

Technical Advisory Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Vice-Chair Rod Butler at 9:30 a.m. on May 18, 2023, in WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Butler led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Beaumont - Elizabeth Gibbs
- City of Calimesa - Will Kolbow
- City of Canyon Lake - Nicole Dailey
- City of Corona - Justin Tucker
- City of Eastvale - Mark Orme
- City of Hemet - Mark Prestwich
- City of Jurupa Valley - Rod Butler (Vice-Chair)
- City of Menifee - Rochelle Clayton
- City of Moreno Valley - Michael Lloyd
- City of Murrieta - Kim Summers
- City of Perris - Clara Miramontes
- City of Riverside - Mike Futrell
- City of Temecula - Betsy Lowrey
- City of Wildomar - Dan York
- County of Riverside - Jeff Van Wagenen
- EMWD - Jolene Walsh
- March JPA - Grace Martin

Members Absent:

- City of Banning - Doug Schulze
- City of Lake Elsinore - Jason Simpson
- City of Norco - Lori Sassoon
- City of San Jacinto - Rob Johnson
- Western Water - Craig Miller
- Riverside County Office of Education - Matt Snellings

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arnold San Miguel from SCAG reported that Connect SoCal is conducting virtual open-house sessions

for its Visionary Plan. Then next sessions will be on May 22, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., May 23, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and May 24, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, after 34 years of service, Mr. San Miguel will be retiring from SCAG; tomorrow is his last day.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR – (County of Riverside / Eastvale) 17 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 5.A and 5.B were approved.

A. Summary Minutes from the April 20, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the April 20, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

B. 2023 Western Riverside County TUMF Regional Arterial List Update

Actions:

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee approve the six projects identified for RCTC Regional Arterial TUMF Funding.
2. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee provide a recommendation to the RCTC Budget and Implementation Committee to approve the six projects for RCTC Arterial TUMF Funding.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. I-REN Public Sector Program Updates

Code Bruder, Program Manager from The Energy Coalition (TEC), discussed program services and offerings, and shared next steps for the I-REN Public Sector Program. TEC has partnered with Alternative Energy Systems Consulting (AESC) and TEC for energy engineering support, and with Public Financial Management for financial support.

There are two broad categories of support that TEC will offer: Customized project support and continuous engagement.

Through customized project support, TEC will collect and analyze data to create a resilience roadmap to optimize energy resilience over time. TEC will then conduct an energy audit to identify energy cost savings, and conduct a financial analysis on the project. Finally, TEC will assist in securing funding and financing, such as grants, incentives, and loans, for those projects.

Continuous engagement in each of the steps in the customized project support would involve conducting territory-wide orientations and workshops to gain feedback on what type of projects would be most beneficial. TEC will also host webinars to inform member agencies of the project and services provided. Finally, TEC will conduct case studies to gauge the effects of a project and celebrate success.

There are several incentive structure options. Through the Normalized Meter Energy Consumption (NMEC) Program, agencies will measure savings at the meter pre-project, and post-project. The NMEC Program measures savings at the meter. It compares the pre-project consumption with the post-project consumption to evaluate the energy savings through that project. NMEC incentivizes all savings, not just those that meet the California energy code. Traditional programs often incentivize per unit for lighting or

HVAC, whereas NMEC incentivizes based on saved kWh. This allows for much greater incentives and savings recognized by the California Public Utilities Commission, reducing stranded savings.

Vice-Chair Butler asked if the incentives offered by the I-REN Program were significant enough for member agencies that already have established relationships with other energy efficiency companies to consider putting that process on hold.

Mr. Bruder replied that I-REN can provide support by reviewing the contract and measures that the other company is offering to ensure that it is up to par with what I-REN engineering partners offer, as well as making sure that the company is garnering all possible incentives. For the NMEC Program, it would depend on which stage of the process an agency is in, as there would need to be measurements taken at an early stage to be able to prove influence over the project.

TEC staff will meet with member agencies through in-person orientation workshops to assess the needs and tailor support for each agency. TEC will then finalize the Implementation Plan following regulatory requirements, and finally, develop and launch those programs and services.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. Housing Element Compliance

Colin Drukker from PlaceWorks reported that any jurisdiction with an uncertified Housing Element, or has not completed necessary rezoning, is considered out of compliance with state housing law. For those that are in compliance, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) can rescind certification if rezonings are not completed on time. Jurisdictions may count projects that were certified starting June 30, 2021, as a part of its Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The deadline for rezoning is February 15, 2025.

Some of the funding programs available to jurisdictions with compliant Housing Elements include the Permanent Local Housing Allocation, Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities, SB 1 Planning Grants, CalHOME Program, Infill Infrastructure Grants, Prohousing Designation / Incentive Pilot Program, and other regional and state funding programs.

Potential consequences of not being in compliance include loss of local land use control and permitting authority, court receivership to bring a jurisdiction into compliance, legal suits, and financial penalties. The Builder's Remedy is available for those projects which take a number of years to get approved due to public opposition. These special projects are pre-approved if they meet certain requirements, but does not exempt it from meeting the California Environmental Quality Act. The financial penalties can range from \$10k to \$100k per month, with increasing penalties of up to six times that amount if a jurisdiction fails to comply after 18 months, and a potential garnishing of funds if those penalties are not paid.

Mr. Drukker is available for one-on-one meetings regarding research and strategy development related to Housing Element compliance. Interested members agencies should contact WRCOG's Suzanne

Peterson at speterson@wrcog.us to coordinate assistance.

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director asked whether there is a case of selective enforcement with HCD.

Mr. Drukker responded that there are some cities that are on HCD's list, and then it focuses on the larger jurisdictions. There is a potential for the Federal Government to get involved, but this is unlikely unless there is a consistent problem.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. Santa Monica Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Compliance Program

Richard Boone from the Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (Flood Control) explained the new NPEDS Permit requirements. The 3 key elements include Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Option.

MCMs control water quality in the region and deals with land development projects that incorporate structural water quality features. This would require a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) for streets or roadways with over 5,000 square feet of paved surface. For commercial and industrial sites, the sites are subject to inspection if over 20 acres with a quarterly reporting on facilities without NPEDS permits. Agencies would also have to update ordinances and municipal codes. For municipal facilities, a pest control component should be integrated, and an increased cleaning of catch basins.

The Love Your Neighborhood Program is a form of social engagement, which partners with Districts to lead local community clean-up events.

The Middle Santa Ana River (MSAR) Bacterial Indicators TMDLs manage bacteria to maintain a certain level of water quality. Programs look to treat the water coming out of the outpour and diverting it to the Santa Ana River, or completely drying up the water shed.

Another focus is the Canyon Lake / Lake Elsinore Nutrients TMDL, and monitors levels which may lead to algae growths.

Trash TMDLs require member agencies to install full capture systems in storm drains.

Finally, the Watershed Management Planning (WMP) may serve as an alternate method to comply with receiving water limitations. In terms of water quality, objectives are typically met in both dry and wet weather. 85 of 89 Los Angeles cities implemented WMPs to address water quality issues in compliance with new regulations.

A series of projects will be developed to address water quality. Elements of the WMP include low impact development, Green Streets, and regional projects. L.A. County passed Measure W in 2018, which raised the taxes to \$300M annually as part of its implementation process. The Santa Ana Region is in the middle of this process, as negotiations with California Regional Water Control Board. Once adopted, jurisdiction will have to implement, revise, and enhance programs across most departments such as

Public Works, Parks & Recreation, and Code Enforcement, to meet these requirements.

There will be opportunities for elected officials to provide input to the Santa Ana Water Control Board.

Committee member Mike Futrell asked if there are any funding opportunities, or any way of slowing down the process to lessen the impact on city funding.

Mr. Boone responded that this would be up to each city to fund, or private development. Upon adoption, there will be a schedule of implementation of 20, 30, or 40 years.

Committee member Clara Miramontes asked if there are any grandfather clauses for ongoing projects, with a change in regulations.

Mr. Boone replied that there are currently no grandfather clauses. The best thing to do is put out a notice with information notifying the public that changes are coming. This issue may be brought up at the engagement meetings with the Santa Ana Water Control Board.

Committee member Grace Martin asked whether the conditions were improving with the newly implemented TMDLs.

Mr. Boone replied that Lake Elsinore continues to present a challenge. It is currently in compliance; however, it needs more management control. Lakes are a unique feature that needs a nuanced approach to its management.

Vice-Chair Butler asked if the parcel tax of Measure W went to a general vote.

Mr. Boone replied yes, and passed with approximately 68% approval.

Darcy Kuenzi of Flood Control stated that the California Stormwater Quality Association is looking to redefine stormwater as a utility, and may reach out to members to provide letters of support, or submit audits.

Action:

1. Received and filed

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Wilson reminded the Committee of the upcoming WRCOG General Assembly is only six weeks away. Sponsorship opportunities are still available if there are any vendors who wish to participate. As a reminder, all elected officials of all WRCOG committees are voting members of the General Assembly. If any members have questions, please reach out to WRCOG staff and they will be happy to help.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chair Butler encouraged members to keep the Sheriff Department in their thoughts and prayers, as there have been four deaths in less than five months.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 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 10:35 a.m.