

SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes & Action Items

Wednesday, April 7, 2021
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees

#	Name	Organization
1	Wendy Angel	ECC
2	Pam Bold	HSEF
3	Stephanie Cadena	GCCOG
4	Hope Christman	CPUC
5	Cody Coeckelenbergh	Lincus, Inc.
6	Sona Coffee	City of Irvine
7	Marc Costa	TEC
8	Fernanda Craig	County of Los Angeles
9	Denise Fairchild	ECC
10	Kim Fuentes	SBCCOG
11	Sumire Grant	GCCOG
12	Allison Hart	TEC
13	Rebecca Hausheer	TEC
14	Meghan Kamper	TEC
15	Paul Kylo	ICF
16	Meaghan Laverty	TEC
17	Minh Le	County of Los Angeles

18	Kelly Lynn	SBCOG
19	Ben Lucha	City of Palmdale
20	Lujuana Medina	County of Los Angeles
21	Jennifer Mitchell-Jackson	Grounded Research and Consulting
22	Chris Moore	CPUC
23	Patrick Ngo	Lincus, Inc.
24	Alelia Parenteau	City of Santa Barbara
25	Lorelei Penera	ICF
26	Craig Perkins	TEC
27	Laurel Rothschild	TEC
28	Anthony Segura	WRCOG
29	Mahogany Smith-Christopher	GCCOG/Civic Spark

Confirmed Action Items

- Advisory Committee members to complete the [2021 Q1 Meeting Survey](#)
- Advisory Committee members to reach out to TEC with any questions and/or if support is needed on grant opportunities; note that all grant opportunities are always posted to the [Advisory Committee web portal](#) on socalren.org
- Advisory Committee members to reach out to TEC with any feedback and/or ideas for future SoCalREN Podcasts; note the new podcast, ReEnergizing Communities, has launched and is currently available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#) platforms
- Don't forget to follow us on social media! [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

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 Barbara
- County of Ventura
- County of Santa Barbara
- City of Irvine
- City of Fullerton
- County of Orange
- Western Riverside Council of Governments
- Gateway Cities
- San Bernardino Council of Governments
- Orange County Power Authority
- Invited Guests
 - California Public Utilities Commission
 - Grounded
- 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 (Minh Le & Lujana Medina, County of Los Angeles)
 - Much of today's agenda is focused on new funding programs
 - SoCalREN originally started out from ARRA funds (federal funding sources), important to remember as we are at this moment again
 - [The American Jobs Plan](#)
 - Over 2 trillion dollars
 - For reference, ARRA was 9 billion dollars in size
 - Expands to EE, renewable energy, and workforce development
 - If this passes, there are going to be *significant* opportunities to not only develop new ways to engage and improve our communities but also *expand* SoCalREN's scope as well as develop new programs
 - How can we leverage outside funding sources to expand SoCalREN's services beyond EE for the benefit of our communities and also support our communities workforce development to provide economic development and lift our communities up?
- Breakout Rooms - Quick Connect (All)

- Introductions
- What are you most excited to be working on right now?
- Bonus question: share a word or phrase that represents how you feel about 2021
- Regulatory Updates (Marc Costa, TEC)
 - EE Rolling Portfolio/CAEEC
 - March 2021 - CPUC issued DEER2023 updates
 - March 2021 - Full CAEECC meeting discussed market transformation, underserved working group and major EE portfolio reforms
 - 2021: Proposed Decision in progress
 - TBD: EE Business Plans Due
 - Regulatory Updates
 - Question from Stephanie Cadena (GCCOG): What does the microgrid proceeding mean for cities?
 - Craig Perkins (TEC): The proceeding will significantly impact the potential costs and benefits of microgrid projects developed by cities and others

Proceeding Number	Title of Proceeding	Recent Development	Impact to LG/ Constituents Served	Next Step/Deliverable
R.13-11-005	Rolling Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEER2023 comments open - I-REN Motion - EM&V quarterly workshop - Full CAEECC meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The update shows which measures are expiring or need further study - Considers a big shift for the CPUC to align their administrative tools with the DOE and CEC - WRCOG filed motion to form the I-REN - Quarterly EM&V workshop discussed evaluation and impact studies of various programs - Discussed market transformation, underserved working group and major EE portfolio reforms 	-Work on Business Plans for Sept 2021
R.20-08-022	Clean Energy Financing	- Scoping memo and ruling issued	- AC Ruling seeking party feedback on track 1 issues related to CHEEF programs.	-Awaiting decision/ruling

Proceeding Number	Title of Proceeding	Recent Development	Impact to LG/ Constituents Served	Next Step/Deliverable
R.20-05-003	Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)	- CPUC En Banc of Energy Affordability	- The all-day En Banc followed recent publication of a 99-page white paper on the topic by the CPUC's Energy Division.	PD on party comments after the en banc
R.19-09-009	Rulemaking Regarding Microgrids	- Resilience and Microgrid Working Group (RMWG)	- Working groups continue to discuss multi-property tariffs (over the fence rule) and standby charges	Follow for RMWG updates
Other R.20-11-003	Emergency Reliability	- Summer 2021 Guidance Document	- Guidance Document outlines changes and expansion of DR programs and flex alerts	Await final decision on Summer 2021 readiness
R.20-08-020	NEM3.0	- 2-day workshop	- Workshop discussed significant changes and elimination of NEM credits to be replaced by up-front incentive	Await decision on NEM 3.0

- External Funding Case Studies (Various)
 - Highlighting projects supported outside of EE ratepayer funding
 - Healthy Stores Refrigeration Program Case Study (Laurel Rothschild, TEC)
 - The Healthy Stores Refrigeration Program (HSRP) helps small businesses in food deserts replace existing, inefficient refrigerators with new efficient models to fill with California-grown healthy food
 - Funded by a \$1.4 million grant to the County of Los Angeles through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program
 - Program objectives
 - Address the current challenges that exist within food deserts
 - Reduce GHG emissions while simultaneously promoting options for healthy food options within low income communities
 - To provide education, outreach and support to small commercial businesses regarding EE upgrades and the benefits for offering healthy food options
 - Customer eligibility criteria
 - Small business grocer
 - Independently owned
 - Less than 100 employees
 - Average gross annual receipts of \$15M or less
 - Corner store

- Sells food and other essentials in a food desert
 - Does not specialize in any one item (such as candy or meat)
 - 2 or fewer cash registers
 - Stores must also be located in a DAC/food desert and authorized to accept EBT/SNAP/CalFresh benefits
- Program design
 - Program designed to provide comprehensive support to store owners
 - Participant hand-holding throughout process
 - Pre and Post Installation Store Visits
 - Bilingual engagement
 - Information on EE, stocking fresh produce
 - Marketing support
- Program informational materials
 - Fact sheets, flyers, and other marketing materials
- 2020 engagement
 - 28 stores contacts
 - 7 stores with refrigerators installed & 4 post-education store visits completed
- Success story: Lupita's market
 - "As a first time business owner, we do not have enough money to invest in buying new merchandise, and this was a good program that actually helped us...everyone's looking for fresh and healthy food right now" - Frances Sanchez, Lupita's Market
 - The program supported the store in reducing energy costs and allowed owners to keep produce fresh longer for customers
 - A video was also produced to share store testimonials and will be distributed when available
- Pam shared that HSEF also had experience with this grant
- Benchmarking Call to Action Case Study (Rebecca Hausheer, TEC)
 - One of our newer SoCalREN Public Agency services is fully funded by the CEC (ARRA)
 - Benchmarking Call to Action (BMCTA) is a sub program under the Pathway to Zero Program and is exclusively available to DAC, low-income, and rural communities
 - Given the limitations of EE portfolio funding, Pathway to Zero can only provide agencies with high level educational information on DERs at their facilities but agencies typically lack the resources and expertise they would need to pursue and implement any DER opportunities identified
 - LA County sought to address this critical need and submitted a proposal to the CEC to leverage and repurpose nearly a million dollars in ARRA funds to better support public agencies with resiliency efforts

- The BMCTA subprogram offers DER technical services, as well as on-site benchmarking and compliance with California's Benchmarking and Public Disclosure Program
 - The subprogram launched in early 2020 and we've seen really great success to date
- BMCTA seamlessly layers services on top of EE so agencies can gain a full picture of EE and DER opportunities
 - EE and DER audits are coupled together to ensure the agency considers the loading order on their path toward zero net energy
- Highlights
 - To date, the program has supported 29 sites with on-site benchmarking services that help agencies better understand their building energy usage and opportunities to improve their energy use
 - BMCTA has also funded the completion of 13 DER audits, and the image from the top right shows a proposed PV solar array in purple that was proposed in one of our audits
- City of Oxnard WWTP
 - SoCalREN initially conducted an EE audit at their WWTP, and the City was interested in looking further at resiliency opportunities at the plant
 - SoCalREN's BMCTA program provided the City with a DER Biogas CoDigestion audit
 - The audit provided a first look at co-digestion opportunities which will process municipal waste in the plant's anaerobic digesters and control the production of methane gas which would, in turn, be available to generate electricity for the plant
 - Based on the audit findings, the plant can save anywhere between 2.75 million to 7.5 million kWh by using captured methane for energy instead of electricity from the grid
 - What's even more unique about this project is that SoCalREN's BMCTA funds are being supplemented by an EPA Department of Agriculture Grant, which was recently awarded to the City
 - SoCalREN provided a letter of support for the grant, and SoCalREN's DER services, will provide necessary match funding to the grant
- Question from Alelia Parenteau (City of Santa Barbara): Is the BMCTA program open to everyone? I was under the impression that SoCal REN could only facilitate renewable development for DACs? Maybe I misinterpreted that?
 - Rebecca Hausheer (TEC): BMCTA is open to agencies that qualify as DAC, rural, or low-income - the same criteria for Pathway to Zero. We recently expanded our services beyond DAC to include low-income and rural
- Architecture, Construction, Engineering Students (ACES) Pathway Program Case Study (Wendy Angel, ECC)

- Mission: To engage, expose and challenge students to explore architecture, engineering and construction careers by capitalizing on public works investment, community college STEAM course offerings and strong industry participation in the Energy Efficiency sector
- Leveraging Partnership Funding
 - Los Angeles Community College Dual Enrollment (LACCD)
 - LA County Workforce Development Aging, Community Services (WDACS)
 - Scholarships (LINXS)
- Skills Certification Pathways: Dual Enrollment (LACCD)
- Internship: EDACS and Scholarship (LINXS)
 - Paid Work Experience
 - Enrollment with America's Job Center of California
 - 120 hours
 - Minimum wage
 - Supportive Services
 - Eligibility
 - Successful completion of two dual enrollment courses
 - Ages 14-24
 - Scholarship
 - Through LINXS, the joint venture building the \$4.9 billion LAX Automated People Mover Project, \$120,000 is made available for scholarships
 - Internship snapshot
- Funding a Microgrid & EE During the Pandemic (Alelia Parenteau, City of Santa Barbara)
 - City of SB Microgrid was made possible through a combination of several funding pathways that came together
 - Solar - PPA
 - Battery - SGIP
 - EV – Charge Ready, APCD
 - Special Considerations
 - Downtown Historic District
 - Emergency Services
 - NEM-Ag
- Funding Opportunities (Laurel Rothschild, TEC)
 - Grant Working Group Updates
 - Regional Park Program (RPP) can cover the entire project cost
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program - Water/Energy Audit
 - All opportunities are posted on the Advisory Committee portal on socalren.org
 - Reach out with questions or if SoCalREN support is needed (ACTION ITEM)
 - Federal Funding: State & Local Governments
 - \$1.9TR America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) signed on March 11
 - State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds: \$350B in direct, flexible aid

- to every state and local government
 - \$26B to California
 - \$7.66B to California counties
 - \$8.36B to California cities
 - Payment schedule
 - Payment to each state to be made within 60 days of providing certification and treasury can withhold up to 50% of amount for up to 12 months
 - Local government funds to be made 50% within 60 days and 3/11/2021 and 50% 3/11/2022
 - Funds are available until December 31, 2024
 - Eligible use of funds
 - Respond to COVID-emergency or its negative economic impact
 - Respond to workers performing essential work
 - Provide government services
 - Make investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure
 - Intended to be flexible and there may be an opportunity to leverage funding for resiliency or sustainability efforts
- Federal Funding: k-12 Schools
 - CARES Act/\$13.5B
 - December Relief Act/\$54.3B
 - ARPA ESSER/\$122B
- State Funding: k-12 Schools AB 841 Schools EE Stimulus
 - Signed September 2020
 - Authorized SEES Program
 - \$750M over 2021-2023
 - Program administrator is CEC
- Proposed Federal Funding: American Jobs Plan
 - \$2.3TR infrastructure package
- Proposed State Legislation
 - AB 841 - Community Power Resiliency Grant
 - SB 99 - Community Energy Resilience Act of 2021
 - AB 1325 - Energy Resilience & Equity Act
- Breakout Room Discussion
 - COVID check-in → one year later
 - What project or initiative have you been able to move forward?
 - What is still stalled or not funded?
 - Breakout Room #1
 - Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG)
 - No slowdown in funding due to COVID
 - Implementation actually accelerated
 - Minh Le (County of Los Angeles)
 - SoCalREN continued throughout this period of time

- Some multifamily projects were impacted due to limited in-person interactions
- The County had to pivot often due to other priorities and overall resources being diverted, such as the County's food bank, vaccination efforts, etc
- Pretty excited about a project that began development about a year and a half ago and got delayed due to COVID and that is a solar and battery installation at Pitchess Detention Center
- Pam Bold (HSEF)
 - Had to pivot pretty quickly due to resource constraints
 - Focused on water/wastewater projects which are coming to fruition now
- Breakout Room #2
 - Anthony Segura (WRCOG)
 - Launching I-REN
 - Trying to help members with new funding
 - Ben Lucha (City of Palmdale)
 - City has staffing issues, and has become a bottleneck
 - CCA launch in Oct 2022
 - Sona Coffee (City of Irvine)
 - Hiring freeze
 - Strategic energy plan and looking at energy as a service
 - EV charging/fleet transition, where EV infrastructure will be
 - Other departments are moving ahead with various energy related project and it is difficult to track and influence those projects under one point person at the city
 - City staff are questioning EE projects that don't have EV/PV integrated into projects
 - Stephanie Cadena (GCCOG)
 - Gateway Cities is new to energy but there is great engagement
 - 1st success was launching a working group for energy at the COG
 - SoCalREN is a great re-boot from the LGP loss of funding
- Breakout Room #3
 - Chris Moore (CPUC)
 - CPUC remote access and virtual workshops has vastly improved enabling higher participation rates
 - Chris is hopeful that it will continue as we return to the office
 - Progress on how PG&E & SCE have and plan to manage PSPS events
 - Lorelei Penner (ICF)
 - Continued implementing Whole Building program and common area pathway; creates option for retrofits outside of tenant units
 - Kits for Kids program launching which is an in home activity and can be installed at home and can do online learning
 - Alelia Parenteau (City of Santa Barbara)

- Santa Barbara Been very successful through Covid
 - Council formed a sustainability & resilience committee in July realizing nexus between Climate change and sustainability efforts and COVID-19
 - Council passed carbon neutrality goal through 2045 which gave city a mandate to get a lot done
 - Propelled them into building electrification space, vehicle electrification, launching a CCE, microgrid projects
 - City is leveraging a lot of external funding to multiply efforts
- Lujana Medina (County of Los Angeles)
 - County has put many budget & fiscal constraints on efforts due to projects and thus many county projects have been shelved
 - Anticipate with stimulus that those shelved projects will be expedited with new funding
 - Strong push through LAC to create jobs that provide economic stability to local communities with an emphasis on green workforce
- Kelly Lynn (SBCOG)
 - Agency has done upgrades in conference rooms to support remote access
 - Alleviated long distance drives for some staff and board members
 - More inclusion; more participation
- Wendy Angel (ECC)
 - Expanded contractor training program
- Closing Remarks (Minh Le)
 - 420!
 - That is the amount of CO2 currently in the atmosphere
 - Twice as much as pre-industrial levels!
 - New SoCalREN Podcast!
 - ReEnergizing Communities has launched!
 - Currently available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#) platforms
 - Give it a listen when you get a chance and let us know if you have any feedback and/or ideas for future episodes (ACTION ITEM)
 - And, if you feel so inclined, give the podcast a rating on either platform!
 - SoCalREN Social Media
 - Don't forget to follow us on social media (ACTION ITEM)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
- [Online Resource for Advisory Committee Members](#)
- 2021 Meeting Schedule
 - Proposed dates (ACTION ITEM)
 - Q1 04-07-2021

- Q2 06-23-2021
- Q3 09-22-2021
- Q4 12-15-2021
- Please complete the [Q1 Meeting Survey](#) (ACTION ITEM)
- The 2021 Q1 Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned