



# eCommunicator

January 2019

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## Organic Waste Workshop set for February 20

Join us for an insightful workshop on Senate Bill (SB) 1383, which aims to reduce organic waste methane emissions by 75% by 2025. This workshop will focus on how local jurisdictions can strategize implementation and compliance with new organic waste regulations.

To join by webinar, contact [Kyle Rodriguez](#).

### Workshop Details

Date: February 20, 2019

Location: WRCOG Office  
3390 University Ave. #450

Riverside, CA 92501

Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.



[RSVP Today](#)

# What's Most Important to YOU When it Comes to Transportation Resiliency?

Last fall, WRCOG and our friends at SBCTA kicked-off [Resilient IE](#), a multi-faceted project working to enhance resilience of the region's transportation infrastructure. Take this [survey](#) now to share your insights on the development of a regional collaborative that will be formed as a critical component of Resilient IE and an ongoing network and resource hub for the region.

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## Murrieta Becomes the First City to Begin Retrofitting its Streetlights Under Regional Program

The Regional Streetlight Program projects a regional savings of \$60 million over 20 years by reducing operations, maintenance, and electricity costs.

Last month, the City of Murrieta became the first of eleven participating jurisdictions in the Regional Streetlight Program to begin retrofitting their streetlights by upgrading the light fixtures to efficient LEDs. Through the Program, the City of Murrieta obtained ownership of its streetlights and will now conduct operation and maintenance to achieve more cost savings. Check out [this article](#) on the City's achievements!



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## Check Out the Latest COGCast Episodes



The WRCOGCast releases new episodes every-other week (...or so). If you haven't yet, tune in now to learn about WRCOG, our programs, and much more to come. The latest episode features a Program near and dear to our hearts, the [Public Service Fellowship](#). Check it out!

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## Public Service Fellowship Program: Fellow Spotlight

The WRCOG Public Service Fellowship Program aims to connect talented individuals to career opportunities in the public sector here in the WRCOG subregion.

Ani Dhurva, a UCR undergrad and current Master's candidate, is a Round III Fellow serving at the City of Lake Elsinore. In his time at the City, Ani has helped develop a regional funding proposal and updated the City's Municipal codes, applying the knowledge learned in the classroom to his Fellowship. Check out the full Fellow Feature [here!](#)



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## Holiday Light Exchange Wrap-Up



During the 2018 holiday season the Western Riverside Energy Partnership (WREP) hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday LED Light Exchange and Energy Efficiency Kit Giveaway in the Cities of Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Eastvale, Perris, and Temecula. Over 500 strands of old incandescent holiday lights were exchanged with new, efficient LED strands to more than 200 homes in Western Riverside County.

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## TUMF: Temecula Parkway Interchange Dedication

# TEMECULA PARKWAY INTERCHANGE

- \$50 MILLION PROJECT
- NEW BRIDGE OVER TEMECULA PARKWAY
- LOOP OFF-RAMP
- TEMECULA PARKWAY WIDENING
- NORTHBOUND RAMP WIDENING



On November 27, 2018, the City of Temecula held a dedication ceremony for improvements to the Temecula Parkway Interchange. The project was completed in partnership with RCTC, WRCOG, Caltrans, and Pechanga. Check out the video [here!](#)

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## Executive Director's Column: A Look Back - A Look Forward

OK so 2018 is over. Flew by really fast. Like Groucho Marx is alleged to have said, "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana."

2018 was a productive year for WRCOG and its member agencies. Here's a quick rundown of accomplishments and activities:



- TUMF Program: \$54 million was collected during the fiscal year, the highest collection year since 2007. Major projects were completed, including the Clinton Keith Road Extension and Temecula Parkway Interchange (\$30 million in TUMF) and the Perris Boulevard and Heacock Street Improvements (\$6 million in TUMF). WRCOG will also be taking on the responsibility for TUMF fee collection for 15 of WRCOG's TUMF agencies in an effort to reduce that burden on members.
- PACE Program financing hit the 90,000 projects completed milestone, representing more than \$2 billion in energy efficient, renewable energy and water conservation improvements made for homes in Western Riverside County and California. PACE creates local jobs for contractors, improves the housing stock and increases comfort of buildings, saves water and energy and saves on utility bills. New state legislation passed this year will improve consumer protections for PACE participants.
- Western Riverside's Energy Partnership keeps jurisdictions on the forefront in achieving energy savings and encouraging constituents to do the same. Two cities in WRCOG's subregion (Corona and Murrieta) received "Cool Planet" awards for their work implementing energy projects. Overall, the WREP effort resulted in the receipt of more than \$1 million in rebates and saved over 2.6 million kWh in energy efficiency projects in the region. That's enough energy to power 355 houses for an entire year.
- The Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency was fully consolidated into WRCOG, achieving economies of scale for that agency. Efforts are underway to seek species delisting given the success of conservation efforts, and to create some public access on certain lands so that members of the public can carefully enjoy and be educated about these special conserved areas.
- WRCOG's Grant Writing Assistance program for members has landed \$13 million in grant funding to date, a more than 100x return on the investment so far.

- WRCOG's Fellowship program has placed 53 fellows in member agencies over three rounds of the Program to give young professionals practical experience working in the public sector and encourage full-time careers in public service.
- \$4.1 million has been provided to members through the BEYOND Program, funding local projects that align with WRCOG's Economic Development and Sustainability Framework goals centered on economy, education, health, energy and environment, transportation and water.
- The Regional Streetlight Program will help 11 jurisdiction purchase 48,000 streetlights and convert them to LED technologies. The effort will save participants approximately \$60 million during the next 20 years in utility and maintenance costs and improve the nighttime appearance of the subregion, among other benefits. Ownership of the streetlights could give jurisdictions additional revenue generating opportunities as well.
- Seven cities are part of a joint powers authority examining the benefits of Community Choice Aggregation. CCA's allow local governments to purchase energy and provide it at lower cost to constituents, resulting in savings on their energy bills. CCAs also bring local control and decision-making on electric rates and energy programs to the local level. Current estimates are that residents in Western Community Energy (the CCA for this subregion) could save \$6 million annually on their utility bills.

#### What's to come in 2019?

In addition to the continuation of the programs highlighted above and work on others that are not mentioned here, below are a few new activities that will get attention in 2019:

- Regional Stormwater Mitigation Program: WRCOG is developing a framework for a voluntary regional mitigation program, where agencies and private developers can buy and sell credits through an exchange. The intent is to make it easier for development to comply with such requirements.
- Future of Cities Conference: Tentatively scheduled for spring, the conference will feature panels and experts discussing events that could dramatically change the face and fabric of our communities, including autonomous vehicles, the future of retail, and increasing automation of jobs.
- CAPtivate, the subregion's climate adaptation plan, will be updated thanks to receipt of a Caltrans grant. The update will examine and, if necessary, refresh existing strategies to help jurisdictions reduce GHG emissions and comply with state regulations.
- Resilient IE: WRCOG and SBCTA, with a Caltrans Grant, will jointly prepare a plan to help jurisdictions prepare for and mitigate the impact of natural hazards on their communities.
- The WRCOGCast: In late 2018 WRCOG released the "COGCast" as an additional resource for learning about the many activities underway in the region to improve quality of life. The COGCast highlights key agencies, organizations, and individuals making a difference in the community. COGCast is available on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, SoundCloud, and PodBean. Episodes are usually 20 minutes in length and will be released every other week.

Do you have an idea about an issue that might benefit from regional involvement and attention? Let us know about it, and we will analyze it against our “filtering” process to see if it’s a fit or not for WRCOG. Not every issue can or should be addressed regionally; we want to make sure those ideas taken up by WRCOG are ones where progress can be made. Thus, we will look at new proposals with some of the following questions in mind:

1. Is the issue multi-jurisdictional?
2. Will a regional approach provide benefit?
3. Is there a high potential to make a difference?
4. Does WRCOG have the resources to be effective?
5. Will WRCOG’s involvement provide a return on investment?
6. Is the issue already being addressed by others?

We look forward to working with you in 2019!



[Contact Rick](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



[CLICK HERE](#)

