

**Technical Advisory Committee
April 16, 2020
Summary Minutes**

Item 4.A

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Chris Lopez on the virtual platform, Zoom.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present:

Todd Parton, City of Beaumont
Bonnie Johnson, City of Calimesa
Chris Mann, City of Canyon Lake
Jacob Ellis, City of Corona
Bryan Jones, City of Eastvale
Chris Lopez, City of Hemet, Chair
Rod Butler, City of Jurupa Valley
Grant Yates, City of Lake Elsinore
Armando Villa, City of Menifee
Mike Lee, City of Moreno Valley
Kim Summers, City of Murrieta
Andy Okoro, City of Norco
Clara Miramontes, City of Perris
Al Zelinka, City of Riverside
Aaron Adams, City of Temecula
Danielle Coats, Eastern Municipal Water District
Mathew Evans, March Joint Powers Authority
Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District

Staff present:

Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel
Rick Bishop, Executive Director
Barbara Spoonhour, Deputy Executive Director - Operations
Andrew Ruiz, Chief Financial Officer
Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Programs
Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning
Princess Hester, RCHCA Director of Administration
Tyler Masters, Program Manager
Cameron Brown, Program Manager
Don Ries, Program Manager
Elisa Laurel, Program Manager
Janis Leonard, Administrative Services Manager
Anthony Segura, Senior Analyst
Ivana Medina, Staff Analyst
Justin White, Staff Analyst
Kyle Rodriguez, Staff Analyst
Rachel Singer, Staff Analyst
Daniel Soltero, Staff Analyst
Suzy Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Diana Vaca, Technician

Guests present:

Rafael Guzman, City of Riverside
Erin Sasse, League of California Cities
A.J. Wilson, International City / County Management Association (ICMA)
Arnold San Miguel, Southern California Association of Governments
Darci Kuenzi, County of Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Kenneth Phung, City of Perris
Nadia Ibarra, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Edgar Prado, Member of the Public

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

AJ Wilson shared that the ICMA's website (<https://icma.org/>) has information regarding the nationwide coronavirus crisis response. It is available to all city and county managers, no matter if you are a member of ICMA or not.

4. MINUTES (*Lake Elsinore / Temecula*) 18 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; *Item 4.A was approved. The Cities of Banning, San Jacinto, and Wildomar, the County of Riverside, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.*

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

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

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

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

(Lake Elsinore / EMWD) 18 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; Item 4.B was approved. The Cities of Banning, San Jacinto, and Wildomar, the County of Riverside, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.

5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Report from the League of California Cities

Erin Sasse provided an update on current activities in the legislature. The CARES Act is still being cleaned up since it does not allow for smaller cities to receive any financial assistance due to smaller populations. H.R. 6467 creates a path for the other 99.2% of the California cities that were shut out of the CARES Act to receive direct federal aid. The League's Divisional meeting for May 11, 2020, has been cancelled. The weekly OES calls for the region have now been pushed to bi-weekly, and also allow all local government officials to join in.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

B. Energy & Environmental Department Activities Update

Kyle Rodriguez provided an update on the 2nd Annual SoCal AltCar Conference, Expo, and Ride & Drive taking place. This year's event will be held on October 28, 2020, at the Bourns Technology Center located by the University of California, Riverside. This event helps increase awareness and

knowledge of alternative fuel vehicle choices available and includes discussions with leading policymakers, sustainability directors, fleet managers on the importance of advanced technology in transportation, and more.

Daniel Soltero provided a status update on the Regional Streetlight Program's Operation & Maintenance (O&M) responses for January and February 2020. There were 261 streetlight O&M responses across participating jurisdictions. The most common streetlight issues recorded were lamp burnouts in jurisdictions where the retrofit may not have been completed. The 2nd most common response was for power issues arising from the customer-side and on the SCE-side. Furthermore, there were 24 responses for extraordinary streetlight maintenance, which includes nine pole knockdowns, replacement of four felled poles, and seven bid jobs requested by the jurisdiction.

The City of Menifee is currently conducting its streetlight retrofit and has converted 60%, or 4,000, of its streetlights to LED fixtures. The City of Perris is anticipated to start its LED retrofit project in April 2020. WRCOG is coordinating with jurisdictions that may conduct a 2nd SCE True-Up to acquire remaining poles in the field and convert them to LED technology.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

C. Finance Department Activities Update

Andrew Ruiz provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Agency Budget development process. Due to the recent events nationwide, WRCOG has taken a conservative approach in its budget due to uncertain long-term impacts of COVID-19. Overall, the Agency's budget will be cut by approximately 30%, and staff will continue updating the committees throughout the development process as the virus runs its course.

Staff is also taking into consideration Agency liabilities such as pension obligations to CalPERS, including reducing its Unfunded Accrued Liability by lowering its term to 15 years, and establishing a Section 115 Trust investment account to make additional annual payments.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

D. TUMF Program Activities Update

Chris Gray provided an update on current TUMF activities and the unforeseen economic impacts of COVID-19. As staff has been analyzing the anticipation of possible changes, the TUMF Program is continuing as normal during the office closure. Staff is working remotely, and fee payments are being processed through the online portal, either through e-check, wire transfer, or credit card. Developers can still make payments by mailing checks to the WRCOG office. In the month of March, the Program has collected \$3.7M. So far, WRCOG has collected \$35M in overall Program revenues during this fiscal year.

WRCOG's subregion experienced a significant downturn between 2007 and 2010; unemployment increased from 5% in 2006 to 14% by 2010. At that time, WRCOG adopted a policy to allow jurisdictions to discount fees by 50%. Allowing this change, 10 of the 17 jurisdictions opted to discount fees. Permit activity showed no statistical changes in development. Many of the permits issued in 2012 were never used and had to be refunded in later years. A total of \$29M in TUMF revenue was not collected by local jurisdictions because of the last fee reduction.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

E. Western Community Energy Activities Update

Barbara Spoonhour reported that Western Community Energy (WCE) launched in April, servicing the Cities of Norco, Perris, and Wildomar. WCE will begin servicing the Cities of Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, and Hemet in May 2020. WCE's Board adopted rates and has met the goal of a 2% reduction in a customer's total utility bill; WCE customers will save a combined total of \$6M annually. WCE offers two product choices – Choice Plan, which equals 37% renewable energy, and Choice Plan Plus which equals 100% green energy.

If additional jurisdictions would like to join WCE, for a 2022 launch, jurisdictions would need to join WCE and adopt the CCA ordinance by December 31, 2020.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

F. Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency Activities Update

Princess Hester provided information on the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA), which formed in 1996 as a Joint Powers Authority consisting of the Cities of Corona, Hemet, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, Temecula, and Wildomar, and the County of Riverside. RCHCA is responsible for administration and operation of over 40,000 acres of conserved lands and ecosystems to protect the endangered Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR).

In May 2019, the consolidation of RCHCA staff and operations under WRCOG were completed. The merger creates a succinct Agency and streamlines governmental processes.

In 2020, RCHCA's focus is on species recovery, working to demonstrate that species population has increased and that there is a low level of threats, and supporting federal reclassification of SKR from "endangered" to "threatened." RCHCA is working to develop a Trails Concept Design Plan to allow for low impact recreational opportunities as a deterrent of unwanted access and activities detrimental to sensitive habitat.

Action: 1. *Received and filed.*

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rick Bishop reported that WRCOG has created a weekly newsletter called "The Briefing," which includes status updates on programs within the Agency, as well as any COVID-19 updates. A monthly virtual webinar series on innovating through disruption called, "Future Forward," has launched. Staff is excited to host its first webinar on April 30, 2020, with Teifion Rice-Evans, Managing Principal at Economic Planning Systems, as the guest speaker.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

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

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:31 a.m.