

# Technical Advisory Committee

## Minutes

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Jeff Van Wagenen at 9:31 a.m. on February 17, 2022, on the Zoom platform.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Van Wagenen led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

- City of Banning - Doug Schulze
- City of Calimesa - Bonnie Johnson
- City of Canyon Lake - Chris Mann
- City of Eastvale - Marc Donohue
- City of Jurupa Valley - Rod Butler
- City of Menifee - Armando Villa
- City of Moreno Valley - Mike Lee
- City of Murrieta - Kim Summers
- City of Norco - Andy Okoro\*
- City of Perris - Clara Miramontes
- City of Riverside - AL Zelinka\*
- City of San Jacinto - Rob Johnson
- City of Temecula - Aaron Adams
- City of Wildomar - Dan York
- County of Riverside - Jeff Van Wagenen (Chair)
- Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) - Danielle Coats
- March JPA - Dr. Grace Martin

\*Arrived after Roll Call

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR** – (San Jacinto / Banning) 16 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 5.A through 5.H were approved.

#### **A. Summary Minutes from the November 18, 2021, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Action:**

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the November 18, 2021, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

## **B. Single Signature Authority Report**

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **C. Finance Department Activities Update**

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **D. ICMA Activities Update**

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **E. SCAG Activities Update**

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **F. Proposed Revisions to Grant Writing Assistance Program Guidelines**

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **G. Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Audit**

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **H. Cal Cities Activities Update**

### **Action:**

1. Received and filed.

## **6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

### **A. 2nd Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2021/2022**

Andrew Ruiz, WRCOG Chief Financial Officer, reported that WRCOG had two major amendments during the 2nd quarter – HERO Legal Expenses and the I-REN budget.

Legal expenses for the HERO Program were higher than originally anticipated. WRCOG's partner in the Program declared bankruptcy in December 2020, causing a drastic increase in legal expenses for the Program. With the increase in revenues from early payoffs of assessments, there will be a total net

increase in revenues of \$30k for the Program.

WRCOG's I-REN has received budget approval by the California Public Utilities Commission for a six-year, \$65 million budget. The budget amendment for the remainder of FY 2021/2022 is approximately \$5 million, but the full annual budget for I-REN is over \$10 million.

Any unspent funds from any calendar year can be rolled over to the next until the program cycle ends, which is 2027.

**Action:**

1. Recommended that the Executive Committee approve the 2nd Quarter draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

(Jurupa Valley / Temecula) 15 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 6.A was approved.

**B. WRCOG Broadband Assessment**

Daniel Soltero, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that there is a increased demand for internet bandwidth due to more smart devices in the market and the number of people working from home.

Michael Baker International (MBI) conducted research to identify agencies and organizations that have successfully implemented either city-wide or regional broadband.

Staff met virtually with the County of Riverside to discuss its RIVCO Connect Program. Although RIVCO Connect has not yet been implemented, the County will continue to work with local government agencies to streamline the permitting process and attract internet service providers to the region. Staff also held discussions with the Inland Empire Broadband Consortium (IERBC), a non-profit organization funded by a CPUC grant, which seeks to advance smart communities by attracting internet service providers to San Bernardino and Riverside Counties to deploy broadband in unserved or underserved communities.

Staff also met with the Cities of Loma Linda and Rancho Cucamonga, as well as the South Bay Cities COG (SBCCOG). A few of the key lessons learned from those discussions are that fiber networks should be constructed with built-in redundancy; local governments should adopt "dig once / dig smart" policies and install as much fiber as possible; and that while public-private partnerships can be tough to navigate, they can be an effective method to expedite construction of fiber networks. Finally, the SBCCOG Fiber Network made it clear that regional collaboration provides bargaining power and can help reduce broadband service rates for local governments.

Staff provided a listing of funding opportunities established by federal and state legislation that support broadband planning and implementation projects. Staff are evaluating the potential for Regional Streetlight Program revenues to subsidize grant writing assistance for participating members seeking broadband or smart city grants.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**C. I-REN Status and Activities Update**

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, reported that I-REN's Business Plan and budget was approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in the amount of \$65 million for years 2022 – 2027. For those jurisdictions which opt-in to participate in I-REN, staff have identified approximately \$25,000 each year for technical services, as well as access to Building Upgrade Concierge, energy modeling services, bench marking, and quarterly Title 24 training.

Staff is working on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and the San Bernardino Council of Governments, a Governance & Operations Charter, and a Program Agreement with SoCal Gas. The MOA and Charter will be presented to committees in the future once completed. Staff desires to model the WRCOG Fellowship Program for an I-REN Intern Program (REN-terns) in which interns will be housed at member agency locations. I-REN is required by the CPUC to file a Joint Cooperation Memorandum, which was filed in January 2022. Today's requested action, if approved, will provide for the preparation and filing of an Implementation Plan. A Program Agreement amongst the Investor-Owned Utilities (SCE and the SoCal Gas) will be brought forward in the near future. An Annual Budget Advice Letter is not due until September 2023, and is required by all RENs operating throughout the state. Working groups for each sector of the Program need to be created. An I-REN Executive Committee needs to be created, which will include as many as three elected officials from each COG. These matters will be presented during a future meeting.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**D. Trip Origin-Destination Assessment**

Christopher Tzeng, WRCOG Program Manager, provided an overview of the origin-destination assessment utilizing big data as a means to better understand whether TUMF is fulfilling its goal of providing to major arterial roadways to accommodate for regional travel in the WRCOG subregion. The analysis utilized big data from Streetlight Data and commuting data sources, such as the California Household Travel Survey and the Longitudinal Employer Housing Dynamics. The analysis looked into items such as the origin of trips traveling into the boundaries of each member agency, the destination of trips traveling from each member agency, commute trip distances, trip type, and the trip distribution to-and-from each member agency during the p.m. peak hour. Draft assessments have been summarized and will be disseminated to the respective Committee members for input after this meeting.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**7. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Jeff Van Wagenen had no report.

**7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Kurt Wilson reported that the WRCOG's 31st General Assembly speaker will be Apple Co-founder, Steve Wozniak.

**8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas.

## **9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee member Aaron Adams thanked WRCOG and staff for their part in the fully funded French Valley Parkway. The groundbreaking is scheduled for fall 2022, with an estimated 18-months completion.

Chair Van Wagenen shared that on February 23, 2022, the County and its partners will be taking place in the Annual Point in Time count. Chair Van Wagenen welcomes anyone that can come out and support and thanks those that had been sharing the event.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., on the Zoom platform.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:38 a.m.