECC)
 - Emerald Cities Collaborative is new to the Advisory Committee!
 - WE&T Management & Development

- Implementing CPUC WE&T metrics and reporting systems
- Identifying CPUC Unique Value Metrics
- REN cross-cutting program coordination
- WE&T partnership development
- WE&T program marketing expansion
 - REN Public Agency WE&T training sessions
 - WE&T program collateral/marketing
- WE&T Program Structure
- Small Contractor Training Program
 - Training & Academy
 - Contractor Road Map
- ACES Pathway Program
- Green Pathway Career Program
- Public Agency WE&T
- Covid-19 Regional Impacts (All)
 - Breakout Rooms
 - How significant are the economic impacts from COVID-19 & how does that impact your sustainability efforts?
 - Alelia Parentueau (City of Santa Barbara)
 - Significant impacts due to being a tourism based city
 - Budget reductions up to 10%
 - Hiring freezes and issues with workload capacity
 - Benjamin Druyon (CVAG)
 - Also a tourism based city
 - Busy with launch of CCA
 - Focus on ensuring customers are taking part in SCE's CARE and FERA programs
 - Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG)
 - For us it's been mixed - some cities are moving forward with projects and some cities are heavily impacted by the economy and lack of sales tax revenue
 - There is a lot of discussion re: resiliency hubs/neighborhood centers for wildfires and there may be immediate opportunities for these as cities are going to need to change rapidly
 - We need to focus on economic development for cities
 - Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles)
 - Tourism is small portion of LAC but tax revenues that county received for services have significantly declined and there are major budget constraints

- Sustainability efforts were lower priority at the beginning of Covid-19 but now with the fires, the priority of sustainability is back at the forefront and there are now many opportunities
- Anthony Segura (WRCOG)
 - In general, increase in sustainability efforts region-wide
 - WRCOG is launching into a microgrid initiative with a grant we recently received
- Ben Lucha (City of Palmdale)
 - We have seen other cities experience furloughs and layoffs and are doing the best we can to protect employees and provide services
 - We are having to jump through more hoops to accomplish projects - our finance team is doing additional scrutiny to have staff justify projects
 - Have had to shift focus away from launching our CCA due to Covid-19
- Pam Bold (HSEF)
 - For LGs, the toughest thing is the distraction - all other duties of Covid-19, fires, etc - there are new roles like issuing permitting for outdoor dining - so the capacity to focus on EE is more difficult
- Stephanie Cadena (GCCOG)
 - Shift in focus from EE and sustainability to pandemic recovery and community housing
- Kelly Lynn (SBCOG)
 - Cities are going through a lot - taking a hit from sales tax revenue - and it's not just energy programs - its city-wide
 - Education for children is also a big issue
- Craig Perkins (TEC)
 - Santa Monica reduced city-wide workforce by 20% and about half of the sustainability team
 - Big questions loom about the next 12 months - what does a return to normal look like and how long will it take?
 - What is missing is intervention by the federal government
- Denise Fairchild (ECC)
 - ECC is working with sustainability directors in about 25 cities - and why energy is important
 - It is important to connect the dots between the recovery and EE
- How do you see the Advisory Committee and/or SoCalREN supporting?
 - Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG)

- Really impressed with SoCalREN and the services provided and we need to protect and ensure this basic level of support continues
 - Would like to see more resources, we need more staff - if we get all cities enrolled, we are going to need the resources to support
 - We need to continue to come together as a group and submit applications to address the issues within our communities
- Alelia Parenteau (City of Santa Barbara)
 - The way we are approaching sustainability is holistic so we need to broaden the scope of the SoCalREN to go beyond EE to address the current needs of local governments and efficiently rebuild our communities during this time
- Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles)
 - We need to identify more resources and more funding beyond ratepayer funding
- Anthony Segura (WRCOG)
 - SoCalREN's regulatory updates have been very helpful so those need to continue
 - We also need to continue to provide avenues where we can learn from others who bring different expertise and perspectives
- Ben Lucha (City of Palmdale)
 - We need to keep doing what we do best!
 - We also need to continue to support and provide the technical expertise Palmdale and other agencies lack, and need
 - Staff was spread thin to begin with, and now they have so many additional duties; SoCalREN's support is incredibly instrumental right now, particularly financing support
- Pam Bold (HSEF)
 - We need capacity building - some sort of climate core or AmeriCorps type support, but not intern level - it needs to be strategic and mid-level or higher support
- Craig Perkins (TEC)
 - The CPUC has acknowledged some of these challenges and has done a good job at softening the impacts by directing program administrators to be innovative
- Denise Fairchild (ECC)
 - There are also basic needs from a workforce perspective to think about, such as access to computers and internet
- 2021 ABAL (Lujana Medina, County of Los Angeles)
 - Overview

- 2021 Budget & Cost Effectiveness
- Cost Effectiveness Tactics & Progress
 - Drivers Impacting TRC
 - Covid-19 market impacts
 - An increase in the number of resource strategies
 - Tactics to Increase TRC
- Additional Tactics to Increase CE Post Covid-19
 - Achieved price reductions within residential and public sector 3 party contract, allowing more resources to become available for implementation of new strategies;
 - Increased resources for innovative strategies that result in quantifiable energy savings;
 - Leveraging additional partnerships with local governments to collaborate and lessen the ratepayer cost burden.
- Proposed Portfolio/Program Changes
 - Budget
 - Shifts across sectors to fund more cost-effective resource strategies and to address current needs due to Covid-19
 - Modified RCC program as a sub-offering to the MF program due to apparent cost efficiencies and Covid-19
 - Leveraged additional external resources to offer more strategies, while reducing EE ratepayer cost burden
 - Program Addition(s)
 - A new WE&T subprogram: Green Path Career
 - Proposal for a new Residential Sector resource program: Kits for Kids
- Meeting REN Criteria: Opportunities and Accomplishments
 - Pilot New & Innovative Activities
 - Serving HTR and DAC Customers
 - Filling Gaps within the Market
- SoCalREN Ramp Up Activities in Response to Covid-19 Industry Impacts
 - Focus on Covid-19 Opportunities
 - Capacity Building
 - Marketing and Outreach
- Working Group Updates (Laurel Rothschild, TEC and Julie Tan, County of Los Angeles)
 - SCE Public Sector Solicitation Working Group
 - Purpose: To explore strategies and exchange ideas that can be used to develop an abstract/proposal to SCE for the upcoming Public Sector Energy Efficiency Solicitation.
 - Approach: Regular calls among interested parties to determine teams and strategies. Participation in this working group is outside the scope of SoCalREN activities and will be led by the County of Los Angeles.
 - Goal: Develop a cost-effective public sector resource program(s) that can be submitted by interested Advisory Committee members in Q1 2021 to SCE.

- Current Members:
 - Antonia Graham, City of Fullerton
 - Joe Susca, City of Culver City
 - Katie Ward, SGVCOG
 - Sona Coffee, City of Irvine
 - Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
 - Lujana Medina, Los Angeles County
- Grant Working Group Updates
 - Los Angeles County contributes internal funding to support activities that span beyond EE funding support

Grant Name	Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants	Statewide Park Program (SPP)	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	Advanced Plug Load and Smart Exterior Lighting Systems
Description	Caltrans funding opportunity for agencies looking to further their Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy	California Dept. of Parks and Recreation funding available for agencies looking to create new parks, expand, or improve existing parks.	US Dep. of Homeland Security funding available for agencies interested in general energy storage, especially solar-related storage to assist with disaster mitigation and resiliency.	CEC grant opportunity for new market technology and projects that integrate smart plug load controls. Ideal for agencies looking to install plug load controls in buildings of at least 100,000 sq. ft.
Award Amount/ Funding Available	\$50,000 - \$1,000,000 w/ min 12% matching	\$200,000 – \$8,500,000	\$50,000,000 cap with 25% cost share	\$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000 with 20% cost share
Application Due Date	November 2020	12/14/2020	1/29/2021	10/5/2020

- Resiliency Working Group
 - Current Members
 - Pam Bold, HSEF

- Garrett Wong, County of Santa Barbara
- Naomi Albert, SBCOG
- Sona Coffee, City of Irvine
- Julie Tan, Los Angeles County
- Lujana Medina, County of Los Angeles
- Alelia Parenteau, City of Santa Barbara
- Monthly Meetings
 - Resiliency WG Initial Kick-Off Meeting 6/29/2020
 - Resiliency WG July Monthly Meeting 7/29/2020
 - Resiliency WG August Monthly Meeting 8/4/2020
 - Resiliency WG September Monthly Meeting TBD
- Working Group Accomplishments to Date
 - Responded to Microgrid Decision 20-06-017 (proceeding R.19-09-009) SCE Advice Letters (Orders 1, 5, 6, 9, 10)
 - Responded to Microgrid Decision 20-06-017 (proceeding R.19-0-009) Track 2 Staff Proposals
- What's Next?
 - Develop scope for RWG
 - How can we better support resiliency in your communities?
- Potential Deliverables
 - Policy Campaign to State regarding need for funding resources for LGs for Resiliency and Climate Mitigation
 - Comprehensive Step-by-Step Guide to Completing Resiliency Projects
- How can this Working Group better help fulfill your needs?
 - Advisory Committee to send feedback to SoCalREN (ACTION ITEM)
- Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG) asked if SBCCOG member cities can participate in any of these working groups?
 - Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles) confirmed they can participate
 - If the Advisory Committee members have someone in mind, reach out to Laurel Rothschild (TEC) or Julie Tan (County of Los Angeles) to get them added (ACTION ITEM)
- Christopher Moore (CPUC) asked if it would be helpful to have a CPUC rep on the Resiliency Working Groups
 - Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles) confirmed it would be helpful
 - Christopher Moore (CPUC) volunteered to join the Resiliency Working Group
 - SoCalREN to add Christopher Moore (CPUC) to future Resiliency Working Group meeting invites (ACTION ITEM)
- Regulatory Updates (Marc Costa, TEC)
 - Covid-19 Ruling
 - Provides reasonable latitude in Sept ABALs
 - Reassurance on evaluation of program goals and metrics
 - Ruling is effective through 2022 ABAL filings

- All program administrators shall file new energy efficiency portfolios by Sept 1, 2021
- Microgrid Proceeding
 - The CPUC issued a Decision on June 17, 2020 that puts an enormous amount of responsibility in the hands of Local Governments to take charge of activities that mitigate and adapt to Public Safety Power Shutoffs
 - An even larger onus is meticulously laid out by the CPUC to ensure that the IOUs comply with the orders in the decision
 - Local governments need to diligently follow and in some cases lead these activities
 - Solar and Storage Net Energy Metering (NEM) tariffs will be more favorable with streamlined templates for interconnection in the next month
 - Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) events are ordered to be coordinated more closely with LGs
 - Battery Electric Energy Storage systems can charge from the grid for PSPS purposes under new a new net metering tariff
 - LGs are ordered to be immediately and thoroughly engaged by IOUs on resilience planning
 - A series of engagement guides, bi-annual workshops and County moderated meetings will be taking place this summer, before PSPS events are likely to occur
 - LGs will have dedicated access and trainings on a data portal for their respective IOUs that help them plan for resilience projects and general disaster planning
 - IOUs will form and dedicate teams to LGs to develop and prepare for resilience projects
 - LGs will need to participate (and in some cases moderate) these meetings and provide feedback on the IOU plans related to all the bullet points above
 - IOUs outside of SoCalREN service area have additional requirements and authorizations to launch pilot programs related to resilience and PSPS events
- Regulatory Updates

Proceeding Number	Title of Proceeding	Recent Development	Impact to LG/ Constituents Served	Next Step/ Deliverable
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R.13-11-005	Rolling Portfolio	-Final DEER resolution issued -ABALs submitted -NRDC Motion	- eTRM will replace DEER -Lighting measures largely expired; - All PAs submitted new ABALs -NRDC motion proposed new mechanics for how long program portfolios last and what the filing requirements will be	-Update ABAL -NRDC comments
R.20-08-022	Clean Energy Financing	-New CPUC proceeding to unify financing	Staff proposal will be released on how to leverage financing mechanisms across EE/DR/DERs	Submit opening comments
R.18-12-006	DRIVE	-Proposed Decision - EV Charge Ready II	Proposed decision - EV service providers are now 'public utilities' SCE approved to install 38k EV chargers	Submit PD comments

R.20-05-003	Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)	CPUC approved SCE's 770MW of storage IRPs filed	SCE has approval to install 770MW of storage All load serving entities (LSEs) filed annual integrated resource plans	Continue to monitor next steps in proceeding and impacts of ACC update on EE
R.19-01-011	Building Decarb	CPUC Staff Proposal on Phase II - incentives, wildfires, rates	Phase II will tackle incentive layering, a new wildfire program and funding, new rates for electric water heating	Submit comments on staff proposal
R.19-09-009	Rulemaking Regarding Microgrids	ALJ Ruling on GHG emissions for back-up power	CPUC seeks to understand issues around temporary and permanent diesel alternatives for back-up power during grid outages	Comment on staff proposal

- Closing Remarks (Laurel Rothschild, TEC)
 - SoCalREN Advisory Committee
 - Guide & Advise
 - Collaborate & Innovate
 - Be Informed
 - Be an Advocate
 - Upcoming Events
 - Conversations with SoCalREN Webinar: Readyng Rural Water Systems & Operators for What's Ahead
 - 11th Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Virtual Forum
 - Keeping the Focus Local: A Conversation with SoCalREN Regional Partnerships
 - Conversations with SoCalREN Webinar: Funding & Financing Support
 - EM&V Study
 - EM&V Public Sector Market Characterization Financing Study
 - Thank you to Sona Coffee (City of Irvine) & Ben Lucha (City of Palmdale)!
 - Networks to distribute the survey?
 - EE Training Series
 - Reach out ASAP as there is one spot left
 - We are creating a waitlist
 - Reach out to Laurel Rothschild at TEC ASAP if interested
 - Online Resource for Advisory Committee Members
 - 2020 Meeting Schedule & Locations
 - Next meeting is scheduled for for Thursday, November 5th via Zoom
 - Please complete the Q3 meeting survey!
- The 2020 Q3 Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned