

WRCOG Executive Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Crystal Ruiz at 2:00 p.m. on September 12, 2022, on the Zoom platform.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee member Ben Benoit led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Banning - David Happe
- City of Beaumont - Mike Lara
- City of Calimesa - Wendy Hewitt
- City of Canyon Lake - Dale Welty
- City of Corona - Jacque Casillas
- City of Eastvale - Christian Dinco
- City of Hemet - Russ Brown
- City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas
- City of Lake Elsinore - Brian Tisdale
- City of Menifee - Matt Liesemeyer
- City of Moreno Valley - Edward Delgado
- City of Murrieta - Lori Stone
- City of Norco - Kevin Bash
- City of Perris - Rita Rogers
- City of San Jacinto - Crystal Ruiz (Chair)
- City of Temecula - James Stewart
- City of Wildomar - Ben Benoit
- County, District 1 - Kevin Jeffries
- County, District 2 - Karen Spiegel
- County, District 3 - Chuck Washington
- Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) - Phil Paule
- Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) - Brenda Dennstedt
- WRCOG Executive Director - Dr. Kurt Wilson

*Arrived after Roll Call

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: District 2

SECONDER: Wildomar

AYES: Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, EMWD, WMWD

A. Assembly Bill 361 Findings

Action:

1. Affirmed the findings of the Executive Committee in Resolution Number 01-22, adopted on April 4, 2022, which are:
 - a. The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020, related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which State of Emergency continues to exist today; and
 - b. State or local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing.

B. Summary Minutes from the August 1, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the August 1, 2022, Executive Committee meeting.

C. Finance Department Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

D. WRCOG Committees and Agency Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

E. Report out of WRCOG Representatives on Various Committees

Action:

1. Received and filed.

F. Single Signature Authority Report

Action:

1. Received and filed.

G. Cal Cities Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

H. Housing Legislative Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

I. Approval of 2022 TUMF Central, Southwest, and Hemet/San Jacinto Zones' 5-Year Transportation Improvement Programs

Actions:

1. Approved the 2022 TUMF Central Zone 5-Year Transportation Improvement Program.
2. Approved the 2022 TUMF Southwest Zone 5-Year Transportation Improvement Program.
3. Approved the 2022 TUMF Hemet/San Jacinto Zone 5-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

J. Objective Design Standards Toolkit Document Transfer to the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG)

Action:

1. Authorized the WRCOG Executive Director to provide written approval enabling PlaceWorks, Inc., to share the Objective Design Standards Toolkit document developed by WRCOG with OCCOG.

K. Approval of Professional Services Agreement for TUMF Nexus Study

This item was pulled for discussion by Committee member Wendy Hewitt, who asked why WRCOG didn't stay with WSP.

Chris Gray, Deputy Executive Director, responded that the consultant employed by WSP has changed employment positions to a new company, GSD. WRCOG released a Request for Proposals (RFP), and GSD was the only firm to respond. Given the consultant's long time work in the TUMF Program, and the responsiveness to the RFP, staff is recommending approval of a new Agreement with GHD. There is not net change to the budget.

Action:

1. Authorized the Executive Director to execute a new Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG and GHD to complete the TUMF Nexus Study Update and provide TUMF Program Support in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000, for a term of the Agreement through June 30, 2023.

L. Resolution Supporting Solve the Water Crisis Coalition

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 24-22; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments in support of the Solve the Water Crisis Coalition

M. Approval of One TUMF Reimbursement Agreement

This item was pulled for discussion by Committee member Wendy Hewitt, who asked if this project has been delayed.

Chris Gray, Deputy Executive Director, responded that this project was secured by the City of Corona with a couple million dollars in federal funding, and the project was eligible for TUMF funding.

Action:

1. Authorized the Executive Director to execute a TUMF Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Corona for the Design, Right-Of-Way, and Construction Phases of the Ontario Avenue (Lincoln Avenue to Buena Vista Avenue) Project in an amount not to exceed \$2,300,000.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Presentation by the South Coast Air Quality Management District on the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan

Sarah Rees, South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Deputy Executive Officer, Planning & Rules, presented information regarding the 2022 draft Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

The AQMP serves as a regional blueprint to address Federal Air Quality Standards and includes various strategies to reduce Nitrogen Oxide (NOX) emissions, strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and other measures. AQMD has until 2037 to meet the ozone standard. This is going to require a lot of emissions reductions.

While state emissions have been reduced by over 50% over the past few decades, there is still a long way to go. Nitrogen oxides (NOx) is the key pollutant to reduce in order to meet the required ozone levels. NOx is formed when something burns. AQMD estimates that by the year 2017, the maximum amount of oxygen we can have in the atmosphere, and still be able to meet the 2015 ozone standard, is 60 tons per day. Over 80% of the NOx emissions in 2018 was from mobile sources.

AQMD will be holding public hearings for the 2022 AQMP in October. The public hearing for Riverside County will be held on October 20, 2022, via Zoom.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. PACE Programs Activities Update: Deferral of Judicial Foreclosures on Delinquent PACE Properties

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, reported that each year WRCOG must formally elect to defer judicial foreclosures on all delinquent residential and commercial properties. Deferring foreclosure ensures that no property owner is foreclosed on due to a delinquent PACE assessment.

For the 2021/2022 Tax Year, WRCOG enrolled just over 29,000 residential assessments and 45 commercial projects. Delinquencies as of August 10, 2022, include 373 residential parcels and 12 commercial parcels.

Over the past few years, WRCOG has partnered with First National Assets (FNA) to purchase PACE delinquencies to ensure that no property owner is foreclosed on due to a delinquent PACE assessment.

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 23-22; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments to defer foreclosure proceedings.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Wildomar

SECONDER: Perris

AYES: Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, EMWD, WMWD

C. I-REN Activities Update - Approval of Partner Program and Operational Agreements

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, reported that WRCOG, CVAG, and SANBAG have developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which identifies the CPUC-approved budget for each sector, authorizes a new Brown Act I-REN Executive Committee to approve all contracts and agreements, and authorizes WRCOG, as Administrative Lead COG, the authority to serve as administrator for all invoicing, contracts, and agreements.

Three volunteers from WRCOG's jurisdiction include Mayor Chris Barajas, City of Jurupa Valley; Mayor Crystal Ruiz, City of San Jacinto; and Councilmember Jacque Casillas, City of Corona, who, if selected, will be serving on the I-REN Executive Committee, which will meet on a quarterly basis.

WRCOG, CVAG, and SANBAG also developed a Governance & Operations Charter as an attachment to the MOA which establishes how the formation of the I-REN Executive Committee can be formed, how often it meets, its responsibilities, how the votes of the I-REN Executive Committee members are valued, and the responsibilities of I-REN's member COGs and their respective staff.

A Program Agreement was finalized between the I-REN member COGs, SoCal Gas, and SCE, and defines how I-REN funds are transferred from one agency to the other, naming SoCal Gas as the fiscal agent. The Program Agreement describes the roles of the Administrative Lead COG and the IOUs, and the deliverables expected of them including invoicing, reporting, and regulatory filing.

Actions:

1. Approved the Memorandum of Agreement for the I-REN and authorized the Executive Director to take necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the purpose and intent of the motion.
2. Approved the Program Agreement for the I-REN and authorized the Executive Director to take necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the purpose and intent of the motion.
3. Approved the selection of Mayor Chris Barajas, City of Jurupa Valley, Mayor Crystal Ruiz, City of San Jacinto and Council member Jacque Casillas, City of Corona, to represent WRCOG on the I-REN Executive Committee.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Lake Elsinore

SECONDER: Menifee

AYES: Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley,

Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, District 1, District 2, District 3, EMWD, WMWD

7. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Rob Johnson was not present.

8. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Committee member Ted Hoffman, SAWPA OWOW representative, reported that SAWPA recently completed a dry weather conditions report along the Santa Ana River that studied the impacts of the homeless camps. It was estimated that between 800 and 1,200 people have been residing in the riverbed, in over 300 encampments.

9. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Ruiz announced that meetings for this Committee will be moved back to in-person at the Riverside County Board Chambers beginning in October.

10. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Wilson reported that the bulk of his update can be found in the Agenda packet. WRCOG is holding its AltCar event on October 28, 2022, at the Moreno Valley Convention Center. Next year's General Assembly is scheduled for June 29, 2023.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

12. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member Kevin Jeffries announced that there currently is a 5-alarm fire along the I-215.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., in the Riverside County Administrative Center Board Chambers, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Steve DeBaun, WRCOG Legal Counsel, announced that there are four Closed Session items as listed on the agenda.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION pursuant to Section 54956.9(d)(1):
Four cases

1. Western Riverside Council of Governments v. National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA, U.S. District Court, C.D. Cal., Case No. 5:20-cv-02164-GW (KKx)

2. City of Beaumont, et al., v. Norton Rose Fulbright US, LLP, et al., Riverside Superior Court, Case No. RIC 1904645
3. Cordova v. Western Riverside Council of Governments, et al., San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2021-00000765-CU-BT-CTL
4. Molina-Duarte v. Western Riverside Council of Governments, et al., San Diego Superior Court, Case No. 37-2021-00014856-CU-MC-NC

There were no reportable actions. Closed session adjourned at 3:15 PM.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m. in honor of Fairview Fire victims Ian Compton and Makayla Porter.