



# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## AGENDA

Thursday, April 16, 2020  
9:30 a.m.

Western Riverside Council of Governments  
**(CLOSED TO PUBLIC)**  
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92501

Join Zoom Meeting  
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### **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 teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or electronically.

**To follow the new Order issued by the Governor, the Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. will be closed to the public. 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 April 14, 2020, at (951) 405-6703 or at [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 (Chris Lopez, Chair)**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. 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.

**4. MINUTES**

- A. Summary Minutes from the January 16, 2020, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration. P. 1**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Approve the Summary Minutes from the January 16, 2020, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.*

- B. Summary Minutes from the March 26, 2020, Special Technical Advisory Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration. P. 7**

**Requested Action:** 1. *Approve the Summary Minutes from the March 26, 2020, Special Technical Advisory Committee meeting.*

**5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

- A. Report from the League of California Cities *Erin Sasse, League of California Cities* P. 9**

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

- B. Energy & Environmental Department Activities Update *Casey Dailey, WRCOG* P.11**

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

- C. Finance Department Activities Update *Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG* P. 13**

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

D. TUMF Programs Activities Update *Chris Gray, WRCOG* P. 15

Requested Action: 1. *Receive and file.*

E. Western Community Energy Activities Update *Barbara Spoonhour, WRCOG* P. 17

Requested Action: 1. *Receive and file.*

F. Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Activities Update *Princess Hester, RCHCA* P. 19

Requested Action: 1. *Receive and file.*

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Rick Bishop*

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS *Members*

8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS *Members*

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

9. NEXT MEETING: The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., and will either be held as a Zoom meeting or at WRCOG's office, located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, depending on the status of COVID-19.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Chris Lopez at BB&K's office, 5th floor, Riverside.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Members present:**

Doug Schulze, City of Banning  
Jacob Ellis, City of Corona  
Bryan Jones, City of Eastvale  
Chris Lopez, City of Hemet, Chair  
Grant Yates, City of Lake Elsinore  
Armando Villa, City of Menifee  
Mike Lee, City of Moreno Valley  
Kim Summers, City of Murrieta  
Aaron Adams, City of Temecula  
Gary Nordquist, City of Wildomar  
Danielle Coats, Eastern Municipal Water District  
Mathew Evans, March Joint Powers Authority  
Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District

**Staff present:**

Haviva Shane, Legal Counsel  
Rick Bishop, Executive Director  
Barbara Spoonhour, Deputy Executive Director - Operations  
Andrew Ruiz, Chief Financial Officer  
Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Programs  
Tyler Masters, Program Manager  
Anthony Segura, Senior Analyst  
Rachel Singer, Staff Analyst  
Daniel Soltero, Staff Analyst  
Suzy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

**Guests present:**

Louie Lacasella, City of Murrieta  
Imelda Huerta, City of Menifee  
Erin Sasse, League of California Cities  
A.J. Wilson, ICMS – League of Cities  
Brandi Becker, City of Riverside

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Committee member Chris Lopez led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**5. MINUTES** (Menifee / EMWD) 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; Item 5.A was approved. The Cities of Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Jurupa Valley, Norco, Perris, Riverside, and San Jacinto, the County of Riverside, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.

**A. Summary Minutes from the November 21, 2019, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration.**

**Action:** 1. *Approved the Summary Minutes from the November 21, 2019, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.*

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR** (Temecula / Lake Elsinore) 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; Items 6.A thru 6.I were approved. The Cities of Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Jurupa Valley, Norco, Perris, Riverside, and San Jacinto, the County of Riverside, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.

**A. Finance Department Activities Update**

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

**B. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update**

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

**C. Western Riverside Energy Partnership Program Activities Update**

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

**D. Regional Streetlight Program Activities Update**

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

**E. Single Signature Authority Report**

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

**F. Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Appeals Update**

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

**G. TUMF Construction Cost Index Adjustment Implementation Process**

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

**H. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding to Provide Continued Membership of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools on WRCOG for Period of One Year.**

**Action:** 1. *Recommended that the Executive Committee approve a one-year extension to the MOW between WRCOG and the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools for the Superintendent to serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.*

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

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

## **7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

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

Erin Sasse provided an update on current activities in the legislature. The Governor's office released the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Entering into the second year of the Newsom Administration, this legislative year again promises to feature numerous, bold policy proposals from the Administration and Legislature addressing statewide and national issues such as housing, homelessness, transportation, healthcare access, and climate-related items.

On January 28, 2020, the League of California Cities is hosting a webinar addressing "Strategies for Addressing Homelessness: Policies and Enforcement Issues." Staff at all levels are encouraged to join, as this matter affects everyone at the city level.

Senate Bill (SB) 50 (Weiner) was amended to create an alternative planning process for jurisdictions to develop a "local flexibility plan" that, if approved, would exempt cities from many aspects with the exception of requiring fourplexes in single-family zones. After amendment, the League is still opposing SB 50 unless amended, as the "local flexibility plan" lacks the clarity needed to evaluate whether or not it was a viable plan.

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

### **B. Western Community Energy Activities Update**

Barbara Spoonhour reported that Western Community Energy (WCE) is a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program which allows local jurisdictions the ability to come together and purchase energy for their respective communities while Southern California Edison (SCE) continues to be the service provider.

WCE is a separate Joint Powers Authority from WRCOG, established in August 2018, comprised of the Cities of Canyon Lake, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Hemet, Norco, Perris, and Wildomar. Six of the seven members will be launching in April and May 2020, seeing savings immediately.

WCE is an opt-out Program. The default plan offered by WCE is the Choice Plan, which is a 37% renewable mixture. Businesses and/or residents have the option to opt-up to the Choice Plus Plan, which would give them 100% green energy. At the last WCE Board of Directors Committee meeting the Board adopted its first rates, seeing a discount of 2% off of the total bill. There will be a savings of approximately \$6 million overall in the first year. Staff will be bringing back an annual comparison after launch, showing the savings versus what SCE would have charged.

Pre- and post-enrollment notifications will be sent to all businesses and residents starting February 2020 for the Cities of Norco, Perris, and Wildomar and in March 2020 to the Cities of Eastvale, Hemet, and Jurupa Valley.

For any new jurisdictions wanting to join prior to December 2020, they would be eligible to launch in January 1, 2022.

There are currently 20 CCAs in California, the largest being Clean Power Alliance (Los Angeles County) comprised of 29 cities and 2-counties. Desert Community Energy will be launching alongside WCE in April 2020.

Rick Bishop shared that 70% of SCEs territories are looking to be part of a CCA.

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

### C. Public Service Fellowship Activities Update

Rachel Singer reported that since inception of the Public Service Fellowship Program in 2016, there will have been four rounds and over 50 Fellows who have been trained. The Program is successful due to member agency and local university partnerships. WRCOG administers the Program and hosts monthly professional development sessions for the Fellows.

At the conclusion of the fourth round of the Fellowship Program, projected to be March 2020, there will be approximately \$300,000 remaining in the Program. The Program was originally funded through \$1.1 million in excess PACE revenues in 2016. An additional \$250,000 was allocated to the Program in 2019 through WRCOG's BEYOND Program carryover monies.

To discuss the future of the Program, the Fellowship Ad Hoc Committee convened two times to review staff's recommended funding options and programmatic adjustments. There were four potential options discussed to extend the longevity of the Program. After further evaluation, the Ad Hoc Committee endorsed the two-funding split between WRCOG and the host agency. The two-way split would extend the remaining \$300,000 of Program funds for an additional two rounds. While the two-way split preserves the short-term longevity of the Program, it is not a long-term solution. Staff plans to seek out alternative funding sources.

There are three prospective changes to the Program: 1) a 50/50 split of the cost of a Fellow; 2) the institution of a more robust onboarding and exiting process; and 3) a limitation of Fellows working a maximum of 30 hours per week. If approved, these changes would begin with round five and a 50/50 split of the cost of a Fellow would extend the remaining Program funds.

This matter was presented to the Administration & Finance Committee at its January 2020 meeting. That Committee expressed concerns about financial contributions under the 50/50 split. Staff was directed to inquire if participating universities would be interested in financially contributing to the Program. Staff has since reached out to university partners and the prospect of financial contributions does not seem likely.

- Actions:**
1. *Recommended that the Executive Committee require agencies applying for a WRCOG Fellow to contribute 50% towards the cost of that Fellow.*
  2. *Recommended that the Executive Committee require agencies applying for a WRCOG Fellow to provide a specific description of the tasks the Fellow is expected to work when applying for that Fellow.*
  3. *Recommended that the Executive Committee limit future Fellows to working no more than 30 hours per week.*
  4. *Recommended that the Executive Committee maintain WRCOG's policy of alternating Fellow placement to give priority to ensure that each agency can receive a Fellow in alternating years.*
  5. *Directed staff to reach out to UCR, CBU, and Cal State San Bernardino to further inquire if financial contribution is feasible.*
  6. *Implemented an Exit Interview for Fellows and host agency supervisors.*

*(Lake Elsinore / EMWD) 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; Item 7.C was approved. The Cities of Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Jurupa Valley, Norco, Perris, Riverside, and San Jacinto, the County of Riverside, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.*

### D. Regional Energy Network Development Activities Update

Anthony Segura reported that over the past year, WRCOG, the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) have been coordinating, with the help of a consultant, to implement the creation of a Regional Energy Network (REN).



In December 2018, the Executive Committee approved the development of a REN with CVAG and SBCOG. Since that time WRCOG released a Request for Proposal seeking a consultant for REN development; in April 2019, Frontier Energy was selected. In August 2019, staff met with the CPUC to voice why a REN in this region should be created, separate from the SoCalREN. In December 2019, the CPUC approved a framework allowing for new RENs to be formed; they are no longer pilot programs.

The I-REN would implement three programs: 1) Public Sector, 2) Workforce Education & Training, and 3) Codes & Standards. The Public Sector Program would work with local governments to support energy upgrades for high usage municipal facilities. The Workforce Education & Training Program would consist of coordinating with community colleges and workforce development boards to train the region's workforce in the field of energy efficiency. A Codes & Standards Program would work with local building departments on the California Energy Efficiency Code (Title 24), which is updated every three years.

A formal Letter of Commitment to Cooperate needs to be developed amongst WRCOG, CVAG, and SBCOG and submitted to the CPUC with the I-REN Business Plan. This is anticipated to occur in July 2020. Launch of I-REN is anticipated for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

Staff is requesting letters of support from member agencies in support of the REN development by February 13, 2020.

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

## **E. PACE Programs Activities Update: Refunding of WRCOG-Issued Commercial Bonds**

Casey Dailey reported that PACE Programs provide property owners the opportunity to implement energy savings, renewable energy, water conservation, and seismic strengthening improvements to their homes and businesses. Financing is paid back from assessments revenues generated by placing a lien on the subject property's tax bill. The Program was initiated in December 2011 and was expanded in 2014 to allow jurisdictions throughout the state to join WRCOG's Program and allow property owners in these jurisdictions to participate. WRCOG now offers HERO, CaliforniaFIRST, PACE Funding, and Ygrene as residential PACE providers and Greenworks, CleanFund, and Twain as commercial PACE providers.

At the October 2019 Administration & Finance Committee meeting, Committee members received a presentation regarding refunding of existing PACE bonds. Since launching the WRCOG PACE Programs, WRCOG has issued approximately 1,300 PACE assessment-secured bonds with a current estimated value in excess of \$1.03 billion. Many of these bonds were issued when the bond market demanded higher interest rates. Since then, interest rates have decreased, creating an opportunity to refund outstanding bonds at lower interest rates.

On the advice of WRCOG's PACE team partners, (PFM – Financial Advisor, BB&K – Bond Counsel, DTA – Assessment Administrator, and Piper Jaffray & Co. – Bond Underwriter), WRCOG began the process of researching the possibility of refunding eligible WRCOG bonds in order to realize savings to WRCOG and minimize administrative costs. After analyzing which bonds to consider refunding, staff and PACE team partners have decided the commercial bonds are the best candidates to refund at this time. There are approximately \$8.3 million in commercial bonds that have been selected. There were three bids received and after multiple criteria was considered, staff recommends accepting the offer from First Foundation Bank.

The refunding of the outstanding prior commercial bonds is anticipated to generate approximately \$538,100 in aggregate net present value savings under current market conditions, or approximately 6.48% of the prior commercial bonds being refunded. First Foundation Bank's terms offered a 3.45% interest rate, a first-year savings extraction date of 2024, total aggregate savings estimated at over

\$700,000, and a debt service reserve fund of 20% of maximum annual debt service. The interest rate being competitive and locked in for 60 days, lower debt service reserve requirements, and an earlier savings extraction date would allow WRCOG to realize the maximum amount of savings at an earlier date than the other bids.

**Action:** 1. *Recommended that the Executive Committee adopt Resolution Number 02-20; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments authorizing the issuance of refunding certain outstanding WRCOG limited obligation improvement bonds and other certain actions.*

*(Menifee / EMWD) 13 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; Item 7.E was approved. The Cities of Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Jurupa Valley, Norco, Perris, Riverside, and San Jacinto, the County of Riverside, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.*

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

Rick Bishop reported that at the next meeting there will be a more in-depth report on the PACE Program. The TUMF Program has hit a huge milestone in that its broke ground on its 100th project. The next eCommunicator will be based on a “look forward on 2020” versus a look back on 2019.

## **9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Committee member Grant Yates requested staff to invite The Centre of Organization Effectiveness to a future Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

## **10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee member Craig Miller provided a clarification to rumors on regulations regarding water providers. In June 2019, media incorrectly reported on water laws; there is, in fact, no law that makes it illegal to take a shower and do a load of laundry in the same day. There is no fine up to \$10,000 for exceeding 55 gallons of water, per person, per day, for indoor residential use.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

**The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., at WRCOG’s NEW office located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:36 a.m.**

## **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Special meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Chris Lopez on a Zoom Platform Teleconference.

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **3. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

### **A. League of California Cities Activities Update on COVID-19**

Erin Sasse, League of California Cities representative, provided an update on current activities in the legislature regarding COVID-19. The Senate came to an agreement on a stimulus package with more money for the local government. More info will be sent out to the City Managers when it comes available. The Governor will be updating his Executive Order and when there are any changes they will be emailed out as well.

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

### **B. Update on the Governor's Orders and Strategies Dealing with Legal and Implementation Issues; Potential Expenditure Reimbursements**

Haviva Shane, Best & Krieger of Counsel, provided an update on recent activities on COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared an emergency for COVID-19 under Section 501(b) of the Stafford Act, pledging \$50 billion in unspecified aid in the ongoing COVID-19 response efforts. Section 501(b) of the Stafford Act allows the federal government to declare an emergency without a governor's request and makes available only certain subsets of FEMA recovery funds. This generally enables FEMA to operate as a vehicle to deliver virus response funds to state and local governments.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) has extended the deadline for any applications for FEMA funds. FEMA is allowing non-competitive procurement, as long as the procurement remains compliant.

The Governor has given orders regarding the Brown Act. Public meetings are able to be held with no in person locations required. An agenda still has to include directions for how public comments can be made, as well as information for anyone that is needing ADA assistance must be listed. As the Governor has suspended most requirements under the Brown Act, he has not suspended any of the Public Records Act request requirements. A reasonable response to requests is recommended as is prioritizing COVID-19 requests.

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

### **C. Update from TAC Members and Agency Partners: Challenges / Solutions Due to COVID-19**

Committee member Rob Johnson, City of San Jacinto, provided an update on the local efforts involved at a city standpoint. Most city halls are closed to the public. Most City Managers have been communicating and supporting each other with the changes going on regarding the COVID-19 issues.

Committee member Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District (WMWD), provided an update from the water / sewer industry. Everything is going great and its business as usual. There are no issues with water treatment supplies. Letters were sent to the suppliers notifying them that they are an essential job and to keep WMWD updated if there becomes a shortage on treatment supplies.

Anne Mayer, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) Executive Director, provided an update from its Finance Department – RCTC is staying active and focused, keeping a priority on all funds to keep them flowing. All construction projects and programs are continuing forward and are consistent with Caltrans model. RCTC staff are working with all the transit partners to give assistance through these hard times.

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

**D.     Requests for Future Speakers / Topics**

Committee members requested future speakers on topics such as revenue forecast and impacts of the sales tax measure on a local / regional level, as well as a possible scenario planning and having housing developers present what their outlook is for post-COVID-19.

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

**4. NEXT MEETING**

**The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., at WRCOG’s office located at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**The Special Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**



# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Report from the League of California Cities

**Contact:** Erin Sasse, Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities,  
[esasse@cacities.org](mailto:esasse@cacities.org), (951) 321-0771

**Date:** April 16, 2020

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*The purpose of this item is to provide an update of activities undertaken by the League of California Cities.*

**Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.
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This item is reserved for a presentation by Erin Sasse, Regional Public Affairs Manager for the League of California Cities.

**Prior Action:**

March 26, 2020: The Technical Advisory Committee received and filed.

**Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Attachment:**

None.

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# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Energy & Environmental Department Activities Update

**Contact:** Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, [cdailey@wrcog.us](mailto:cdailey@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6720

**Date:** April 16, 2020

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*The purpose of this item is to provide an update on activities within the Clean Cities Coalition and Streetlight Program.*

**Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

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Kyle Rodriguez, Staff Analyst, will provide an update on the Clean Cities Coalition and Daniel Soltero, Staff Analyst, will provide an update on the Streetlight Program.

**Prior Action:**

None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Attachment:**

None.

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# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Finance Department Activities Update

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

**Date:** April 16, 2020

*The purpose of this item is to provide an update on WRCOG's agency budget development process and the impacts of COVID-19.*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

### **Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Agency Budget Development Process and COVID-19**

While it is too early to determine the long-term effects of COVID-19 and how long it will take to return to normal, WRCOG has taken a conservative approach in its budget development due to the uncertain long-term impacts of the coronavirus. Overall, the Agency's budget will be cut by approximately 30%, but will be continually updated throughout the development process as the virus runs its course. While certain programs will be financially impacted more than others at WRCOG, staff is also taking into consideration its liabilities such as its pension obligations to CalPERS, as those are anticipated to increase as well. More information on impacts to WRCOG will be discussed during the presentation.

### **Prior Action:**

None.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

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

### **Attachment:**

None.

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# Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** TUMF Program Activities Update

**Contact:** Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning, [cgray@wrcog.us](mailto:cgray@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6710

**Date:** April 16, 2020

*The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the impacts of COVID-19 on the TUMF Program and changes being made to handle the office closure, as well as possible economic downturns.*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

### **Economic Impacts:**

With the likely economic downturn caused by the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic, WRCOG staff is reviewing the TUMF Program in anticipation of possible changes. Staff will present information on the effects of a previous TUMF fee decrease and how any future decrease in fees would impact TUMF projects.

### **Current Operations:**

The TUMF Program operations at WRCOG is continuing as normal through our current office closure. TUMF fee payments are being processed through the online TUMF portal either through e-check, wire transfer, or credit card. Developers can also still make payments by mailing checks to WRCOG's office. Currently, all mail is collected twice a week and payments are processed as they are received. For jurisdictions that still collect their own TUMF, staff are also processing monthly remittance reports and waiving deadlines on submitting these reports. WRCOG is processing all project reimbursement requests from member agencies, and WRCOG requests that, where possible, invoices be emailed to Cameron Brown at [cbrown@wrcog.us](mailto:cbrown@wrcog.us).

TUMF payments and applications are continuing throughout this time. The online portal is still seeing a regular number of TUMF applications. City staff who manage TUMF applications are reminded to please log-in to the online portal periodically to approve pending applications so developers can make payments and move their projects forward.

### **TUMF Collections To-Date:**

The TUMF Program collected \$3.7 million from March 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020. So far, WRCOG has collected \$35 million in overall Program revenue during the current fiscal year.

### **Prior Action:**

None.

**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:** Western Community Energy Activities Update

**Contact:** Barbara Spoonhour, Deputy Executive Director – Operations, [bspoonhour@wrcoq.us](mailto:bspoonhour@wrcoq.us), (951) 405-6760

**Date:** April 16, 2020

*The purpose of this item is to provide an update on Western Community Energy's launch.*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

*Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) allows cities and counties to aggregate their buying power to secure electrical energy supply contracts on a region-wide basis. A CCA provides a choice for the community, which it does not currently have (unless their community is served by a separate public utility). A CCA provides local control over rate setting and programs by locally elected city councilmembers. Rates and programs are designed and implemented at the local level, at local public meetings, where members of the public who are living within the CCA boundaries can readily participate.*

Established in August 2018, Western Community Energy (WCE) purchases energy on behalf of its member jurisdictions. The Cities of Norco, Perris, and Wildomar launched on April 1, 2020, and the Cities of Eastvale, Hemet, and Jurupa Valley will launch in May 2020. The WCE Board of Directors have been meeting to adopt policies and provide staff and its consultants direction on various data inputs (i.e., energy mixture, rate savings goals, reserves, etc.) necessary for the April and May 2020 launch. To date, all assumptions regarding a savings off the bottom line of Southern California Edison's (SCE's) utility bills remain intact. Current WCE member jurisdictions are expected to save residents and businesses over \$6 million per year in reduced energy bills.

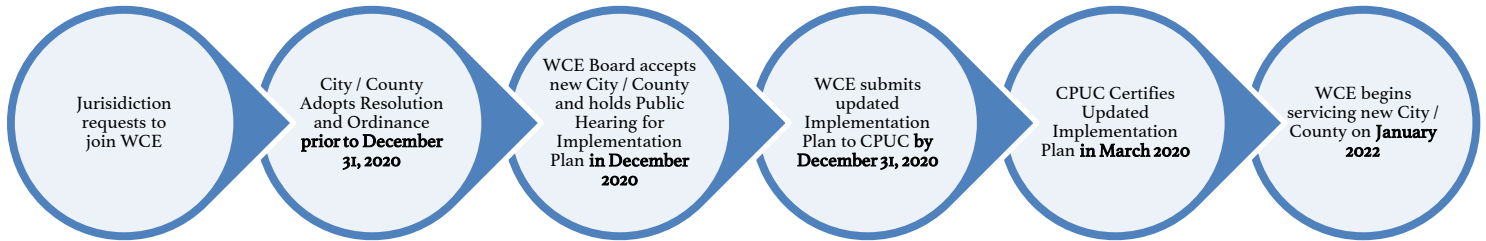
### **Updates:**

**Rate Setting:** On April 8, 2020, WCE's Board of Directors adopted an updated rate schedule, based on SCE's rate increase for April 13, 2020. Staff is excited to note that the adopted rates continue to meet the 2% savings of the overall SCE utility bill for residents and businesses in those member agencies.

**New members:** WCE's Board of Directors remains interested in having other jurisdictions (whether members of WRCOG or outside the subregion) join WCE.

Please contact WRCOG staff if your jurisdiction is interested in joining Western Community Energy.

The following outlines the timeline if a jurisdiction is interested in joining WCE. For a **2022 launch**, jurisdictions would need to join WCE and adopt the CCA ordinance by **December 31, 2020**.



**Prior Action:**

January 16, 2020: The Technical Advisory 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:** Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Activities Update

**Contact:** Princess Hester, Director of Administration, [phester@wrcog.us](mailto:phester@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6704

**Date:** April 16, 2020

*The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Activities.*

### **Requested Action:**

1. Receive and file.

*The Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) formed for the purpose of acquisition, administration, operation, and maintenance of land and facilities for ecosystem conservation and habitat reserves for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR), currently listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered.*

In December 2015, the RCHCA Board of Directors and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) Executive Committee approved an agreement that transferred the duties of administration and management of RCHCA to WRCOG. In May 2018, full consolidation of RCHCA staff and operations was completed. RCHCA remains as a separate JPA with a separate budget. This effort creates cost saving measures, a succinct Agency under one umbrella, streamlines processes, and reduces duplication of effort.

### **Updates:**

**SKR Recovery Efforts:** The endangered SKR is a species endemic to Western Riverside and Northern San Diego Counties. Recovery of an endangered species is considered when the critical levels that lead to that species' listing as endangered are fulfilled with sufficient population numbers and a low level of threats to maintain or increase populations in the future. RCHCA is working with legislators and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to advocate for a reclassification of the species from endangered to threatened. This action will serve as a demonstration of success in Western Riverside County for the many years of recovery efforts for SKR.

**Public Access Plan:** RCHCA cooperatively manages over 40,000 acres of land conserved for SKR. These lands reflect multiple ownerships, some of which are not currently open to the public, having different objectives as it relates to public access. Staff spends considerable hours and resources repairing lands from the impacts of unapproved access; therefore, a new approach is warranted to increase positive awareness and appreciation for these lands by allowing for managed public access. Staff is working on a Trails Concept Design Plan which will build low impact recreation opportunities for public access on conserved lands, thereby creating a buffer to protect sensitive habitat areas.

**Innovative Research Projects:** The importance of innovative research is embraced by RCHCA. Development of useful practices based in science applicable to techniques used to support habitat and land management is imperative. RCHCA is working on projects such as using drone technology for aerial vegetation mapping, a

Range-Wide Habitat Suitability Model, and the development of a Range-Wide Species Management and Monitoring Plan. These projects will prove to be crucial applications in efforts to demonstrate SKR recovery.

**Prior Action:**

None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Attachment:**

None.