

# 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 Rob Johnson at 9:30 a.m. on June 15, 2023, in WRCOG's office.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Johnson 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 Eastvale - Mark Orme
- City of Hemet - Mark Prestwich
- City of Jurupa Valley - Rod Butler
- City of Lake Elsinore - Jason Simpson\*
- City of Menifee - Armando Villa\*
- City of Moreno Valley - Michael Lloyd
- City of Murrieta - Kim Summers
- City of Norco - Lori Sassoon
- City of Perris - Ernie Reyna
- City of Riverside - Mike Futrell
- City of San Jacinto - Rob Johnson
- City of Temecula - Betsy Lowrey
- City of Wildomar - Dan York
- County of Riverside - Jeff Van Wagenen
- EMWD - Jolene Walsh
- March JPA - Dan Fairbanks

\* Arrived after Roll Call

#### Members absent:

- City of Banning
- City of Corona
- Western Water

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR** – (County of Riverside / Jurupa Valley) 17 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Item 5.A was approved.

**A. Summary Minutes from the May 18, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Action:**

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the May 18, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

**6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

**A. I-REN Orientation Meetings**

Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that I-REN is composed of WRCOG, CVAG, and SBCOG, with a goal to implement energy efficiency programs and services within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. There will be a total of 18 orientation meetings within the different member agencies beginning in May through the end of summer to introduce I-REN to jurisdictional staff, and inform them of its goals.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

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

Daniel Soltero, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that WRCOG will be posting a Request for Proposals in June 2023, seeking streetlight operation and maintenance providers for nine agencies and approximately 36,000 streetlights, which would include outages, knockdowns, retrofits, and other maintenance calls. Staff is currently seeking more participants from member agencies to participate as the Bid Review Committee. There has been an increase in new streetlight installations, as various members are adding them to the program; nominal increases to revenues are expected.

Over the last year, WRCOG staff have been tracking broadband funding opportunities and participating in broadband workshops to bring broadband to the region. The Local Agency Technical Assistance grant awarded five out of seven of the Riverside County applicants with a total of \$2.2M. Last Mile Deployment will fund broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved and underserved communities with broadband service. The CPUC released the Grant Application Tool and will begin accepting applications in summer of 2023. Member agencies can use the Local Jurisdiction Permitting Playbook as a resource to help attract investment and deploy broadband.

With regard to the Energy Resilience Plan 2.0, WRCOG was awarded \$421K to study up to 10 sites across the subregion for feasibility of microgrids and community resilience centers. Public workshops will be conducted to obtain community input.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**C. Western Riverside County Clean Cities Coalition Activities Update**

Taylor York, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that WRCOG is working to apply for funding for an electric car share program and is currently seeking letters of support from eligible cities. There was a Community Transportation Needs Assessment done in the Cities of Corona, Moreno Valley, and San Jacinto, and deployment in those member agencies is currently underway.

WRCOG was awarded a Community Engagement Liaison by the U.S. Department of Energy for two years; the incumbent will focus on mobility-related challenges in EEJ communities.

The second Clean Cities Coalition meeting was held on April 26, 2023, at Karma Automotive; staff provided an overview of the Coalition's annual plan. One-on-one meetings with each jurisdiction are currently in progress, and the next Clean Cities Coalition meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2023, at a location yet to be determined.

AB 1236 requires cities and counties to limit electric vehicle charging station project reviews to health and safety requirements. AB 970 refers to permit streamlining for vehicle charging stations. If not addressed within 60 days, the application will be automatically approved.

WRCOG was also awarded a grant for the Houston to Los Angeles (H2LA) Hydrogen Corridor Planning Project to fuel along I-10 from Houston to Los Angeles. Staff will conduct direct engagement with cities along the I-10 corridor beginning in July 2023.

Staff is currently looking for funding for the Western Riverside County Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Transition Tool. They will work with member agencies to deploy chargers and vehicles, and create a resource to help members plan for and transition to ZEV.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**D. Southern California Edison 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plan**

Jeremy Goldman from Southern California Edison (SCE) reported that SCE covers 50,000 square miles across southern and central California, with over 5M customer accounts, with nearly 27% of the service area falling under high-risk of fire areas. In the past two years, there has been a decrease in Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) activations, meaning a better quality of service, and less service interruptions and de-energizations.

Eileen Bores from SCE stated that SCE will continue to harden the grid using advanced technologies and deploying complementary mitigations to achieve the greatest risk reductions. This can include replacing bare overhead powerlines with coated wire, to prevent arcing or sparking if it comes in contact with anything that may land on it. Inspections were conducted in high-risk areas by land and by air using drones and helicopters to assess necessary maintenance for repair or replacement. Vegetation management such as tree pruning is also very important.

Transformers are filled with a biodegradable fluid that helps insulate and cool them. Remote controlled automatic reclosers can switch off power when there is an issue and enable segmentation of circuits to minimize customer impacts.

Mark Cloud from SCE added that there are pre-selected sites in various cities that have been designated to provide affected customers with cooling centers with charging services, access to snacks, water, and ice, and translation services in case of an outage. For those that rely on medical devices, they are placed on a priority list to make sure they are informed about any emergency. An instant rebate option for those medical devices and affordable batteries are available.

There is an outage map available for the public to stay informed. Texts are also sent to notify customers of any emergency or outages. Safety preparedness plans are available on the SCE website.

Committee member Jolene Walsh asked if the SCE weather stations are connected to the broader California CIMIS stations or just used for SCE.

Bob Sterns stated all of the weather stations and wildfire cameras are available on the SCE website. All links and resources will be provided to the Committee.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director, reminded the Committee of the upcoming General Assembly on June 29, 2023, at Pechanga Resort Casino. If anyone is having issues with registration, please let WRCOG staff know as soon as possible. He thanked sponsors for their support.

**8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas.

**9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no general announcements.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The Technical Advisory Committee is dark during the month of July. The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 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 10:24 a.m.