



# **Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee**

## **AGENDA**

**Thursday, March 18, 2021  
9:30 a.m.**

**Western Riverside Council of Governments  
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92501**

**WRCOG's OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO COVID-19  
AND STAFF ARE WORKING REMOTELY**

**Members of the public are encouraged to participate in this meeting via Zoom  
(see meeting information below)**

**Join Zoom Meeting  
[Click Here](#)**

**Meeting ID: 883 5276 4729  
Password: 554895**

**Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 9128 U.S. (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 U.S. (Tacoma)**

### **SPECIAL NOTICE – COVID-19 RELATED PROCEDURES IN EFFECT**

Due to the state and local State of Emergency resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Newsom has issued Executive Order N-29-20 (issued March 17, 2020) in which Section 3 supersedes Paragraph 11 of Executive Order N-25-20 (issued on March 12, 2020). This new order states that WRCOG does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. The Order allows WRCOG to hold Committee meetings via video conferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or electronically.

**To follow the Order issued by the Governor, the Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. will be held by video and teleconference, and any members of the public can attend electronically.** Members of the public may send public comments by emailing [snelson@wrcog.us](mailto:snelson@wrcog.us), or calling (951) 405-6703 before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Suzy Nelson prior to 9:30 a.m. on March 16, 2021, at (951) 405-6703 or [snelson@wrcog.us](mailto:snelson@wrcog.us).

The Technical Advisory Committee may take any action on any item listed on the agenda, regardless of the Requested Action.

1. **CALL TO ORDER (Andy Okoro, Chair)**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At this time members of the public can address the Technical Advisory Committee regarding any items with the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

5. **SELECTION OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR FOR THE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021** **P. 1**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Select Technical Advisory Committee Vice-Chair for the remaining Fiscal Year 2020/2021.*

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Committee, any public comments on any of the Consent Items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Committee request specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

- A. **Summary Minutes from the January 21, 2021, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration.** **P. 3**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Approve the Summary Minutes from the January 21, 2021, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.*

- B. **Finance Department Activities Update** **Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG** **P. 7**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Receive and file.*

7. **REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

- A. **Regional Housing Trust Initiative Update** **Ivana Medina, WRCOG** **P. 13**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Appoint up to five members of the Technical Advisory Committee to serve on the Regional Housing Trust Steering Committee.*

- B. **RCA Transition to RCTC** **Aaron Hake, RCTC / RCA** **P. 15**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Receive and file.*

- C. **Energy Department Programs Activities Update** **Daniel Soltero, WRCOG** **P. 17**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Receive and file.*

Requested Action: 1. Receive and file.

8. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Chris Gray*

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS *Members*

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS *Members*

Members are invited to announce items / activities which may be of general interest to the Technical Advisory Committee.

11. NEXT MEETING: The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Selection of Technical Advisory Committee Vice-Chair for the Remainder of Fiscal Year 2020/2021  
**Contact:** Chris Gray, Deputy Executive Director, [cgray@wrcog.us](mailto:cgray@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6710  
**Date:** March 18, 2021

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*The purpose of this item is to select a Vice-Chair for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020/2021.*

**Requested Action:**

1. Select Technical Advisory Committee Vice-Chair for the remaining Fiscal Year 2020/2021.
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WRCOG’s Committee leadership positions are selected at the start of each fiscal year. The leadership for the Executive Committee for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 is as follows:

Chair: Kevin Bash, City of Norco  
Vice-Chair: Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside – District 2  
2nd Vice-Chair: Crystal Ruiz, City of San Jacinto

Historically, the Technical Advisory Committee positions have coincided with those of the Executive Committee, although there are no requirements for this pattern stipulated in WRCOG’s JPA or Bylaws.

With the departure of George Johnson from the County of Riverside, the Vice-Chair position is currently vacant. Staff is requesting the appointment of a Vice-Chair.

**Prior Action:**

July 16, 2020: The Technical Advisory Committee selected Andy Okoro, City of Norco, as Chair; George Johnson, County of Riverside, as Vice-Chair; and Rob Johnson, City of San Jacinto, as 2nd Vice- Chair positions for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

**Attachment:**

None.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair Andy Okoro on the Zoom platform.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Chair Okoro led guests and members of the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Members present:**

Doug Schulz, City of Banning  
Todd Parton, City of Beaumont  
Bonnie Johnson, City of Calimesa  
Jacob Ellis, City of Corona (9:39 a.m. arrival)  
Bryan Jones, City of Eastvale (9:37 a.m. arrival)  
Chris Lopez, City of Hemet  
Rod Butler, City of Jurupa Valley  
Jason Simpson, City of Lake Elsinore  
Armando Villa, City of Menifee  
Mike Lee, City of Moreno Valley  
Kim Summers, City of Murrieta  
Andy Okoro, City of Norco (Chair)  
Clara Miramontes, City of Perris  
Al Zelinka, City of Riverside  
Rob Johnson, City of San Jacinto  
Aaron Adams, City of Temecula  
Gary Nordquist, City of Wildomar  
Juan Perez, County of Riverside  
Danielle Coats, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD)

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Arnold San Miguel, Regional Affairs Officer with SCAG, provided an update on upcoming funding opportunities from SCAG. These funding opportunities include the Partnership Program and Spark Program which will provide funding for non-profits to improve the supply of housing in the SCAG region. Another funding opportunity is the Smart Cities and Mobility Innovations, which is due on April 23, 2021. SCAG is also opening up nominations for the 2021 SCAG Sustainability Awards. SCAG is also conducting elections for Regional Districts 3, 5, and 69. Mr. San Miguel also announced that they are completing work on SCAG's Regional Data Platform.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR** *(Banning / San Jacinto) 19 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; Items 5.A through 5.I were approved. Representatives from the City of Canyon Lake, March JPA and the Western Municipal Water District were not present.*

**A. Summary Minutes from the November 19, 2020, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration.**

**Action:** 1. *Approved the Summary revised Minutes from the November 19, 2020, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.*

**B. Finance Department Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**C. Single Signature Authority Report**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**D. International City / County Management Association Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**E. Adoption of 2021/2022 Legislative Platform**

**Action:** 1. *Recommended that the Executive Committee adopt the 2021/2022 Legislative Platform.*

**F. Housing Trust, Economic Development Corporation, and GIS Service Bureau Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**G. COVID-19 Relief and Utility Delinquency Update**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**H. REAP Grant Program and RHNA Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**I. Commercial PACE Program Activities Update**

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

**A. Report from the League of California Cities**

Erin Sasse, Regional Public Affairs Manager with the League of California Cities reported on current legislation. The Governor released the State's Budget on January 10, 2021 and it set a record-breaking amount of \$227.2B. This Budget did not include any aid to local government. Already this year there are a great deal of housing bills being introduced, and at this time the League has not released its positions. The League is currently working on the delay of implementation regarding SB 1383. Multiple letters have been sent out to leaders in Sacramento.

The League's City Manager Conference is the first week in February; Ms. Sasse urges you to register if you have not already.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

**B. WRCOG Sustainability Framework Activities Update and Agency Goals for 2021**

Chris Gray, WRCOG Director of Transportation & Planning, reported that WRCOG prepared an Economic Development and Sustainability Framework in 2012 and included 50 key indicators. In 2019, staff reviewed the Framework and consolidated the 50 key indicators into 14.

A 2020/2021 review has determined that there has been a lot of activity in the energy & environment, transportation, and economic development sectors, but little activity in the education sector. While the document is almost 10 years old, it is still fundamentally sound. Potential minor changes include the addition of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency and Western Community Energy under WRCOG's umbrella. More substantive changes would include an update to the indicators, revising the focus areas, and potential updates to the actions.

Using the Framework as a guidance document, staff has identified a series of goals to be accomplished in 2021, based upon ongoing efforts. Goal #1 – Establish Inland Regional Energy Network; Goal #2 – Establish Economic Development Corporation; Goal #3 – Establish GIS Service Bureau; Goal #4 – Establish Western Riverside Regional Housing Trust Fund; and Goal #5 – Create Species Range-Wide Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. These goals are related to WRCOG's activities and extend across WRCOG's departments and programs.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

### **C. Low Carbon Fuel Standards**

Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental, provided an update on Low Carbon Fuel Standards (LCFS), which is a reporting opportunity to receive funding for the Western Riverside County subregion for low carbon transportation fuels. As part of Assembly Bill 32, the LCFS is a key program to help California monitor greenhouse gas emissions and other smog-forming and toxic air pollutants by improving vehicle technology, reducing fueling consumption, and increasing transportation mobility options. WRCOG has identified a third-party provider to assist with LCFS in the region and capture the estimated \$200,000 in available credits within the subregion. Staff will reach out to member agencies to receive additional feedback on how to proceed and support capturing credits within the subregion.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

### **D. I-REN Activities Update**

Casey Dailey provided an update on WRCOG's submittal of a Business Plan to the California Public Utilities Commission for the approval of an Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) that would provide energy efficiency services to the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino. The draft I-REN Business Plan focuses on three sectors that are suitable and aligned for REN related activities: Public Sector, Workforce / Education / Training, and Codes & Standards. The vision of the I-REN is to connect residents, businesses, and local governments to a wide range of energy efficiency resources to increase energy savings and equitable access throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. I-REN will support local governments, school districts, tribes, water districts, and other local public entities with an estimated budget of \$50 million over the next five years. Member agencies are encouraged to consider submitting letters of support to WRCOG.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

### **E. SCAG Regional Climate Adaptation Framework**

Staff from SCAG presented an overview on the Regional Climate Adaptation Framework. The Framework compliments the WRCOG and San Bernardino County Transportation Authority effort, Resilient Inland Empire (IE). Resilient IE is sought to prepare the region for the increasing climate-related hazards and mitigate risks associated with climate adaptation on the region's transportation infrastructure. SCAG has developed a SoCal Climate Adaptation Planning Guide for local jurisdictions to utilize in identifying vulnerable areas and implement adaptation strategies to reduce climate-related hazards in its communities.

**Action:** 1. *Received and filed.*

## **7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Rick Bishop shared that the next Future Forward webinar is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2021, and will be titled, "What's in store for WRCOG in 2021?" The Moderator will be Bill Higgins, Executive Director from CALCOG, and will host WRCOG Directors as the panelists.

## **8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas.

## **9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no general announcements.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

**The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m.**



# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Finance Department Activities Update

**Contact:** Andrew Ruiz, Chief Financial Officer, [aruiz@wrcog.us](mailto:aruiz@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6740

**Date:** March 18, 2021

*The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the Agency audit for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and financials through January 2021.*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

### **Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Agency Audit**

WRCOG's annual interim audit was completed on June 19, 2020. WRCOG utilizes the services of the audit firm Rogers, Anderson, Malody, and Scott (RAMS) to conduct its financial audit. The first visit is known as the "interim" audit, which involves preliminary audit work that is conducted prior to fiscal year end. The interim audit tasks are conducted to compress the period needed to complete the final audit after fiscal year end. In December 2020, RAMS returned to finish its second round, which is known as "fieldwork." The audit was completed on February 1, 2021, and it is anticipated that the final audit will be presented to this Committee in April 2021.

### **Financial Report Summary Through January 2021**

The Agency Financial Report summary through January 2021, a monthly overview of WRCOG's financial statements in the form of combined Agency revenues and costs, is provided as Attachment 1.

### **Prior Action:**

March 10, 2021: The Administration & Finance Committee received and filed.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

### **Attachment:**

1. Financial Report summary through January 2021.

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# Item 6.B

Finance Department Activities  
Update

# Attachment 1

Financial Report summary through  
January 2021

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**Western Riverside Council of Governments  
Annual Budget  
For the Month Ending January 31, 2021**

**Total Agency Budget**

	<b>Approved Budget 6/30/2021</b>	<b>Thru Actual 1/31/2021</b>	<b>Remaining Budget 6/30/2021</b>
<b>Revenues and Transfers in</b>			
Member Dues	311,410	294,410	17,000
General Assembly Revenue	300,000	-	300,000
Interest Revenue - Other	25,000	8,975	16,025
Operating Transfer In	2,208,432	1,288,252	920,180
Clean Cities	175,000	128,000	47,000
Solid Waste	112,970	112,970	-
Used Oil	376,396	376,396	-
HHW Grant	60,000	-	60,000
Gas Company Revenue	108,400	53,225	55,175
Regional Streetlights Revenue	201,915	-	201,915
WRCOG HERO	136,290	51,342	84,948
PACE Residential	78,000	27,257	50,743
PACE Commercial	200,000	125,617	74,383
CA HERO	1,464,730	679,009	785,721
Commercial/Svcs - Admin Portion	41,137	\$51,552	(10,416)
Retail - Admin Portion	89,632	\$44,732	44,901
Industrial - Admin Portion	236,729	\$69,101	167,628
Single Family Residential - Admin Portion	652,270	\$899,423	(247,153)
Multi Family - Admin Portion	267,415	\$161,036	106,379
Commerical/Service	987,281	\$1,237,260	(249,979)
Retail	2,151,178	\$1,073,563	1,077,615
Industrial	5,681,507	\$1,658,433	4,023,074
Single Family Residential	15,654,486	\$21,586,154	(5,931,669)
Multi-Family	6,417,964	\$3,864,870	2,553,094
LTF Revenue	676,500	676,500	-
<b>Total Revenues and Transfers in</b>	<b>\$ 40,539,536</b>	<b>\$ 34,468,078</b>	<b>\$ 6,071,459</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries	2,053,769	1,260,621	793,148
Benefits	1,027,040	497,878	529,162
Overhead	1,443,294	841,922	601,373
Legal	285,600	137,565	148,035
Advertising Media	65,667	38,100	27,567
Bank Fees	33,885	5,732	28,153
Coffee and Supplies	3,000	984	2,016
Commissioner Per Diem	62,500	29,800	32,700
Communications - Cellular Phones	13,500	2,869	10,631
Communications - Computer Services	53,000	14,791	38,209
Communications - Regular Phone	16,000	5,799	10,201
Computer Hardware	10,000	4,315	5,685
Computer Software	80,500	18,600	61,900
Consulting Labor	2,268,780	908,534	1,360,246
Event Support	165,736	6,897	158,839

Membership Dues	32,750	3,767	28,983
Office Lease	390,000	242,706	147,294
OPEB Repayment	110,526	110,526	-
Parking Cost	20,000	10,712	9,288
Postage	5,350	1,509	3,841
Printing Services	5,000	1,830	3,170
Program/Office Supplies	14,700	4,735	9,965
Recording Fee	173,525	43,684	129,841
Rent/Lease Equipment	20,000	2,246	17,754
Storage	9,500	3,454	6,046
Subscriptions/Publications	4,250	100	4,150
Supplies/Materials	75,478	9,223	66,255
Training	10,000	1,000	9,000
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	11,250	491	10,759
TUMF Project Reimbursement	30,892,416	12,866,423	18,025,993
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 40,468,538</b>	<b>\$ 17,076,813</b>	<b>\$ 23,391,725</b>



# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Regional Housing Trust Initiative Update

**Contact:** Ivana Medina, Senior Analyst, [imedina@wrcog.us](mailto:imedina@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6753

**Date:** March 18, 2021

*The purpose of this item is to present an update on latest developments related to the establishment of the Western Riverside County Regional Housing Trust and request appointment of members to serve on a Steering Committee.*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Appoint up to five members of the Technical Advisory Committee to serve on the Regional Housing Trust Steering Committee.

### **Background**

WRCOG staff held a visioning session on June 18, 2020, to identify potential new initiatives for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year. One of the new initiatives identified during this internal session was a Regional Housing Trust. The Regional Housing Trust initiative was then presented to the Administration & Finance Committee on July 8, 2020, where Committee members approved WRCOG staff to proceed with further research and development of a work plan. Staff then completed research and due diligence of information gathering, which included outreach to stakeholders in the housing industry.

WRCOG briefed the Technical Advisory Committee in September 2020 on research findings and subsequently met with WRCOG member agencies individually. These meetings included WRCOG staff and representatives of the member agency, which often included the City Manager / Assistant City Manager, Planning / Community Development Director, and other city staff.

### **Authorizing Legislation**

Assembly member Kelly Seyarto introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 687 (Joint powers authorities: Riverside County Housing Finance Trust), authorizing the creation of a Western Riverside County Housing Finance Trust, a joint powers authority (JPA), for the purposes of funding housing, specifically assisting the homeless population and persons and families of extremely low, very low, and low income within the County of Riverside, as specified. AB 687 would allow any WRCOG member agency to enter into a joint powers agreement to form a Housing Trust. This Bill would also include language that the Housing Trust shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of elected officials representing the County of Riverside and representative cities that are party to the joint powers agreement.

It should be noted that the legislation simply enables the formation of a Housing Trust but does not require that a Housing Trust be formed. Additionally, the language does not specify which agency will administer the Housing Trust nor whether any of the agencies in Western Riverside County are required to join the trust.

Authorizing legislation for a Housing Trust is not necessary to establish a Housing Trust but has been done by

neighboring Housing Trusts such as the Orange County Housing Financing Trust and the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust. By doing so, this allows the Housing Trust to authorize and issue bonds, certificates of participation, and any other debt instrument repayable from funds and financing. It also can potentially lead to greater funding opportunities. WRCOG is requesting that member agencies provide letters of support for this legislation. Staff anticipates that the bill will be heard in Committee in March 2021 and then proceed through the legislative approval process, if it passes out of the Committee.

### **Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee will be convened in May 2021 and will hold three to four meetings. The purpose of this Committee is to provide input on the JPA, its Administrative Plan, and other governance documents. The Planning Directors Committee appointed five member agencies to serve on the Housing Trust Steering Committee from the following agencies: County of Riverside, Calimesa, Murrieta, Temecula, and San Jacinto. WRCOG is requesting that the Technical Advisory Committee appoint additional representatives to the Steering Committee in addition to the members of the PDC. The Executive Committee will also be asked to appoint members at its April 5, 2021, meeting. Other housing advocacy and industry groups will be invited to participate as well. This Steering Committee will also determine goals and key functions of the Housing Trust. For example, housing trusts provide a dedicated source of revenues for a variety of housing activities such as:

- New construction of affordable housing
- Preservation or rehabilitation of existing affordable housing
- Land acquisition for development of affordable housing
- Homeless housing services
- Pre-development activities
- Gap financing loans
- Down payment assistance for developers or eligible first-time home buyers

Housing authorities, non-profits, community land trusts, and other entities offer programs and assistance related to the above activities. One goal of the Steering Committee will be to identify the primary focus of the Housing Trust and determine which programs should be implemented by the Trust.

### **Prior Actions:**

March 11, 2021: The Planning Directors Committee appointed five representatives to serve on the Regional Housing Trust Steering Committee.

March 10, 2021: The Administration & Finance Committee directed staff to submit a letter of support for AB 687.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

Funding for this effort are provided by the REAP Grant awarded by SCAG. REAP funds will be used to fund outreach activities and other due diligence efforts related to the establishment of the Housing Trust.

### **Attachment:**

None.



# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** RCA Transition to RCTC

**Contact:** Aaron Hake, Interim Regional Conservation Deputy Executive Director, RCA / RCTC, [ahake@rctc.org](mailto:ahake@rctc.org), (951) 787-7141

**Date:** March 18, 2021

*The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the transition of the management of the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Agency (RCA) to the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC).*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

On January 1, 2021, RCTC became the managing agency of RCA. Both RCTC and RCA retain its separate legal authorities and governing boards. The RCA Board of Directors requested RCTC to manage the Agency based on RCTC's expertise and track record in land acquisition, partnerships with state and federal wildlife agencies, project delivery, fiscal management, public engagement, and legislative advocacy. This management change also provides for contract consolidation and resource efficiencies. While much progress has been made to acquire the lands needed to fulfill the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) since its inception in 2004, significant effort is needed to complete the MSHCP's objectives while also maintaining buy-in from critical stakeholders.

Amongst the immediate priorities of the RCA Board Chair Natasha Johnson is to enhance the RCA's communication, education, and partnership with its member agencies. WRCOG's committee structure provides an ideal venue to kick-off this effort. Therefore, RCTC / RCA staff will make a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the RCA transition to RCTC, near term priorities, and seek input from Committee members.

Topics to discuss include:

- The 2020 Nexus Study Update for the MSHCP Locally
- Development Mitigation Fee (LDMF) which will become effective July 1, 2021
- Potential process and communication improvements
- Clarifying RCA and member agency roles and responsibilities under the MSHCP

### **Prior Actions:**

February 11, 2021: The Planning Directors Committee received and filed.

February 11, 2021: The Public Works Directors Committee received and filed.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

**Attachment:**

None.



# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Energy Department Programs Activities Update

**Contact:** Daniel Soltero, Senior Analyst, [dsoltero@wrcog.us](mailto:dsoltero@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6738

**Date:** March 18, 2021

*The purpose of this item is to provide Energy Department updates on the Regional Streetlight Program and Western Riverside County Energy Resiliency Plan.*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

### **Background**

The WRCOG Energy Department administers multiple regionally beneficial programs to support member agencies, including the Regional Streetlight Program and Western Riverside County Energy Resiliency Plan.

At the direction of the Executive Committee, WRCOG developed a Regional Streetlight Program that allowed the 11 participating member agencies (and Community Service Districts) to purchase streetlights within its boundaries which were previously owned and operated by Southern California Edison (SCE). Once the streetlights were owned by the member agency, the lamps were retrofitted to light-emitting diode (LED) technology to provide more economical operations (i.e., lower maintenance costs and reduced energy use). Local control of the streetlight system provides agencies with opportunities for future revenue generation such as digital-ready networks and telecommunications and information technology strategies.

In November 2019, the Bay Area Council, a business association in San Francisco dedicated to economic development in the San Francisco Bay Area, announced the California Resilience Challenge (CRC), a statewide effort led by businesses and a diverse range of partners that provides grants for local governments to build climate resiliency and to support a shared vision for a resilient California in the face of increasing climate threats. On February 3, 2020, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution authorizing WRCOG's submittal of a proposal to the CRC 2020 Grant Program. WRCOG's bid proposed the development of a Western Riverside County Energy Resiliency Plan to build local energy resiliency against impacts from wildfires, extreme heat, and power shutoffs of the region's power supply for critical facilities maintained and operated by member agencies. In April 2020, the Bay Area Council, through the CRC, awarded WRCOG a \$200,000 grant to develop the Plan to build resiliency against power shutoffs and/or power issues at subregional critical facilities by developing a blueprint for energy resiliency technologies, projects, and strategies for member agencies.

### **Regional Streetlight Program Update**

**Streetlight Rebates:** In December 2020, staff completed submittal of all LED rebate applications to SCE on behalf of 10 participating member agencies. From 2017 to 2018, WRCOG coordinated with SCE to secure LED rebates for member agencies that acquired SCE-owned streetlights and completed an LED conversion.

Upon completion of the LED retrofit project in each member agency, WRCOG staff compiled the required information, prepared, and then submitted the rebate applications to SCE.

In February 2021, WRCOG staff confirmed receipt of all SCE rebate checks and is coordinating with the Fiscal Department to remit the rebate funds to member agencies. Additionally, staff are offering a presentation to each participating member agencies' City Council or Board of Directors to present the project outcomes such as savings and the LED rebate. WRCOG will disburse \$3.6 million in rebate funds to the 10 participating member agencies listed below.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Rebate Amount</b>
Eastvale	\$413,918.00
Hemet	\$172,294.93
JCSD	\$199,650.00
Lake Elsinore	\$395,601.45
Menifee	\$534,421.62
Murrieta	\$475,471.40
Perris	\$525,757.24
San Jacinto	\$186,548.84
Temecula	\$640,754.89
Wildomar	\$101,191.84

Smart Streetlights Implementation Plan and Broadband Assessment: By Fall 2020, the Regional Streetlight Program entered the maintenance phase whereby all member agencies had completed its streetlight acquisitions and LED conversion projects. Taking local control of the streetlight system provides member agencies with opportunities for future revenue generation such as digital-ready networks and telecommunications, as well as opportunities to increase public services by utilizing streetlights as smart city assets. To identify and elaborate on these new opportunities, WRCOG entered into an Agreement with Michael Baker International (MBI) in February 2021 to develop a Smart Streetlights Implementation Plan (Smart Streetlights Plan) and Broadband Assessment.

The Smart Streetlights Plan will assess member agencies' preparedness to utilize streetlights as a smart city asset through a variety of use-types such as mobility, public safety, environmental and sustainability, asset management, and connectivity. In order to provide context on smart city possibilities to WRCOG and its member agencies, staff and MBI will assess five locations where a public agency successfully deployed a smart city project or program. A summary of the WRCOG member agency preparedness and a technical memorandum of the five locations where smart city projects and/or problems were deployed will inform staff as the Smart Streetlights Plan is developed.

Once WRCOG and its member agencies are aware of the possibilities with smart city projects and/or programs, MBI will identify and provide a summary of potential smart streetlight applications in the WRCOG subregion. The smart city applications will be categorized by their use-types including mobility, public safety, environmental and sustainability, economic, asset management, and connectivity. The information gathered for each smart city application will include general assessments of the potential needs for hardware, support infrastructure required, backhaul communications requirement, back-end systems and monitoring, and operational and maintenance requirements. Considerations for deployment of any technology-based system must extend beyond the individual equipment and system components. The Smart Streetlights Plan in its final form will include technical memorandums, assessment summaries, and provide an implementation framework with economic and procurement strategies.

One of the key issues related to smart cities is broadband access. Within Riverside County, there have been several previous and on-going efforts to facilitate public and private broadband development. The Broadband Assessment will evaluate the potential for WRCOG to encourage development of a broadband network serving residences, businesses, and government facilities.

**Western Riverside County Energy Resiliency Plan Update**

On February 8, 2021, WRCOG entered into an agreement with AECOM to develop the Western Riverside County Energy Resiliency Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to assess subregional critical facilities and identify feasibility of implementing future microgrids and/or other energy resiliency solutions to maintain power supply during environmental events that cause power outages or power issues. To determine if microgrids or other energy resiliency solutions are viable, an in-depth technical feasibility study will be conducted at three critical facilities across the subregion from which the results will be extrapolated to be applied to similar critical facilities at all member agencies. The Plan will contain an implementation framework consisting of the technical feasibility study of the three critical facilities, as well as a financing plan that will identify available funding opportunities for member agencies to implement projects identified through the Plan.

Recognizing that the Plan may identify future resilience projects in the subregion, staff believe it is pertinent to establish an Advisory Group consisting of member agencies to help guide development. It is important to note that this Advisory Group will opine on which three critical facilities or sites across the subregion will receive an in-depth microgrid analysis as part of the Plan. Staff have considered a few criteria to identify agencies that are encouraged to participate in the Advisory Group. Such criteria include a two-part equity factor focused on disadvantaged communities and communities with facilities most at-risk for power outages or power issues, agencies that participate in Western Community Energy (WCE), and member agencies with a publicly-owned utility.

First, staff identified an equity-based criterion which will select a site based on the surrounding community’s CalEnviroScreen score and the likelihood of the site to experience a power outage or power issues. A communities’ CalEnviroScreen score is based on environmental, health, and socio-economic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. Moreover, the evaluation process to determine the likelihood of an agency’s critical facility or site experiencing a power outage or power issues will be developed through the Plan. This may include the number of power outages in a year at a specific site, time elapsed during an outage, and circuit reliability data. A member agency that identifies a critical facility or site that is in a disadvantaged community according to CalEnviroScreen and/or identifies a critical facility that experiences frequent power outages or has a high likelihood to experience power outages should be considered for a seat on the Advisory Group.

Second, it is important to note that Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) are uniquely positioned to rapidly advance local energy resilience initiatives such as microgrids to keep critical facilities online, and locally sited distributed energy resources like solar and energy storage to help prevent future wildfires and grid outages. CCAs are in fact already supporting local governments with resiliency projects and are actively advocating for policies that accelerate the development of mitigating resources, such as utilization of the Self-Generation Incentive Program to promote installation of solar and energy storage systems. Staff believe agencies participating in WCE have an advantage in being able to implement energy resilience or energy generation projects that are identified through the Plan and should be considered for a position in the Advisory Group.

Moreover, staff determined that member agencies with a publicly-owned utility should be considered for a seat on the Advisory Group. Local governments with publicly-owned utilities have an advantage in being able to implement resilience upgrades or projects at the local level due to the distribution system being under local control. Additionally, agencies with publicly-owned utilities can allocate revenues to implement projects identified by the Plan as part of the utilities’ resilience efforts.

<b>Agencies with high scoring Disadvantaged Communities<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Member agencies in WCE</b>	<b>Member Agencies with publicly-owned utilities</b>
City of Riverside	City of Eastvale	City of Banning
City of Moreno Valley	City of Hemet	City of Moreno Valley
City of Corona	City of Jurupa Valley	City of Riverside
City of Perris	City of Norco	
City of Jurupa Valley	City of Perris	
City of Hemet	City of Wildomar	
City of Lake Elsinore		

<sup>1</sup>Jurisdictions which encompass census tracts that scored in the 75% – 100% percentiles in CalEnviroScreen 3.0 for pollution burden and population characteristics.

**Prior Action:**

March 10, 2021: The Administration & Finance Committee received and filed.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

**Attachment:**

None.



# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Municipal Service Reviews – Riverside LAFCO

**Contact:** Gary Thompson, Executive Officer, Local Agency Formation Commission,  
[gthompson@lafco.org](mailto:gthompson@lafco.org), (951) 369-0631

**Date:** March 18, 2021

*The purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the Municipal Service Review (MSR) process that is underway for all cities within the County of Riverside.*

**Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

This item is reserved for a presentation by Gary Thompson, Executive Officer for Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Municipal Service Reviews were added to LAFCO's mandate with the passage of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. A Service Review is a comprehensive study designed to better inform LAFCO, local agencies, and the community about the provision of municipal services. Service Reviews attempt to capture and analyze information about the governance structures and efficiencies of service providers and to identify opportunities for greater coordination and cooperation between providers. The Service Review is a prerequisite to a Sphere of Influence update and may also lead LAFCO to take other actions under its authority.

**Prior Action:**

None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

**Attachment:**

None.

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