



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

AGENDA

**Thursday, November 16, 2023
9:30 AM**

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

Remote Meeting Locations:

**City of Beaumont
Beaumont Civic Center
550 East 6th Street, Map Room
Beaumont, CA 92223**

**City of Calimesa
Senior Center Map Room
908 Park Avenue
Calimesa, CA 92230**

**City of Lake Elsinore
City Hall, City Manager's Office
130 S. Main Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530**

**City of Murrieta
1 Town Square
Murrieta, CA 92562**

**City of Temecula
City Hall, City Manager's Office
41000 Main Street
Temecula, CA 92590**

**City of Wildomar
City Hall
23873 Clinton Keith Road, Suite 201**

Wildomar, CA 92595

March Air Reserve Base
14205 Meridian Parkway, Ste. 140
Meridian Conference Room, Room 140
Riverside, CA 92518

3593 Eastfield Court
Carmel, CA 93923

Committee members are asked to attend this meeting in person unless remote accommodations have previously been requested and noted on the agenda. The below Zoom link is provided for the convenience of members of the public, presenters, and support staff.

[Public Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 841 5015 0229

Passcode: 755999

Dial in: 669 900 9128 U.S.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in the Technical Advisory Committee meeting, please contact WRCOG at (951) 405-6702. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting. In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, agenda materials distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting which are public records relating to an open session agenda item will be available for inspection by members of the public prior to the meeting at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA, 92501.

In addition to commenting at the Committee meeting, members of the public may also submit written comments before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment to lfelix@wrcog.us.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Lucy Felix 72 hours prior to the meeting at (951) 405-6702 or lfelix@wrcog.us. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

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

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

At this time members of the public can address the Committee regarding any items within 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. 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. Action Minutes from the October 19, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve the Action Minutes from the October 19, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

B. Environmental Department Activities Update

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

C. Approval of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve the Technical Advisory Committee meeting schedule for 2024.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Thrive Inland SoCal Presentation

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

B. I-REN Programmatic Activities Updates

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

C. Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Funding Opportunity

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Willson

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for discussion at future Committee meetings.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

10. NEXT MEETING

The Technical Advisory Committee is dark for the month of December. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., in WRCOG's office at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Technical Advisory Committee

Action Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Rod Butler at 9:33 a.m. on October 19, 2023, in WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Banning - Doug Schulze
- City of Beaumont - Elizabeth Gibbs
- City of Calimesa - Will Kolbow
- City of Corona- Jacob Ellis*
- City of Eastvale - Mark Orme
- City of Hemet - Mark Prestwich
- City of Jurupa Valley - Rod Butler (Chair)
- City of Murrieta - Kim Summers
- City of Norco - Lori Sassoon
- City of Perris - Wendel Bugtai
- City of San Jacinto - Rob Johnson
- City of Temecula - Betsy Lowrey
- County of Riverside - Jeff Van Wagenen
- March JPA - Dr. Grace Martin
- Western Water - Jolene Walsh*

* Arrived after Roll Call

Absent:

- City of Canyon Lake
- City of Lake Elsinore
- City of Menifee
- City of Moreno Valley
- City of Riverside
- City of Wildomar
- Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD)
- Riverside County Office of Education

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Action Minutes from the August 17, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Action:

- 1. Approved the Action Minutes from the August 17, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| RESULT: | APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED |
| MOVER: | San Jacinto |
| SECONDER: | Perris |
| AYES: | Banning, Calimesa, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, County of Riverside, March JPA. The City of Beaumont did not respond. |

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. WRCOG Fellowship Program: Round 8

Action:

- 1. Received and filed.

B. Riverside County Regional Broadband Activities Update

Action:

- 1. Received and filed.

C. Member Dues Exploration Activities Update

Action:

- 1. Received and filed.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Wilson, Executive Director, reported that staff is currently training, and asked Committee members to let him know if there are any member agencies that are conducting trainings that WRCOG staff may participate in. Internally, WRCOG is evaluating processes and considering integrating the Lean Sigma 6 concept to increase efficiency. If any Committee members have staff that they would like to attend, WRCOG is happy to accommodate.

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, November 16, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., in WRCOG's office at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Environmental Department Activities Update
Contact: Olivia Sanchez, Program Manager, osanchez@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6721
Date: November 16, 2023

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The Regional Food Rescue Program (RFRP) is a partnership between WRCOG and the Cities of Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, and San Jacinto. One task of the RFRP includes developing implementation plans to identify Tier 1 and Tier 2 edible food waste generators within those participating cities and determining food rescue organizations that would receive food from those generators. Currently, the consultants are working with their subcontractor to develop educational and outreach materials with feedback from WRCOG staff and the member jurisdictions.

The Love Your Neighborhood Program, a collaboration between the Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and WRCOG, focuses on raising awareness about illegal disposal and littering through online platforms. It supports cities, community groups, and residents in conducting cleanup events to reduce pollution in the Middle Santa Ana River, Santa Margarita, and Whitewater River watersheds. The Program provides resources like gloves, bags, and promotional materials, encouraging local participation. Several events, like Menifee's "Better Together" and Hemet's cleanup in Simpson Park, were successful, removing significant amounts of debris. The Program collaborates with member agencies, leading to the removal of tons of materials. A "Clean up Kit" partnership with the City of Corona allows residents to organize DIY neighborhood cleanups, further promoting community engagement and environmental stewardship.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update of the current Environmental Department activities. This effort aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #6 (Develop and implement programs that support resilience for our region) and sub-goal, 6.3 (Continuing to support the solid waste and recycling program).

Discussion:

Background

WRCOG's Environmental Department assists WRCOG member agencies with addressing state

mandates requiring education and outreach programs to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Environmental Department houses three programs to meet California's goals: 1) the Solid Waste and Recycling Program, which assists in developing strategies to reduce short-lived climate pollutants; 2) a regional Used Oil Recycling Program, designed to promote the proper recycling and disposal of used motor oil and filters; and 3) the Love Your Neighborhood region-wide Program, which supports marketing and awareness on illegal disposal and littering by using online platforms and community events.

Solid Waste and Recycling Program

The waste diversion goals set by California under legislation (AB 939, AB 341, AB 1826, AB 827, and SB 1383,) require local jurisdictions to implement techniques that promote resident and business recycling and organic recycling. To regionally address these measures, WRCOG formed the Solid Waste Committee (SWC), comprised of participating WRCOG member agencies.

Senate Bill 1383

To recap, SB 1383, also known as the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act, includes significant food rescue requirements aimed at reducing GHG emissions and diverting organic waste from landfills. The bill addresses reducing organic waste disposal by 75% and rescuing at least 20% of currently disposed surplus food by the year 2025. Enacted in California, this legislation mandates that businesses, including supermarkets, grocery stores, and restaurants, establish food waste prevention and food rescue programs. These programs involve the identification of surplus edible food that can be donated to food banks, shelters, and other nonprofits to help those in need. By rescuing edible food that would otherwise go to waste, SB 1383 not only addresses food insecurity, but also contributes to environmental conservation by decreasing methane emissions from landfills, thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change. WRCOG staff has been updating its member agencies regarding SB 1383 in a variety of means, including regular meetings of the SWC and other Committees.

Regional Food Rescue and Technical Assistance

SB 1383 carries measurable requirements and penalizes jurisdictions for failing to meet them. WRCOG staff have discussed potential options to address the SB 1383 regulations. One potential option was to develop a regional program specific to food rescue to meet these requirements.

Staff sent out a survey seeking interest from WRCOG member agencies in such a regional program that would assist with edible food recovery and edible food generator / food rescue organization inspections. Members of the Solid Waste Committee (SWC) indicated that there was general interest in a regional program. At the direction of SWC members, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to provide a scope of work and associated costs for an edible food rescue program in December 2022. The selected consultant, MSW, is performing these tasks to ensure the participating member agencies are in compliance.

- Project management - team coordination
- Capacity and compliance - food recovery agencies, Tier 1 & Tier 2 edible food waste compliance
- Public outreach - communication & education plan, research, surveys, audience mapping, media audit
- Implementation of outreach and education plan
- Inspection schedule and plan - Tier 1 & Tier 2

- Regional food recovery plan - Careit (app) database, written plan
- Final Report

Five cities are participating in this project, which include the Cities of Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, and San Jacinto. The cost is \$299,845 for the first year. The agreement term for this project is three years from the date of execution with the option of two, one-year extensions. The agreement includes a "not to exceed" clause and is specific to task orders for each participating member agency, whereby work cannot commence until approved and ordered by WRCOG. Each task order will identify which tasks in the scope will be performed by MSW for each participating member agency. The WRCOG administrative fee for each agreement with participating cities is 7.5% of the total for each city, which WRCOG will bill accordingly.

Present Situation

Project Progress: MSW and their subcontractors, DeGrave Communications and Mariposa Eco Consulting, have been working together to develop an implementation plan to begin inspections of Tier 1 and Tier 2 edible food generators in addition to food rescue organizations and food service organizations. Inspections will commence after participating agencies approve and review outreach materials.

The implementation plans included identifying the edible food waste generators, developing education and outreach pieces, setting up meetings with the participating member agencies, developing marketing and collateral pieces to ensure proper education of Tier 1 and Tier 2 generators, and ultimately scheduling inspections to occur in the months of October through December 31. Staff has been working with the contractors to review materials, meet with participating member agencies, and provide feedback and work with CalRecycle on approvals and direction.

MSW has been meeting with WRCOG's member agencies regarding the inspection schedule and will make any necessary adjustments to outreach documents or informational letters based upon specific jurisdictional needs. The next phase will be to develop a complaint system as prescribed by SB1383 and provide that to the participating member agencies as part of the scope of services.

Love Your Neighborhood Program

The Love Your Neighborhood (LYN) Program was brought to WRCOG as a collaborative effort from the Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (Flood Control). The Program supports marketing and awareness on illegal disposal and littering, and using online platforms. Program goals include quantifiable results tracking litter removal, increased pollution prevention, meeting objectives with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permits, and complying with California mandates related to solid waste, recycling, and household hazardous waste; all goals which align with WRCOG's energy and environmental programs.

The LYN Program is an "action-ready" stormwater pollution prevention initiative that aims to increase pollution awareness and its impact on the environment. The aspiration of the LYN Program is to empower cities, community groups, and residents to conduct their own cleanup events to help minimize pollution in the three watersheds: Middle Santa Ana River, Santa Margarita, and Whitewater River. The LYN Program also helps obtain real-time data to track the number of pollutants removed from communities in support of stormwater mandates required by state permits. The LYN Program spans

across 27 cities. WRCOG and Flood Control staff encourage each partner city to join in promoting local cleanup activities of their own and rally residents to help with the reduction of litter and pollutants in their neighborhood and beyond.

The LYN Program was constructed to assist local jurisdictions to use the LYN resources to develop their own clean up events or support existing programs and for residents to organize themselves to create their own clean-up programs in their neighborhoods. Operationally, the LYN Program provides gloves, bags, collection pickers, and personal protection equipment, along with promotional materials for public education. The LYN Program also includes any necessary coordination for city events, marketing materials for social media, updates to the LYN website related to tonnages, upcoming events, photos, and testimonials. LYN Program elements are available at no-cost to jurisdictions in western Riverside County and additional support to the cities in the eastern portion of Riverside County. The contract for the LYN Program is for five years.

On November 9, 2022, WRCOG, along with Flood Control and the City of Lake Elsinore, hosted an online workshop for WRCOG member agencies where they were presented with program detail, the new website, and information on how to become involved, schedule an event, and market the LYN Program. Due to the inclement weather in early 2023, staff and interested cities scheduled events in the spring, summer, and fall.

Present Situation

Events

- The City of Menifee had an event on April 22, 2023, the "Better Together" event. Projects were selected and once volunteers checked in, they came to the LYN booth to obtain the necessary gloves and bags for the clean ups. City staff collected the bags from the various sites; volunteers picked up 100 bags worth of material.
- The City of Hemet had an event on April 29, 2023, at Simpson Park. Volunteers collected .41 tons of debris and trash from the site.
- The City of Perris had an event on May 20, 2023, along the street of Patriot Park. City and WRCOG staff had a booth to provide clean up materials. This was a smaller turnout, as it was not connected to a larger event; however, the volunteers did collect over 20 bags of materials. The event was also cut short due to a small brush fire.
- The City of Corona had an event on September 14, 2023. WRCOG staff had a booth to provide clean up materials and education on the program to volunteers.
- The City of Wildomar had an event on September 16, 2023, to clean up larger sections along Mission Trail and into Sedco Hills. WRCOG staff had a booth to provide clean up materials and were a co-sponsor of this event. Over three tons of materials were removed from this project.
- The City of Murrieta had an event on October 21, 2023, to clean up two sections along Jefferson and Whitewood Roads. WRCOG staff provided materials to volunteers and assisted in the clean up efforts. Volunteers collected 28 bags of trash.
- Riverside County First District has an event scheduled for November 18, 2023, at Mead Valley Community Center.
- The City of Corona and WRCOG have also partnered to develop a "Clean up Kit" which is available to residents at no cost to do their own DIY neighborhood cleanups. The kits can be obtained by visiting [Volunteer for Corona](#).

Prior Action(s):

March 26, 2023: The Technical Advisory Committee received and filed.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to the Regional Food Rescue Program will be budgeted under the Solid Waste Program (1038) under the General Fund (110). While an estimate was created during the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget process, an amendment is being prepared to adjust to the actual amounts now that the agreements are in place. Activities related to the Love Your Neighborhood Program (1035) are included in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget under the General Fund (110).

Attachment(s):

None.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule for 2024
Contact: Chris Gray, Deputy Executive Director, cgray@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6710
Date: November 16, 2023

Recommended Action(s):

1. Approve the Technical Advisory Committee meeting schedule for 2024.

Summary:

All Technical Advisory Committee meeting dates are proposed for the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to approve the schedule of the Technical Advisory Committee meetings for 2024. This aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #4 (Communicate proactively about the role and activities of the Council of Governments).

Discussion:

Following are the proposed 2024 meeting dates for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). There will be no TAC meeting in October 2024 since that date would conflict with League of California Cities Annual Conference and Exposition in Long Beach October 16 - 18, 2024.

| Committee | Day | Time | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Technical Advisory Committee | 3rd Thursday | 9:30 a.m. | 18 | 15 | 21 | 18 | 16 | DARK | 18 | 15 | 19 | DARK | 21 | DARK |

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

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

Attachment(s):

None.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Thrive Inland SoCal Presentation
Contact: Sandra Espadas, Community Development Manager, Amplify Communities,
sespadas@nationalcore.org, (951) 907-9009
Date: November 16, 2023

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

Amplify Communities and the regional conveners, Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity (IEGO) and Inland Empire Labor Institute (IELI), will present information on Thrive Inland SoCal and how jurisdictions can engage. Thrive Inland SoCal is dedicated to building an equitable and inclusive region where all residents have a say in shaping their collective economic future while addressing historic inequities. Amplify Communities is facilitating conversations for the subregional table in the Greater Riverside area, which includes the Cities of Banning, Beaumont, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Norco, Perris, Riverside, and San Jacinto.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to provide a presentation on how jurisdictions may engage with the Thrive Inland SoCal project in order to shape the subregion's economic future. This effort aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #1 (Serve as an advocate at the regional, state, and federal level for the Western Riverside subregion).

Discussion:

Background

Thrive Inland SoCal, led by IELI and IEGO, is dedicated to building an equitable and inclusive region where all residents have a say in shaping their collective economic future while addressing historic inequities. Funding for this work stems from the California Jobs First initiative, formerly known as the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF). Through California Jobs First, our state is split into 13 areas that will each lead their own bottom-up efforts for inclusive economic development. Thrive Inland SoCal represents the Inland Empire region of San Bernardino County, Riverside County, Coachella Valley, and the Morongo Basin.

The vision of the regional collaborative is an Inland SoCal region where everyone, regardless of

background or circumstance, has access to the resources and opportunities necessary to thrive.

- There is a commitment to closing equity gaps and dismantling systemic barriers that prevent individuals and communities from realizing their full potential.
- Ultimately, the goal is to create an Inland SoCal region where every community prospers in a sustainable and innovative economy, and every individual has the opportunity to live a healthy, quality life.

The initiative is divided into two phases:

1. Planning Phase: each region is granted \$5M for the development of regional economic plans through committee collaboration.
2. Implementation Phase: allocates over \$100M to support projects meeting California Jobs First criteria of benefiting underprivileged communities, having strong community support, aligning with California's climate goals, upholding labor standards, and contributing to job quality.

The funding, which amounts to just under \$600M, is sourced from one-time state general funds and distributed among the 13 regions across California.

- The purpose of these funds is to promote equitable, sustainable, inclusive, and low-carbon economic development.
- It aims to support local, community-supported plans and strategies to diversify local economies, foster sustainable industries, and generate high-quality, accessible job opportunities for everyone.

Thrive Inland SoCal will focus on equity, innovation, sustainability, and accountability.

- It aims to unite the Inland region around economic sectors based on regional strengths.
- It also plans to invest in subregional planning for equitable benefits and prioritize racial and gender equity.
- It will collaborate on a comprehensive economic recovery plan and update regional data studies utilizing input from the community.
- It will support sustainable sectors, strengthen the workforce, fund capacity building, and integrate equitable development strategies.
- Lastly, it will model inclusive economic ecosystems and promote understanding and language among our diverse partners.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

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

Attachment(s):

None.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN Programmatic Activities Updates
Contact: Karina Camacho, Analyst III, kcamacho@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6724
Date: November 16, 2023

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Program, which is a consortium between the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), continues to make significant strides in its Program goals. Staff will share the successes of the Program to date, including its outreach efforts, codes and standards trainings, Building Upgrade Concierge software development, the I-REN Fellowship, and next steps for the I-REN Program.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to present an update of recent I-REN activities. I-REN supports WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #6 (Develop and implement programs that support resilience for our region).

Discussion:

Background

Initiated in 2019, I-REN serves the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino in the implementation of energy efficiency programs and services to support its respective member agencies and the public. These partners joined together and submitted a Business Plan to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in order to establish locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency programs. On November 18, 2021, the CPUC formally approved the I-REN Business Plan through program year 2027.

On February 21, 2023, the I-REN Executive Committee approved contract award recommendations for I-REN's Business Plan Sector program implementers. The Energy Coalition (TEC) was selected to develop and implement I-REN's Public Sector programs, and Alternative Energy Systems Consulting (AESC) was selected for I-REN's Building Upgrade Concierge Software Development Services. Frontier Energy was selected for I-REN's Codes & Standards Sector. WRCOG and SBCOG staff are co-leading

the Workforce Education & Training Sector. The final consultant selected was ICF, which will be responsible for providing marketing support across all sectors. Since contract approvals, staff and implementers have been diligently working to roll out I-REN programs.

iren.gov Website

On August 24, 2023, I-REN launched its website, [iren.gov](https://www.iren.gov), which broadcasts information about I-REN, I-REN's sectors, and houses a calendar of trainings and events that I-REN will host throughout the year. The website was developed with I-REN's brand palette and is consistent with the marketing materials used throughout the orientations, adding familiarity and trust to member agencies who visit the site. The website will be used as I-REN's one-stop-shop destination for visitors to acquire information on energy efficiency, grant opportunities, available rebates, incentives, and as a storage library for a host of trainings, educational videos, and CPUC regulatory filings that I-REN is a party to.

Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) Software Development

The BUC software has been developed and is now available for use by all agencies within I-REN's service territory. A presentation and live demonstration has been provided at each orientation, showing the versatility and adaptability of the BUC software. It will provide member agencies with the capability to benchmark their existing buildings, allowing them to create a baseline record of energy usage for those buildings and compare them with similar buildings of size and age. By using the BUC software, member agencies will be able to track energy usage patterns and identify inconsistencies in their buildings, potentially saving them money. The BUC software can also forecast savings of energy projects to help member agencies determine the priority of the deployment of projects.

Codes & Standards Trainings

At the time of writing this Staff Report, I-REN has hosted six Codes & Standards training courses on 2022 Energy Code changes for nonresidential, heat pump water heaters, and residential load calculations. Fifty-five people participated in the training courses, including building department staff, permit technicians, and other local government staff. Participants are also eligible to earn Continuing Education Units for the completion of I-REN Codes & Standards training courses. The Codes & Standards team also provided an Implementation Plan Webinar for the California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee, in which eight individuals participated. I-REN is planning to host seven more Codes & Standards training courses from now through the end of 2023. Staff anticipates that the I-REN Codes & Standards topics will include residential new construction, residential envelop compliance, electrification, and more updates on the 2022 Energy Code.

Workforce Education & Training

The first round of I-REN Energy Fellows officially started working in late September 2023. At the time of writing this Staff Report, there are nine fellows currently placed at local agencies. Four other agencies are still interested in hosting a Fellow and have submitted a host application or are in the process of interviewing potential Fellows. The Program Administrator, CivicSpark, is allowing I-REN Energy Fellows to start in January 2024 for an 8-month fellowship. I-REN staff are actively recruiting potential Fellow applicants to start in January, and engaging future applicants for next year's application cycle. I-REN staff have and are expecting to continue attending eight career fairs throughout the region through November 2023, and include the Valley-Wide Employment Expo in Indio, the California State University,

San Bernardino job fair, and the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce job fair at the Tyler Galleria Mall. I-REN is also exploring options to expand energy related opportunities for K-12 students.

Orientations

From June 2023 to October 2023, I-REN staff have hosted 15 orientations throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. One-hundred and twenty-five agency staff have participated from 39 jurisdictions as well as participation from 15 other agencies. Other agency staff range from a community college district, unified school districts, water districts, chamber of commerce, and the CPUC. At the time of writing this Staff Report, there are two more pending orientations to be hosted in the City of Rialto and the County of San Bernardino.

Public Sector Offerings and Next Steps

Consultant TEC is the main implementer for I-REN's Public Sector and is developing a wide array of offerings and services for public agencies. TEC and I-REN staff have been meeting one-on-one with agencies to continue to discuss their unique energy needs. As of October 2023, staff have met with 15 jurisdictions and agencies for an I-REN Public Sector kick-off meeting. Local agencies are currently requesting historical energy data from SoCalGas and Southern California Edison and sharing these findings with the I-REN team. Once the data is available, TEC will work to analyze energy consumption trends and make recommendations on next steps for long-term energy planning, facility benchmarking, and energy efficiency project services. As part of the energy efficiency project services, TEC will support individual projects with site visits, energy modeling, funding, financing applications, and project management. TEC is developing potential policy options on how to distribute project support throughout the region within the current 2023-2027 program years' budget. These policy options will be presented to the I-REN Executive Committee for consideration, direction, and approval.

Prior Action(s):

November 6, 2023: The Executive Committee received and filed a report on I-REN Programmatic Activities Updates.

June 14, 2023: The Administration & Finance Committee received and filed a report on I-REN orientation meetings.

March 8, 2023: The Administration & Finance Committee received and filed a report on I-REN programmatic activities.

Financial Summary:

All costs associated with the development and implementation of I-REN are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Agency Budget under the I-REN budget (Fund 180) in the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

None.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Funding Opportunity
Contact: Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, cdailey@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6720
Date: November 16, 2023

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act established the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program, which funds both planning and implementation grant opportunities. One million dollars was allocated to the Riverside / San Bernardino Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) to prepare a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Following submittal of the PCAP, the Riverside / San Bernardino MSA will be eligible to submit an application for implementation grants. This subsequent application is due April 1, 2024.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to share information regarding the upcoming CPRG Implementation grant opportunity.

Potential implementation grant activities cover a wide spectrum of issue areas and overlap with multiple goals and actions with the adopted WRCOG 2022/2027 Strategic Plan, including:

Goal 2: Identify and help secure grants and other potential funding opportunities for projects and programs that benefit member agencies.

Goal 5: Develop projects and programs that improve infrastructure and sustainable development in our subregion.

5.1 Support Investment in projects, infrastructure, and programs in the region including:

5.1.1 Transportation infrastructure

Goal 6: Develop and implement programs that support resilience for our region.

6.1 Incentivize programs for saving electricity, water, and other essential resources through the Inland Regional Energy Network.

6.2 Support the efforts to promote the Clean Cities Coalition.

Discussion:
Background

In 2022, the Biden / Harris Administration and Congress established the \$5B CPRG Program as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The CPRG implementation grants are designed to enable states, municipalities, tribes, and territories to achieve the following goals:

1. Implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions by the year 2030 and beyond.
2. Pursue measures that will achieve substantial community benefits (such as reduction of criteria air pollutants (CAPs) and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs)), particularly in low- income and disadvantaged communities.
3. Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG emissions reductions and community benefits.
4. Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be scaled up across multiple jurisdictions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has allocated funding to 117 entities nationally to prepare preliminary studies that will be used to identify GHG emissions reduction strategies. This funding was provided to states as well as regional governments representing MSAs. MSAs are designated by the U.S. Census and represent countywide or multi-county areas with a significant level of economic interaction. Within southern California, the following MSAs received \$1M each to prepare this initial planning study (PCAP):

- Los Angeles / Orange County MSA
- Riverside / San Bernardino MSA
- Oxnard / Ventura / Thousand Oaks MSA

SBCOG is leading the preparation of the PCAP for the Riverside / San Bernardino MSA with assistance from SCAG, AQMD, WRCOG, CVAG, and other stakeholders.

The CPRG Program does not allow for individual municipalities to submit grant funding requests directly to EPA. The CPRG Program does allow for municipalities and other agencies to serve as sub-applicants or partner with regional entities on a grant application. WRCOG anticipates that any grant application to EPA would be structured in this manner, which ensures that money would flow from EPA to the MSA and then to individual government agencies for project implementation.

Present Situation

Implementation Grant Application: Any of the entities who received a planning grant and submit a PCAP are eligible to apply for an implementation grant. Up to \$4.6B will be allocated to these entities with the maximum grant amount of \$500M. Given the relative size of the Riverside / San Bernardino MSA, the region could be eligible for up to \$200M in funding, though any award would be through a competitive process. Applications for CPRG grants are due in April, with the awards to applications anticipated in October. The grant period extends through 2030.

One key requirement for the implementation grants is that any proposed GHG emissions reduction program, policy, or project that agencies want to fund must be first identified in the PCAP to be eligible for the larger funding amounts. EPA encourages eligible applicants to seek implementation funds for GHG emissions reduction measures that will significantly reduce cumulative GHG emissions by 2030 and beyond, and that will accelerate decarbonization across one or more major sectors responsible for GHG emissions. EPA will score grant applications based on multiple evaluation criteria, with an emphasis on the magnitude of near-term GHG emissions reductions that will be achieved by the proposed measures. Additionally, EPA will prioritize applications which demonstrate regional collaboration. Therefore, programs or projects which are multi-jurisdictional or implemented at a larger scale will be scored more highly than programs or projects which are limited to one jurisdiction.

When considering potential GHG emissions reduction measures, it is important to also understand the current state of GHG emissions in the Riverside / San Bernardino MSA since reduction measures which provide the highest level of GHG emissions reduction are more likely to receive funding. Based on the most recent CAP completed for the WRCOG subregion, which is also reflective of the emission profile of the larger MSA, the primary sectors contributing to GHG reduction include:

- On-road transportation (light- and heavy-duty vehicles) - 50%
- Residential energy (electricity and natural gas usage) - 23%
- Non-residential energy (electricity and natural gas usage) - 19%

Therefore, 90% of all GHG emissions are associated with vehicles and buildings. The remaining 10% of emissions are related to solid waste, off-road equipment, water / wastewater, and other sectors.

The Implementation Grant application is not limited to these sectors and the EPA is encouraging applicants to consider a variety of creative solutions to reduce GHG emissions in a variety of sectors. The EPA also recognizes that each State and region has a different emissions profile and some reduction measures may be more applicable in certain circumstances.

Other Grant Requirements

As with other grants, EPA is also asking applicants to evaluate equity and environmental justice considerations, particularly as it relates to low-income and disadvantage communities. Any grant application will therefore have to document how these communities benefit from any proposed GHG emissions reduction measures. Also, any GHG emissions reduction measures that specifically benefit those low-income and disadvantaged communities may be more likely to receive funding.

The CPRG Program also expects applicants to document outcomes associated with the implementation of GHG emissions reduction measures.

Example outputs could include:

- Number of alternative fuel vehicle charging / fueling stations constructed
- Amount of renewable energy installed
- Number of policies implemented in support of the GHG emissions reduction measures
- Number of workshops or trainings held in support of the GHG emissions reduction measures

The CPRG Program also requests applicants document GHG emissions reductions for both the near-term (2025 to 2030) and long-term (2025 to 2050) for any completed implementation activities.

Award Funding and Incremental / Full Funding

What is unique about the CPRG Program is that it will provide full funding subsequent to grant award. EPA will provide this funding to the agency who applied for the award. The agency which receives these funds will then be responsible for tracking any expenditures and then preparing the appropriate report as noted above. For example, if SBCOG were to apply for funding for the Riverside / San Bernardino County MSA and is awarded the funding, EPA will provide those funds to SBCOG, which will then be responsible for the distribution of funds to entities within the MSA.

Given this funding structure and the potential size of any grant award, there is a need for some administrative entity to facilitate this process. Specific tasks that could be required include:

- Conducting outreach with local governments to make them aware of this funding source
- Working directly with local governments to assist with project development
- Tracking funding requests to ensure an equitable distribution of funds
- Managing any formal or informal process, such as a Call for Projects, to facilitate the flow of funding from the MSA to local governments
- Working with local governments to prepare appropriate reports to comply with EPA requirements

No cost sharing / matching funds or leveraged resources are required as a condition of eligibility under this competition. Funds awarded under this Program cannot be used to meet the matching funds requirement under another federal grant program.

More information on the CPRG Program and the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Implementation Grants can be found below:

[CPRG Program](#)

[Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

Next Steps

This item will be presented to the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Executive Committee on November 21, 2023, the WRCOG Executive Committee on December 4, 2023, and the Public Works Committee on December 14, 2023.

Based on the short turnaround time for the application, Committee decisions made by December would be included in the application materials that staff would assemble.

There are a number of outstanding questions to be addressed prior to the application submittal in April 2024. These questions include:

- Is there interest within the WRCOG region to pursue this funding?
- Are there topics, programs, or projects our members would want to prioritize?
- Are there topics, programs or projects our members would want to de-emphasize or choose to not participate in?

- Are the proposed projects consistent with the WRCOG mission?
- How funds would be distributed to different jurisdictions?
- Should administrative oversight be maintained by WRCOG or shared with some combination of other partners (CVAG, SBCOG, I-REN)?

Prior Action(s):

November 8, 2023: The Administration & Finance Committee received and filed.

Financial Summary:

WRCOG's support of the PCAP is limited to existing staff time and is included in the adopted Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Agency budget. The grant would potentially be awarded in Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and would be reflected in that year's budget.

Attachment(s):

None.