



# Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

## AGENDA

Tuesday, December 13, 2022  
2:00 PM

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 317 5391

Passcode: 821640

Dial in: (669) 900 9128 U.S.

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

Due to the State or local recommendations for social distancing resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), this meeting is being held via Zoom under Assembly Bill (AB) 361 (Government Code Section 54953). Pursuant to AB 361, I-REN does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. AB 361 allows I-REN to hold Committee meetings via teleconferencing or other electronic means and allows for members of the public to observe and address the committee telephonically or electronically.

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 [jleonard@wrcog.us](mailto:jleonard@wrcog.us).

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Janis Leonard 72 hours prior to the meeting at (951) 405-6702 or [jleonard@wrcog.us](mailto:jleonard@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 (Dr. Kurt Wilson, WRCOG Executive Director)
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 agendized 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. AB 361 FINDINGS**

**A. Assembly Bill 361 Findings**

**Requested Action(s):** 1. Adopt Resolution Number 01-22; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Inland Regional Energy Network authorizing virtual Committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.

**6. SELECTION OF I-REN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023**

**A. Selection of I-REN Executive Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair Positions for Fiscal Year 2022/2023**

**Requested Action(s):** 1. Select leadership positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

**7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agendized items at the time the item is called for discussion.

**A. Regional Energy Networks (RENs) 101**

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

**B. History and Background of the Inland Regional Energy Network**

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

**C. Approval of I-REN Executive Committee 2023 Meeting Schedule**

**Requested Action(s):** 1. Approve the schedule of I-REN Executive Committee meetings for 2023

**8. REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

This item is reserved for a report from the Committee Chair.

**9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

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

**10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., on the Zoom platform with the option for Committee members to attend in-person.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**



# Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Assembly Bill 361 Findings  
**Contact:** Dr. Kurt Wilson, WRCOG Executive Director, [kwilson@wrcog.us](mailto:kwilson@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6701  
**Date:** December 13, 2022

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### **Requested Action(s):**

1. Adopt Resolution Number 01-22; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Inland Regional Energy Network authorizing virtual Committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.
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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this item is to authorize virtual Committee meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

### **Background:**

*Since the onset of the COVID-19 in early 2020, California government agencies have been able to continue to discharge their legal responsibilities through the use of virtual teleconferencing platforms such as Zoom to hold public meetings that enabled agencies to meet and conduct business, comply with social distancing orders, and most importantly, provide access to the public.*

Although transmission, hospitalization, and death rates from COVID-19 have sharply declined since the original onset of the pandemic and subsequent Delta and Omicron Variant surges, an air of uncertainty remains regarding the pandemic and many counties continue to recommend masking inside and social distancing. Given that environment and a desire to allow for the flexibility of holding virtual meetings, the Legislature approved, and Governor Newsom signed, Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) to temporarily allow for virtual meetings under proscribed circumstances.

AB 361 amends the Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies to continue using teleconferencing and virtual meeting technology in certain circumstances. Under the Bill, legislative bodies can continue to meet remotely as long as there is a "proclaimed state of emergency" and the Executive Committee can make either of the following findings: (a) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or (b) whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Even though cases have dropped, AB 361 is expressly intended "to protect the health and safety of civil servants and the public and does not preference the experience of members of the public who might be able to attend a meeting in a physical location over members of the public who cannot travel or attend that meeting in a physical location" because of physical status.

The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to exist to this day.

AB 361 requires specific procedural safeguards for the public. To accommodate individuals during these teleconferences and virtual meetings, a public comment period will be offered where the public can address the legislative body directly in real time. Additionally, public comments will be allowed up until the public comment period is closed at the meetings. The agenda will include information on the manner in which the public may access the meeting and provide comments remotely. If technical problems arise that result in the public's access being disrupted, the legislative body will not take any vote or other official action until the technical disruption is corrected and public access is restored.

The attached Resolution allows the Executive Committee to implement AB 361 by making the findings discussed above. These findings will be in effect for 30 days or until the Executive Committee makes findings that the conditions listed therein no longer exist, whichever is shorter. The findings can be extended by the Executive Committee upon a finding that conditions supporting the findings included in the Resolution still exist. The authorization to meet remotely will also apply to any Committees that meet during the 30-day effective period.

AB 361 will allow for virtual meetings during other state-proclaimed emergencies, such as earthquakes or wildfires, where physical attendance may present a risk. AB 361 is scheduled to sunset January 1, 2024.

**Prior Action(s):**

None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the adoption of the presented resolution.

**Attachment(s):**

[Attachment 1 - Resolution Number 01-22; AB 361 findings](#)

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 01-22**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
INLAND REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK  
AUTHORIZING VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361**

**WHEREAS**, the Inland Regional Energy Network (“I-REN”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Executive Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, as a “legislative body” under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963) and as required by the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT NO. 22-1002767 BY AND BETWEEN COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND SAN BERNARDINO ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS AND WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR 2022-2027 INLAND REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK (I-REN), all meetings of I-REN’s Executive Committee are open and public so that any member of the public may attend and participate in WRCOG’s meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, starting in March 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19 in the State of California, the Governor issued a number of executive orders aimed at containing the COVID-19 virus; and

**WHEREAS**, among other things, these orders waived certain requirements of the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies to meet virtually; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s executive order related to the suspension of certain provisions of the Brown Act expired on September 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361 (in effect as of October 1, 2021 – Government Code Section 54953(e)), which allows legislative bodies to meet virtually provided there is a state of emergency, and either (1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or (2) the legislative body determines by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

**WHEREAS**, such conditions now exist in I-REN, specifically, a State of Emergency has been proclaimed related to COVID-19 and state or local officials are recommending measures to promote social distancing.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Executive Committee of the Inland Regional Energy Network as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Findings. Consistent with the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e), the Executive Committee finds and determines that (1) a State of Emergency related to COVID-19 is currently in effect and (2) state or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing in connection with COVID-19.

Section 3. Remote Teleconference Meetings. Based on the findings and determinations included herein, the Executive Committee will conduct remote teleconference meetings under the provisions of Government Code Section 54953(e) and shall provide public access to its meetings as provided in Section 54953(e).

Section 4. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption and shall be effective for 30 days unless extended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee in accordance with Section 5 of this Resolution.

Section 5. Extension by Motion; Supersede. The Executive Committee may extend the application of this Resolution by motion and majority vote by up to 30 days at a time, provided that it makes all necessary findings consistent with and pursuant to the requirements of Section 54953(e)(3). Any such extension may be made before or after the expiration of the preceding 30-day period.

Section 6. Full and Fair Access. In making the findings included herein, the Executive Committee specifically relies on Section 8(b) of Statutes 2021, c.165 (AB 361, § 3, effective September 16, 2021) which provides as follows:

(b) The Legislature finds and declares that [the changes made by AB 361 to] Section 54953 of the Government Code, all increase and potentially limit the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

- (1) By removing the requirement that public meetings be conducted at a primary physical location with a quorum of members present, this act protects the health and safety of civil servants and the public and does not preference the experience of members of the public who might be able to attend a meeting in a physical location over members of the public who cannot travel or attend that meeting in a physical location.
- (2) By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the location of each public official participating in a public meeting remotely, including from the member's private home or hotel room, this act protects the personal, private information of public officials and their families while preserving the public's right to access information concerning the conduct of the people's business.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Executive Committee of the Inland Regional Energy Network on December 13, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair  
I-REN Executive Committee

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven DeBaun  
WRCOG Legal Counsel

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_      NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_      ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_      ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_



# Inland Regional Energy Network

## I-REN Executive Committee

### Staff Report

**Subject:** Selection of I-REN Executive Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair Positions for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

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

**Date:** December 13, 2022

#### **Requested Action(s):**

1. Select leadership positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this item is to select I-REN Executive Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair leadership positions for remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023

#### **Background:**

*The I-REN Executive Committee will be comprised of elected official members from each of the three participating agencies (member COGs): the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG).*

#### **Overview**

Per Memorandum of Agreement No.22-1002767 between CVAG, SBCOG, and WRCOG, entered into on November 28, 2022, each member COG will have three votes on voting matters. Each COG's governing board will determine how its voting power will be exercised. Decisions will be made on a majority of the total votes cast on a matter.

The Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair all serve on an annual basis, with a term that runs through the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

WRCOG has been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and will serve as the administrative lead COG as the fiscal agent, purchasing and contracting entity, and primary regulatory contact manager for I-REN, and as such is responsible for administering I-REN day-to-day operations. However, WRCOG will have no more decision-making power than the other agencies and will work through the committee structure to ensure equal engagement for the entire region.

#### **Prior Action(s):**



None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The action itself does not make any financial transactions; however, costs related to I-REN are allocated in the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Agency Budget.

**Attachment(s):**

None.



# Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Regional Energy Networks (RENs) 101  
**Contact:** Benjamin Druyon, WRCOG Program Manager, [bdruyon@wrcog.us](mailto:bdruyon@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6727  
**Date:** December 13, 2022

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**Requested Action(s):**

1. Receive and file.
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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this item is to provide an introduction to the history of Regional Energy Networks and why they were created.

**Background:**

*This item is reserved for a presentation on the history of Regional Energy Networks (RENs).*

RENs were created by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in 2012, starting with SoCal REN and BayREN. They are coalitions of local governments formed to administer energy efficiency programs independent of Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs). They are authorized by the CPUC to provide programs and services that 1) fill gaps in programs the IOUs cannot or do not want to undertake; 2) focus on hard-to-reach (HTR) and disadvantaged communities (DAC); and 3) are replicable throughout the State of California and assist the State in reaching its aggressive energy efficiency goals.

RENs are funded by California utility ratepayers through the Public Goods Charge, collected through monthly utility bills. There is approximately \$600M available annually from the Public Goods Charge for energy efficiency programs. These funds that are collected by the CPUC help support the State's goals on energy efficiency. They can be used to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in public facilities, provide trainings, offer incentives, develop pathways for workforce development, and can be used for residential and multi-family energy efficiency programs, and much more.

**Prior Action(s):**

None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

All costs associated with this item are included in the approved I-REN budget.

**Attachment(s):**

None.



# Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** History and Background of the Inland Regional Energy Network  
**Contact:** Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs,  
[cdailey@wrcog.us](mailto:cdailey@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6720  
**Date:** December 13, 2022

### **Requested Action(s):**

1. Receive and file.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this item is to provide a presentation on the history of the development, approval, and implementation of the I-REN.

### **Background:**

*This item is reserved for a presentation on the history of the development of I-REN.*

Initiated in 2019, the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is a consortium of the Western Riverside Council of Governments, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (I-REN COG partners) that serve the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino. These partners have joined together and submitted a Business Plan to the CPUC in order to establish locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency programs.

Historically, the Inland Empire has faced challenges in receiving equitable opportunities to participate in energy efficiency and advanced energy. As dedicated representatives of local government, the I-REN COG partners bring established connections from their work serving this region and can provide support to fill gaps in existing energy efficiency services. I-REN will establish a locally administered regional energy network to ensure ratepayers in this region can become active participants in meeting California energy efficiency goals.

Together, I-REN represents 52 cities, 78 unincorporated county areas, 17 tribes, and 11% of the population of California, but its geographic arrangement, population, and distance from the state's major metropolitan areas result in inconsistent and insufficient service to the region. Further, the region is distinct from other southern California areas - particularly Los Angeles - with its own robust character, culture, and identity.

### **Prior Action(s):**

None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Attachment(s):**

None.



# Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Approval of I-REN Executive Committee 2023 Meeting Schedule  
**Contact:** Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs,  
[cdailey@wrcog.us](mailto:cdailey@wrcog.us), (951) 405-6720  
**Date:** December 13, 2022

**Requested Action(s):**

1. Approve the schedule of I-REN Executive Committee meetings for 2023

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this item is to provide and obtain approval of a meeting schedule for 2023.

**Background:**

Below are the proposed 2023 meeting dates for the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Executive Committee. All I-REN meeting dates are proposed for the 3rd Tuesday of the month, quarterly, at 2:00 p.m.

Day and Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
3rd Tues. @ 2:00 p.m.	17	<b>DARK</b>	<b>DARK</b>	18	<b>DARK</b>	<b>DARK</b>	18	<b>DARK</b>	<b>DARK</b>	17	<b>DARK</b>	<b>DARK</b>

**Prior Action(s):**

None.

**Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Attachment(s):**

None.