

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Rob Johnson at 9:30 a.m. on February 16, 2023, on the Zoom platform.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Johnson led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Banning - Doug Shulze
- City of Beaumont - Elizabeth Gibbs*
- City of Calimesa - Will Kolbow
- City of Corona - Jacob Ellis*
- City of Eastvale - Marc Donohue
- City of Hemet - Noah Rau
- City of Jurupa Valley - Rod Butler
- City of Lake Elsinore - Jason Simpson
- City of Moreno Valley - Mike Lee
- City of Murrieta - Ivan Holler*
- City of Perris - Clara Miramontes
- City of Riverside - Mike Futrell
- City of San Jacinto - Rob Johnson (Chair)
- City of Temecula - Betsy Lowrey
- County of Riverside - Jeff Van Wagenen
- EMWD - Jolene Walsh
- March JPA - Rodney McCraine

*Arrived after Roll Call

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arnold San Miguel from SCAG extended an invitation to register for the next Toolbox Tuesday on February 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Another webinar will take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. regarding curbside management. SCAG Housing Working Group meetings will take place on April 18, July 18, and October 17, 2023. Civic engagement equity and environmental justice call for application will provide \$5M to support a wide range of eligible land use and transportation planning activities.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR – (Banning / Jurupa Valley) 16 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 5.A and 5.B

were approved. The City of Riverside did not answer.

A. Summary Minutes from the January 19, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the January 19, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

B. Approval of the Third Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Yunex, LLC

Action:

1. Recommended that the the Executive Committee approve the Third Amendment with Yunex, LLC.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. I-REN Activities Update and Survey Participation Request

Benjamin Druyon, WRCOG Program Manager, presented on how WRCOG, CVAG, and SBCOG formed a partnership in 2017 due to loss of funding sources with other energy efficiency programs; this partnership is called Inland Regional Energy Network, or I-REN. The I-REN team hired a consultant to develop and submit a Business Plan to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which was formally approved in November 2021 for \$65M for program years 2022 through 2027.

I-REN will focus on three sectors: 1) Public, 2) Codes and Standards, and 3) Workforce, Education and Training. Through these sectors, there will be some direct benefits to participating members which include technical assistance, financial incentives, energy modeling services, benchmarking services, Title 24 Code Compliance trainings, energy certification programs, and placement of I-REN Energy Fellows.

WRCOG's representatives are Crystal Ruiz from the City of San Jacinto (and serving as the Chair of I-REN's Executive Committee), Chris Barajas from the City of Jurupa Valley, and Jacque Casillas from the City of Corona. CVAG's representative is Oscar Ortiz (serving as Vice-Chair), and SBCOG's representatives are Art Bishop (serving as 2nd Vice-Chair) from the Town of Apple Valley, Curt Hagman from the County of San Bernardino, and Deborah Robertson from the City of Rialto. An agreement between the three COGs was formed, as well as the governance and operations rules to determine duties of the individual COGs as well as the I-REN Executive Committee.

A program agreement was developed between I-REN and SoCal Gas, which will allow transfer of ratepayer funds to WRCOG from SoCal Gas. Highlights were presented on the development of the I-REN Strategic Plan, a 5-year Organizational Plan. This was designed to ensure effective and efficient use of ratepayer funds, identify clear priorities and actions, and to ensure activities and engagement are aligned across all members of I-REN.

Committee members were reminded on the importance of their participation in a recent survey that was distributed prior to the meeting and will be open until February 28, 2023.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. Streetlight Program, Broadband, and Energy Resilience Activities Update

Daniel Soltero, WRCOG Program Manager, presented information on the ICARP Adaptation Planning Grants Program (APGP), which helps public entities, tribes, and community-based organizations fill planning needs, provides resources to identify climate resilience priorities, and supports development of climate resilience projects across the state. The Energy Resilience Plan was completed in December of 2022 in response to increasing power outages from wildfires, extreme heat, or public safety. Staff are preparing an application to the ICARP APGP to build upon the existing Energy Resilience Plan by proposing to conduct energy resilience / microgrid feasibility studies at 10 different member agency-owned sites or facilities across the subregion to identify the facilities that need energy resilience upgrades the most.

Various updates were provided on the State's broadband initiatives and funding programs. The Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative advertised bids to construct the 10,000-mile fiber optic network in Q4 2022, and bids were due at the end of December 2022. The CPUC provided comments on the Loan Loss Reserve Fund in November 2022, and a Proposed Decision on how funds will be implemented is anticipated in Q1 2023. The Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Grants Program reimburses local agencies and tribes for pre-construction activities in broadband projects, and has received 116 applications that request more funding than the Program has to offer. In Riverside County, four LATA grants have been awarded to public agencies amounting to nearly \$1.3M. The Federal Funding Account / Last Mile Infrastructure Deployment initiative released Priority Maps in January 2023 which will help facilitate distribution of funds, and although a date has not yet been announced, the CPUC will provide additional tools and application materials.

The Streetlight Program oversees an Agreement with Yunex for streetlight retrofit and maintenance services, which expires on December 1, 2023. Staff are preparing a Request for Proposals to solicit bids for streetlight maintenance services, which is expected to be released in March or April 2023. Member agencies will be invited to participate in the bid review process. Moreover, staff are preparing the 2022 annual streetlight maintenance reports for participating member agencies, which will provide details on work orders and maps of pole knockdowns or other notable work orders.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. Western Riverside County Clean Cities Coalition Activities Update

Taylor York, WRCOG Program Manager, presented an update on Clean Cities Coalition activities that occurred during the fourth quarter of 2022. The Coalition focuses on outreach, resource sharing, and partnership-building for the deployment of alternative-fuel vehicles and infrastructure. The Coalition is moving forward with its work under the Clean Cities Energy and Environmental Justice Initiative (CCEEJ), which is funded through the Justice40 initiative – focusing 40% of federal investment in disadvantaged communities. Coalition staff previously participated in CCEEJ outreach training. WRCOG was awarded funding to support a Community Engagement Liaison Fellow for two years to focus on EEJ-related mobility outreach and engagement in the WRCOG subregion. Staff is currently preparing the job description, and hopes to fill the position in April.

Because WRCOG prepared a Community Transportation Needs Assessment for focused census tracts

in the subregion, WRCOG is now eligible to apply for up to \$1M in funding to deploy solutions that address the identified challenges. Staff is working to identify interests and prepare an application for funding. Staff has also applied for funding to conduct a needs assessment in additional areas of the subregion and are waiting for award results.

Clean Cities staff hosted the first-quarter Coalition meeting on January 31, 2023, at the California Air Resources Board (CARB) facility in Riverside. The meeting began with a tour of the recently completed facility. Following the tour, Coalition staff hosted a facilitated listening session to better understand zero emission vehicle (ZEV) technology challenges, as well as challenges related to State ZEV transition mandates. Discussion provided valuable feedback, which will inform the preparation of the three-year strategic plan for Coalition work, which will be prepared over the next few months. The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2023.

Between November 14 and 17, 2023, Coalition staff attended the annual Clean Cities Coordinator Training workshop in Denver, CO. The workshop provided training on managing successful Coalitions, and opportunities to share expertise, success stories, and lessons learned. Mr. York participated in a panel and discussed the important role of Clean Cities Coalitions in addressing federal equity priorities and examples of how Coalitions are taking on new EEJ-inspired activities. Mr. York also announced that he was nominated and accepted a two-year term as the California Region Clean Cities Director.

Action:

1. Received and filed

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Wilson, WRCOG Executive Director, reminded the Committee that all 109 WRCOG elected officials are voting members at the General Assembly. Community Service Award nominations are now open and will close on Friday March 3, 2023. General Assembly will be held at Pechanga Resort and Casino on June 29, 2023, and will have Doris Kerns Goodwin, Presidential historian, as the guest speaker. The theme for this year is "Connecting with our past, partnering for our future."

Dr. Wilson also reported that the Classification and Compensation Study has been completed. The Agency's budget will be presented to the Executive Committee in May for their recommendations. Dr. Wilson also reminded Committee member to complete their Form 700s.

Lastly, Alyssa Cox is now president of Cal-ICMA and is looking for volunteers for Cal-ICMA committees. Interested parties are encouraged to reach out to her.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:22 a.m.