

WRCOG Executive Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Crystal Ruiz at 2:04 p.m. on November 7, 2022, at the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor Board Chambers, Riverside.

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 5 - Jeff Hewitt
- Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) - Phil Paule
- Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) - Brenda Dennstedt
- WRCOG Executive Director - Dr. Kurt Wilson

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arnold San Miguel, SCAG, announced that the Regional Council approved the REAP 2.0 CTC Guidelines, the CTC Partnership Program Call for Projects, and the REAP 2.0 Path Program.

Commotion L.A. is taking place November 15 - 17, 2022. SCAG released a Notice of Preparation for the draft EIR for Connect SoCal 2024. SCAG will host its 13th edition of its celebrated Southern California Economic Summit on December 1, 2022, in downtown Los Angeles at the Sheraton Grand. This year's theme is "Resourcing the Region."

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: District 5

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 5, EMWD, WMWD

A. Assembly Bill 361 Findings

Item 5.A was pulled for discussion by Committee member Mike Lara who suggested not approving this item for future meetings as a means to complete in-person meetings.

Dr. Kurt Wilson, WRCOG Executive Director, responded that with respect to AB 361, there will be a limit on how much longer AB 361 can be used. New legislation, AB 2449, provides for a complicated set of rules in which remote meetings will still be able to be held. WRCOG legal counsel will be providing a presentation at the February Executive Committee meeting to explain AB 2449 in detail.

Haviva Shane, WRCOG legal counsel, indicated that AB 361 is contingent upon the State of Emergency being declared by the Governor, which is set to expire at the end of February 2023. The ability to hold a hybrid meeting will require a quorum of members physically present in one location.

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 October 3, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the October 3, 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. Regional Streetlight Program Activities update

Action:

1. Approved Amendment No. 2 to the Amended & Restated Professional Services Agreement and Amendment No. 2 to Appendices 1 - 5, 7 - 9, and 11 to the Amended & Restated Professional Services Agreement between WRCOG, Yunex, LLC, and the Member Agency to extend the Agreement one year to December 1, 2023, for streetlight retrofit, operation and maintenance services.

G. PACE Programs: Adoption of Resolution to Escheat Unclaimed Funds to the State of California

Action:

1. Adopted Resolution Number 25-22; A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments to Escheat Unclaimed Funds to the State of California.

H. Approval of Executive Committee and General Assembly Meeting Schedule for 2023

Action:

1. Approved the schedule of Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings for 2023.

I. Approval of Two TUMF Reimbursement Agreement Amendments

Actions:

1. Authorized the Executive Director to execute Amendment Number 2 to a TUMF Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Menifee for the Construction Phase of the Holland Roadway Widening and Holland Road / I-215 Overpass Project from \$8,255,000 to \$10,255,000.
2. Authorized the Executive Director to execute Amendment Number 3 to a TUMF Reimbursement Agreement with the City of San Jacinto for the Construction Phase of the Esplanade Avenue Widening Project for an amount not to exceed \$5,630,000.

J. Approval of Revised 2022 TUMF Central Zone 5-Year Transportation Improvement Program

Action:

1. Approved the Revised 2022 TUMF Central Zone 5-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Cal Cities Activities Update

Erin Sasse, Regional Public Affairs Manager, Cal Cities, reported that a webinar is scheduled for

Monday, November 14, 2022, on all of the end of session activities. There are some funding bills that are positive for the cities: AB 1742, AB 1789. Riverside County will be one of the first to implement SB 1338. Cal Cities sponsored AB 1985. There is \$180M available to help local governments implement SB 1383. Cal Cities supported AB 2142. AB 1711 was vetoed; Cal Cities opposed this bill. AB 2449 was signed into law. Cal Cities supported AB 2647, which was signed into law. Cal Cities opposed SB 284, which was vetoed by the Governor. Cal Cities opposed AB 2011, which was signed into law. Cal Cities opposed SB 897, which was signed into law.

The City of Riverside is hosting the November 14, 2022, Division meeting.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. Commercial PACE Activities Update

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, reported that WRCOG has two partners in the Commercial PACE (C-PACE) Program - Nuveen Green Capital (formerly Greenworks Lending) and Twain Financial Partners Holding.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/2021, the WRCOG C-PACE Program financed 11 projects for a total amount of \$79M, and includes two local projects in the Cities of Corona and Murrieta. In FY 2021/2022, 11 C-PACE projects were completed, totaling \$68M, and includes two local projects in the City of Temecula. WRCOG subregional projects total \$12M.

Staff continue to receive interest and inquiries on WRCOG C-PACE expansion opportunities from existing C-PACE providers and financial institutions, like JP Morgan and others. C-PACE is offered in 37 states throughout the country.

Committee member Dale Welty requested a follow-up discussion to discuss the merits of expanding the C-PACE Program.

Committee member Wendy Hewitt asked who or which Committee(s) approved the projects.

Mr. Dailey responded that WRCOG is the bond issuer, and approval of projects and issuance of PACE bonds is within the administrative authority that has been granted as part of the PACE Program.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

C. Housing Activities Update

Chris Gray, WRCOG Deputy Executive Director, reported that "housing" specifically is not a part of WRCOG's Strategic Plan. However, the State passes many housing-related bills, therefore, there are two goals within WRCOG's Strategic Plan to address serving as an advocate at the regional, state, and federal level, and identifying and helping to secure grants and other funding opportunities for its member agencies.

Riverside County has grown by 60% over the past 20 years. The number of housing units permitted has averaged 5,000 to 6,000 over the past five years. However, the pace of new home construction has not kept pace with population growth. Recognizing the need to add housing on a statewide level, over \$500M has been allocated to cities and counties in California to assist with planning activities. WRCOG received \$1.8M through SCAG's REAP Subregional Partnership Program.

WRCOG is currently providing direct assistance to five WRCOG member agencies and has pending agreements with three additional agencies to directly support planning efforts related to housing. Other key activities include the development of template Objective Design Standards and also the preparation of an Affordable Housing Pipeline map and list.

WRCOG continues to look for opportunities to secure additional funding for the region.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

7. REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Rob Johnson was unable to attend the meeting.

8. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Committee member Brian Tisdale, CALCOG representative, reported that CALCOG has not met since his last report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2022.

Chair Crystal Ruiz, SANDAG Borders Committee representative, reported that SANDAG was awarded \$150M for the Otay Mesa Border Crossing Project.

Committee member Ted Hoffman, SAWPA OWOW representative, reported that OWOW has not met since his last report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2022. Normal rainfall in this area is between 12" and 15" per year; however, there has not been much rainfall. Scientists are predicting a La Nina for the next year, meaning drought conditions will continue or worsen. The City of Lake Elsinore received Proposition 1 funding for its work on algae blooms in Lake Elsinore. The Prado Basin Right-of-Way Clearing Program has begun, which will clear roads to make the brine lines accessible. The Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team completed a river walk to conduct a survey on the Santa Ana Sucker Fish.

Committee member Ben Benoit, South Coast AQMD representative for cities in Riverside County, reported that the goals of the 2008 Ozone Standard in the Coachella Valley were not reached due to the Environmental Protection Agency updating its numbers for diesel trucks. Formulas for adhesives and sealants are being scaled back due to volatile organic compounds. Particulate matter coming off recycling facilities is an issue in the Los Angeles area is being addressed. The Air Quality Management Plan will be released in December.

9. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Ruiz announced that tomorrow is election day, and wished several Committee members good luck.

10. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Wilson reported that the bulk of his update can be found in the Agenda packet. Dr. Wilson thanks Committee members Brenda Dennstedt and Phil Paule for allowing him to participate in the Colorado River tour, and wished Committee members a Happy Thanksgiving.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee member Dale Welty indicated that during the PACE presentation, staff asked for a determination on moving forward with a Commercial PACE Program, and asked if a subcommittee can address that.

12. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member Matt Liesemeyer inquired about the ability to view the agenda packets from the dais.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., in the Riverside County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor Board Chambers, Riverside.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Haviva Shane, WRCOG Legal Counsel, announced that there are two Closed Session items as listed on the agenda.

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

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)

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: Executive Director

There were no reportable actions.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.