



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 21, 2023
2:00 PM

WRCOG
3390 University Avenue
Suite 200, Citrus Conference Room
Riverside, CA 92501

Public Meeting Location

CVAG
74-199 El Paseo
West Building, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Public Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 864 5862 7870
Passcode: 072601
Dial in: (669) 900 9128 U.S.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in the I-REN Executive Committee meeting, please contact Janis Leonard at (951) 405-6702. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting. In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, agenda materials distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting which are public records relating to an open session agenda item will be available for inspection by members of the public prior to the meeting at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA, 92501.

In addition to commenting at the Committee meeting, members of the public may also submit written comments before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment to jleonard@wrcog.us.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Janis Leonard 72 hours prior to the meeting at (951) 405-6702 or jleonard@wrcog.us. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

The Committee may take any action on any item listed on the agenda, regardless of the Requested Action.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Crystal Ruiz, Chair)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time members of the public can address the Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Committee, any public comments on any of the Consent Items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Committee request specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

A. Summary Minutes from the February 21, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve the Summary Minutes from the February 21, 2023, Executive Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion.

A. I-REN Strategic Planning Update and Survey Results

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

B. Workforce, Education & Training Sector Update: I-REN Energy Fellowship Program

Requested Action(s): 1. Authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 fellows within the I-REN service territory in the fall of 2023.

C. I-REN Regulatory and Reporting Update

Requested Action(s): 1. Authorize WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, to provide comments on CPUC proceedings that I-REN is a party to, when the required deadline to provide comments does not allow sufficient time for presentation to the I-REN Executive Committee, and report the comments at the next meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee.

D. I-REN Participation in U.S. Department of Energy Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Program

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve I-REN's participation as subrecipient in the California Energy Commission application to the U.S. Department of Energy for funding of SolarAPP+ and CodeCycle projects under the Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Program.

2. Authorize WRCOG Executive Director to sign Partner Commitment Letters to the California Energy Commission and other ancillary documents in connection with the application to Department of Energy.

E. Discussion of I-REN Executive Committee 2023 Meeting Location Schedule

Requested Action(s):

1. Determine and approve I-REN Executive Committee meeting locations for 2023.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Crystal Ruiz, WRCOG

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for discussion at future Committee meetings.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members are invited to announce items / activities which may be of general interest to the Committee.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., at WRCOG's office at 3390 University Ave, Suite 200, Riverside, CA

11. ADJOURNMENT

12. AGENCY ACRONYMS

Inland Regional Energy Network Acronym Guide

3C-REN – Tri-County Regional Energy Network (Counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo)

ABAL – Annual Budget Advice Letter

AHJ – Authority Having Jurisdiction

AVCE – Apple Valley Choice Energy

BayREN – Bay Area Regional Energy Network (nine county REN in Northern California)

BUC – Building Upgrade Concierge

C&S – Codes & Standards

CAEECC – California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee

CalChoice – California Choice Energy Authority

Cal ISO – California Independent System Operator

CARB – California Air Resources Board

CCA – Community Choice Aggregator

CCEC – California Climate & Energy Collaborative

CEC – California Energy Commission

COG - Council of Government

CPA – Clean Power Alliance

CPUC – California Public Utilities Commission

CVAG – Coachella Valley Association of Governments

DAC – Disadvantaged Communities

DACAG – Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group

DCE – Desert Community Energy

DER – Distributed Energy Resources

DOE – U.S Department of Energy

EE – Energy Efficiency
EM&V – Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification
EV – Electric Vehicle
GHG – Greenhouse gas
HTR – Hard To Reach communities
IID – Imperial Irrigation District
IOU – Investor-Owned Utility
I-REN – Inland Regional Energy Network
JCM – Joint Cooperation Memorandum
LGSEC – Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
LGP – Local Government Partnership
MOA – Memorandum of Agreement
NEBs – Non-energy Benefits
NMEC – Normalized Metered Energy Consumption
NREL – U.S Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory
PG&E – Pacific Gas & Electric
PA – Program Administrator
POU – Publicly Owned Utility
REN – Regional Energy Network
RMEA – Rancho Mirage Energy Authority
RPU – Riverside Public Utilities
SBCOG – San Bernardino Council of Governments
SCE – Southern California Edison
SCG / SoCalGas – Southern California Gas Company
SDG&E – San Diego Gas & Electric
SJP – San Jacinto Power
SoCalREN – Southern California Regional Energy Network (all of southern California, administered by Los Angeles County)
TA – Technical Assistance
TOU – Time of use
TRC – Total Resources Cost
V2G – Vehicle to Grid
WE&T – Workforce Education & Training
WRCOG – Western Riverside Council of Governments

I-REN Executive Committee

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Crystal Ruiz at 2:00 p.m. on February 21, 2023, at the Apple Valley Development Services Building, Conference Center South Room, 14975 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee member Art Bishop led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- CVAG:
 - City of Indio - Oscar Ortiz
- SBCOG:
 - City of Rialto - Deborah Robertson*
 - County of San Bernardino - Curt Hagman
 - Town of Apple Valley - Art Bishop
- WRCOG:
 - City of Corona - Jacque Casillas
 - City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas
 - City of San Jacinto - Crystal Ruiz

*Arrived after Roll Call

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Bishop

SECONDER: Casillas

AYES: Ortiz, Hagman, Bishop, Casillas, Barajas, Ruiz

A. Assembly Bill 361 Findings

Action:

1. Affirmed the findings of the I-REN Executive Committee in Resolution Number 01-22; adopted on December 13, 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 January 17, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting

Action:

- 1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the January 17, 2023, Executive Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. I-REN Proposed Programs and Budget Allocations

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, reported that I-REN's vision is to connect local government, businesses, and residents to a wide range of energy efficient resources to increase energy savings and equitable access throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. To do so, they have established business plan goals in the public sector, workforce education and training, and have developed standards to support long-term energy code compliance.

Public Sector programs include the Technical Assistance Strategic Energy Planning and the Public Buildings Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC), with an annual average cost of \$4,508,000.

The Workforce, Education and Training Sector focuses on increasing the knowledge and capacity related to energy efficiency in the building industry as well as increasing the number of skilled energy efficiency workers in the region. Programs in this Sector include a Fellowship Program, a Certification Program, training for existing workforce stakeholders via webinars and on-demand training, as well as membership in California's energy efficiency landscape. The annual average cost is \$1,678,000.

Board member Jacque Casillas stated that there is a shortage of building inspectors and she would like to see a workforce Fellowship Program that does not require enrollment in a college / university.

Board member Curt Hagman indicated that there are already workforce development departments in place in each county for those individuals who are not in school. Perhaps it would be better to create a partnership since federal dollars are already being allocated for such programs.

Board member Deborah Robertson indicated that Employer Training Panel dollars can extend the amount of money for training opportunities. A portion of the Fellows' salary can be covered by these federal funds.

Mr. Dailey continued that the Codes and Standards Sector would also involve training and education, region-wide outreach, and technical assistance to understand the energy codes and compliance. The total amount for the Codes and Standards Sector is \$791,000.

The estimated total yearly I-REN budget would be \$10.227M. There would be no city contribution unless an on-call program is established upon the city's request for help on a specific project. I-REN would then provide technical assistance and energy support to design the project in the most energy efficient way possible, and use product types that would potentially make the city eligible for incentives.

Board member Art Bishop requested that future follow-ups include a timeline.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. Contract Approvals for Implementers for I-REN's Business Plan Sector Programs

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, reported that with its various programs, I-REN needs to hire the implementers who would develop the programs and handbooks to make them functional. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were released in August 2022, and out of the 13 proposals received, staff selected four, which are currently being negotiated.

Under the Public Sector, the Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning (TA) Program will assist with contracting and procurement, installation of equipment, and ongoing operations. The Normalized Metered Energy Consumption Program will provide incentives for meter-based energy savings. The Public Sector Financing Program will help identify financing mechanisms and creative funding sources for various public sector jurisdictions and facility types in the I-REN service territory. The Energy Coalition (TEC) is currently being considered for these Programs.

Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) software development will serve as a one-stop shop for information on programs and incentives offered by other Program Administrators and will allow members to run reports on their energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, track projects, and more.

Alternative Energy Systems Consulting (AESC) is currently being considered for this Program.

For I-REN Marketing and Outreach (M&O), ICF Resources is currently being considered. ICF would ensure consistent branding and messaging across all programs and activities.

Under the Codes and Standards sector, the Training and Technical Support Programs will develop tools to assist building departments and the building industry. Frontier Energy is currently being considered for these Programs.

Board member Curt Hagman asked if there could be more than one consultant hired to compare and contrast their work to see which ones would be best.

Mr. Dailey responded that there might be more procurement in the second half of this calendar year, since there is a lot of the 2022 budget that is unspent and can be used in upcoming years.

Dr. Kurt Wilson, WRCOG Executive Director, asked Board member Hagman if was referring to having the Board take action to allow staff to enter into an agreement with the preferred vendor, but also have a back-up vendor as a contingency option under certain conditions.

Board member Hagman suggested having an on-call list to avoid the 6 - 8 month waiting period as new vendors go through the RFP process.

Chair Ruiz asked if the contractors hired would be helping to identify outside funding opportunities.

Mr. Dailey responded that yes, they would. Mr. Dailey suggested having a standing item in the agendas to provide information gathered on grants / funding.

Action:

1. Authorized the WRCOG Executive Director to execute the following contracts:
 - a. Contract #2023-80-2080-001 between the Western Riverside Council of Governments and The Energy Coalition for Public Sector Energy Efficiency Program Services for an amount not to exceed \$7,500,000 for a three-year term with no more than two options to renew or amend.
 - b. Contract #2023-80-2080-002 between the Western Riverside Council of Governments and Alternative Energy Systems Consulting, Inc., for Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) Software Development Services for an amount not to exceed \$655,000 for a three-year term with no more than two options to renew or amend.
 - c. Contract #2023-80-2080-003 between the Western Riverside Council of Governments and Frontier Energy, Inc., for I-REN Codes and Standards Program Services for an amount not to exceed \$2,347,000 for a three year term with no more than two options to renew or amend.
 - d. Contract #2023-80-2080-004 between the Western Riverside Council of Governments and ICF Resources LLC., for I-REN Portfolio-wide Marketing and Communications Services for an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for a three-year term with no more than two options to renew or amend.

RESULT: APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

MOVER: Casillas

SECONDER: Bishop

AYES: Ortiz, Hagman, Bishop, Casillas, Barajas, Ruiz

C. Workforce, Education & Training Sector Update: Introduction of Fellowship Program

Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that a Fellowship Program would be part of the Workforce, Education and Training (WE&T) Sector, which has a goal to develop job pathways and identify job demand for a trained workforce. With 52 cities in the I-REN territory, I-REN budgeted for one Fellow in each city every two years, beginning in fall 2023. There will be 26 Fellows from educational institutions who will be placed at public sector agencies annually across I-REN, focusing on energy and climate issues. I-REN would continue to partner host member agencies to develop a curriculum and trainings opportunities, and projects that can be scaled across the region to support I-REN initiatives.

I-REN has partnered with CivicSpark, a state-wide program focused on addressing energy, climate, and water issues.

Fellows would received a stipend as well as professional growth and training opportunities. They would have the potential to be offered employment after completing their fellowship with their host agency or at another member agency.

Board members expressed a strong support for a Fellowship Program.

Action:

1. Discussed and provided input.

D. I-REN Strategic Planning Update

Kenyon Potter, CVAG Director of Energy & Sustainability, reported that surveys have been emailed to all member organizations of the COGs as well as stakeholders; surveys are to be completed and returned by February 28, 2023. Results and more details will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting in March.

Action:

1. Received and filed.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Ruiz announced that future meetings will be held in person and old Brown Act rules will be in place.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Members will discuss future meeting locations.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board member Art Bishop announced that AB 627 would prohibit diesel-fueled, heavy-duty trucks from driving on any street or county road in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2023, at WRCOG's office at 3390 University Ave, Suite 200, Riverside.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN Strategic Planning Update and Survey Results
Contact: Kenyon Potter, CVAG Director of Energy & Sustainability, kpotter@cvag.org, (760) 641-8830
Date: March 21, 2023

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the development of the I-REN Strategic Plan.

Background:

Initiated in 2019, the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is a consortium of the Western Riverside Council of Governments, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (I-REN COG partners) that serve the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino in the implementation of energy efficiency programs and services to support member agencies and the public. These partners joined together and submitted a Business Plan to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in order to establish locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency programs. On November 18, 2021, the CPUC formally approved the I-REN Business Plan through program year 2027.

I-REN is developing a 5-year Organizational Strategic Plan to ensure effective and efficient use of CPUC funding, to identify clear priorities and actions, and to ensure that activities and engagement are aligned across all members of I-REN. This process will include several avenues for stakeholder feedback, including a survey, small group conversations, and in-person and virtual community workshops.

The Strategic Plan process presents a key opportunity for the Executive Committee to shape the direction, focus, and priorities of I-REN. The Business Plan serves as "what" I-REN intends to accomplish and the Strategic Plan represents "how" I-REN will accomplish those goals. The development of a Strategic Plan will include input and insight from I-REN Executive Committee members and the communities that I-REN serves and is critical to ensure the effective use of ratepayer dollars in achieving I-REN goals.

At the February 21, 2023, meeting, this Committee received an update on the development of the I-REN Strategic Plan, including preliminary interview questions.

With input of the three COGs, BluePoint Planning, a subconsultant of Frontier Energy, the consultant for

the I-REN Program, has developed two surveys: 1) a member survey for cities, tribes, and local governments that are members of the COGs, and 2) a stakeholder survey for local stakeholders in the I-REN territories as determined by the COGs. The survey was released on February 14, 2023, and broadcast through each COG to their respective multiple committees and groups. The member survey remained active until March 10, 2023. The presentation by BluePoint will reveal the results of the survey.

This item is reserved for a presentation from BluePoint Planning on the survey results.

Prior Action(s):

February 21, 2023: The I-REN Executive Committee received and filed.

January 17, 2023: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized the initiation of the I-REN Strategic Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

All costs associated with the development of an I-REN Strategic Plan are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Agency Budget under the Energy & Environmental Department.

In March 2022, the WRCOG Executive Committee approved a Professional Services Agreement with Frontier Energy and its subconsultant (BluePoint Planning) to support implementation activities of I-REN, one of which is to facilitate the development of a Strategic Plan. Frontier energy was selected after public solicitation of an RFP and evaluation by all partner COGs. The total contract amount is not-to-exceed \$793,701 through the end of calendar year 2025.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Workforce, Education & Training Sector Update: I-REN Energy Fellowship Program

Contact: Tyler Masters, WRCOG Program Manager, tmasters@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6732

Date: March 21, 2023

Requested Action(s):

1. Authorize the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 fellows within the I-REN service territory in the fall of 2023.

Purpose:

The purpose of the item is to provide an update on the application process and next steps of the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program.

Background:

In November 2021, the CPUC approved the I-REN Business Plan with a budget of \$65M for program years 2022 - 2027. The I-REN Business Plan included multiple goals across three program sectors that were developed based on input from stakeholders within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since 2019.

One of these program sectors identified within I-REN services territory is Workforce, Education & Training (WE&T). Total budget for the WE&T Sector through 2027 is \$15.1M. The goal of this Sector is to ensure there is a trained workforce to support and realize energy efficiency savings goals across all sectors. I-REN is uniquely positioned to effectively support these initiatives through the direct connections to local governments and stakeholders that I-REN, and its Council of Government member agencies, have with the communities within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The intent of this Sector is not to duplicate initiatives already under delivery by Investor-Owned Utilities or various workforce organizations, but to supplement and tailor programs to fill gaps with a focus on enhancing energy and energy efficiency knowledge and understanding.

On February 21, 2023, the I-REN Executive Committee received an introduction to the I-REN Energy Fellowship, a strategy approved in the I-REN Business Plan with a contemplated budget of \$806,000, which covers the fellowship stipend and administrative costs of supporting up to 26 fellows. While 26 fellows were originally thought to be half of I-REN member agencies, with the inclusion of the County agencies (Riverside and San Bernardino), I-REN staff recommends increasing the Program to support up to 27 fellows, at a slightly increased budget of \$837,000. With this change, I-REN will have the ability to place one Fellow in every member agency at least every other year. This change will be identified in a

presentation of the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget and can be discussed at that time.

Participation in an existing fellowship structure is a way to keep the costs of this Program stable. After receiving discussion and guidance from the I-REN Executive Committee, staff completed an application into the CivicSpark Program. CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps Program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address energy, climate change, community resilience issues, water resource management, housing, and mobility. CivicSpark deploys roughly 100 Fellows per year. CivicSpark will also support host agencies and I-REN by providing these Fellows with professional growth opportunities and trainings on energy and climate resources that can be utilized by the host agency and I-REN.

I-REN Energy Fellowship Program Next Steps

1. March 7, 2023: Application and project review meeting with CivicSpark staff.
 - CivicSpark aims to have final decision on I-REN participation in CivicSpark program before March 21, 2023, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.
2. May 2023: Execution of final program agreement.
3. April / May 2023: Identify host agencies and potential projects within I-REN members.
4. May / June 2023: Recruitment begins, and Fellow candidate information is provided to I-REN and host agency for review and selection.
5. September 2023: Placement of Fellows.

The I-REN Energy Fellowship with CivicSpark would include an 11-month fellowship. Participating Fellows will receive a stipend and resources to help find housing near their host agency if they are not local residents. Each Fellow will provide approximately 1,700 hours of time over the 11 months with their host agency, 300 - 400 hours of which will be for professional growth and learning opportunities provided by CivicSpark, I-REN, and the host agency. The remaining 1,300 - 1,400 hours will be dedicated to energy projects within the host agency, furthering the host agency and I-REN energy initiatives.

Staff has met with CivicSpark staff on March 7, 2023, and will provide an update on this conversation and next steps with the Board on March 21, 2023.

Prior Action(s):

February 21, 2023: I-REN Executive Committee discussed and provided input.

Fiscal Impact:

All costs associated with the development of an I-REN Energy-Efficiency Fellowship Program are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Agency Budget under the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN Regulatory and Reporting Update
Contact: Benjamin Druyon, WRCOG Program Manager, bdruyon@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6727
Date: March 21, 2023

Requested Action(s):

1. Authorize WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, to provide comments on CPUC proceedings that I-REN is a party to, when the required deadline to provide comments does not allow sufficient time for presentation to the I-REN Executive Committee, and report the comments at the next meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee.

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on I-REN's regulatory and reporting activities.

Background:

On November 18, 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) formally approved the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Business Plan through program year 2027. On December 13, 2022, the I-REN Executive Committee met for the first time to learn about the history of Regional Energy Networks (RENs), how the concept for I-REN was developed through a cooperative process between WRCOG, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), and about the submittal of a Business Plan to the CPUC for consideration for I-REN to become a Program Administrator.

The I-REN Executive Committee met on January 17, 2023, and February 21, 2023. During these initial meetings, the Executive Committee was introduced to the REN concept and I-REN's goals and objectives. Staff would like to introduce regulatory information about the I-REN Program. This will be an ongoing staff report where staff will highlight I-REN's responsibilities regarding the CPUC participation and reporting, which is done on I-REN's behalf by WRCOG.

There are three types of activities which will be discussed in this staff report: 1) CPUC proceedings that I-REN is a party to, 2) CPUC and California Energy Commission (CEC) proceedings that I-REN is not a party to that could affect I-REN and are monitored by I-REN staff, and 3) reporting that I-REN is required to provide to the CPUC.

CPUC Proceedings That I-REN is a Party to

When I-REN's Business Plan was approved on November 18, 2021, and I-REN became a Program Administrator, the CPUC included a requirement that I-REN would have to become a "party to," and

participate in, providing comments to relevant proceedings. Being a “party to” a CPUC proceeding means that I-REN has filed a “motion,” or an application, with the CPUC to enable it to make comments on a specific proceeding, thus providing support and feedback as well as providing a voice for the I-REN jurisdiction. I-REN must submit an application for each proceeding on which I-REN wishes to comment. Because I-REN is providing a voice for its region, I-REN staff would like to include the Executive Committee in the process for providing comments, but sometimes the CPUC will ask for comments on a shorter notice than when the Executive Committee meets. For those times when comments must be filed before the I-REN Executive Committee has had a chance to provide feedback, staff is seeking authorization for WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, to provide comments on CPUC proceedings that I-REN is a party to.

The following proceedings are those that I-REN is a party to and provides comments on when applicable.

CPUC Energy Efficiency Proceeding ([R.13-11-005](#))

Proceeding Overview: This proceeding provides a venue for policy changes and regulatory oversight by the CPUC associated with the energy efficiency programs of the large investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities (IOUs), community choice aggregators (CCAs), and RENs. This includes how I-REN and other RENs are funded and evaluated.

Key I-REN Issues: I-REN has championed the concept of an Inland REN made up of local governments to help expand equity and energy efficiency in the region, and the important role of local government program administrators.

The Inland Empire region faces significant challenges, with vast territory and demographics that I-REN’s geography represents, large tracts of disadvantaged communities, and income levels that are significantly below the statewide average. I-REN shares the CPUC’s urgency regarding the need to focus on disadvantaged and underserved populations. Access to customer data is a crucial component of successful program implementation, therefore, I-REN supports data sharing between IOUs and RENs and their agents.

Key Decisions:

[D.21-11-013](#) (November 18, 2021) – Approves I-REN’s energy efficiency business plan, beginning in 2022 and continuing through 2027, with a total budget of approximately \$65M over this period.

[Assigned Commissioner and Administrative Law Judges’ Amended Scoping Ruling](#)

December 23, 2021) – Sets forth an amended scope and schedule for this proceeding to address new and outstanding issues concerning the CPUC’s energy efficiency policy and programs.

[D.23-02-002](#) (February 2, 2023) – Addresses several topics important to the ongoing success of the CPUC’s energy efficiency portfolio, including improvements to the third-party solicitation process, allowing the use of strategic energy management approaches beyond the industrial sector, and adopting data sharing requirements for CPUC-authorized energy efficiency programs.

Status Update: No update.

Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings: See below list of I-REN periodic reporting filings.

CPUC REN Business Plan Applications ([A.22-02-005 et al.](#))

Proceeding Overview: The scope of this proceeding is to evaluate the reasonableness of the 2024-2027 portfolio proposals and the 2024-2031 business plan proposals by Program Administrators, including IOUs, two CCAs and RENs. This includes analyzing the reasonableness of the programmatic aspects of the proposals, as well as the budgets, savings estimates, and cost-effectiveness and total system benefit calculations.

Key I-REN Issues:

1. I-REN's Business Plan was approved in D.21-11-013, so it is not required to submit a business plan in this proceeding.
2. The REN evaluation framework established in this proceeding will determine how I-REN will be evaluated when it applies for CPUC approval of its next Business Plan for the period beginning 2027.

Key Decisions:

[Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling](#) (June 24, 2022) – Sets forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope this proceeding.

[Administrative Law Judge's Ruling](#) (August 2, 2022) – Invites comments on two topics pertaining to the 2024-2031 Business Plan and 2024-2027 portfolios under consideration in this proceeding: 1) staff proposal to phase out gas energy efficiency incentives; and 2) codes and standards sub-programs and budgets.

[Administrative Law Judges' Ruling](#) (August 26, 2022) – Provides specific questions for which the CPUC seeks responses in intervenors' prepared testimony. The questions are on 1) advancement of the Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan; 2) opportunity for energy efficiency (EE) innovation; 3) alignment with external EE funding; and 4) EE integration with integrated demand-side management.

Status Update:

- October and November 2022: The applicants and intervenors (including the CPUC Public Advocates Office) submitted testimony.
- December 1, 2022: Meet and confer with applicants to discuss remaining issues to be addressed: 1) setting baselines for equity metrics; and 2) program precedence.

Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings:

1. April 17, 2023 – Opening Briefs.
2. May 4, 2023 – Reply Briefs.
3. Q3 2023 – Proposed Decision and CPUC Decision.

CPUC Integrated Distributed Energy Resources Proceeding ([R. 22-11-013](#))

Proceeding Overview: The CPUC opened this rulemaking to achieve consistency of cost effectiveness assessments, improve data collection and use, and consider equipment performance standards for Distributed Energy Resource (DER) customer programs. This rulemaking serves as a procedural

framework for advancing the vision articulated in the customer programs track of the DER Action Plan recently adopted by the CPUC.

Key I-REN Issues:

1. Whether to adopt the Societal Cost Test (SCT) and submitting input on the questions outlined in the Administrative Law Judge ruling issued on February 13, 2023, referred to below.
2. Continuing to improve the DER cost-effectiveness process.
3. Taking part in the Data Working Group activities as described in Track 2 of this proceeding, including recommending goals and objectives for expanded use of available data; developing recommendations regarding data sharing, access, and use; developing recommendations regarding data collection and reporting tools; and developing recommendations for data collection in support of equity programs.

Key Decisions: Order Instituting Rulemaking (November 23, 2022) – Sets forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope this proceeding.

Administrative Law Judge's Ruling (February 13, 2023) – By this ruling, the CPUC is seeking comments from parties on whether the CPUC should use a SCT or apply recent air quality research results when evaluating the cost effectiveness of DER.

Status Update:

- January 9, 2023: Comments on the Order were filed by the parties, including BayREN, 3CREN and various CCAs.
- February 16, 2023: WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, filed a Motion for Party Status.
- March 2023: WRCOG motion is granted.

Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings:

1. Q1 2023 – Pre-hearing Conference.
2. Approximately 45 days after pre-hearing conference – Scoping Memo.

CPUC and CEC Proceedings That I-REN is not a Party to but Staff Monitors

The following proceedings are important enough to monitor, as they may provide valuable information for future programs or may begin to affect RENs generally, but I-REN is currently not a party to.

CPUC Building Decarbonization Proceeding (R. 19-01-011)

Proceeding Overview: On January 31, 2019, pursuant to SB 1477, the CPUC initiated this rulemaking to support the decarbonization of buildings in California. The proceeding is designed to be inclusive of any alternatives that could lead to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use in buildings [related]... to the State's goals of reducing economy-wide GHG emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 or sooner.

Key I-REN Issues:

1. Ensure coordination of I-REN programs with state building decarbonization policies.
2. Southern California Edison (SCE) is the contracting agent for the Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative, and Frontier Energy, I-REN's Codes & Standards program

implementer, is part of the TECH Initiative implementation team.

Key Decisions:

[D.20-03-027](#) (March 26, 2020) – Established the TECH Initiative administered by the CPUC addressing space / water heating technologies, and the Building Initiative for Low-Emissions Development (BUILD) Program administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC) addressing residential new construction electrification, with total budgets of \$120M and \$80M, respectively.

[D.21-11-002](#) (November 4, 2021) – This decision 1) adopted certain principles for the application of incentives; 2) established a new Wildfire and Natural Disaster Resiliency Rebuild program; 3) provided guidance on data sharing; 4) directed the study of bill impacts and required utilities to propose rate adjustments in some cases; and 5) directed utilities to collect data on fuels used to power various appliances, including propane.

[D.22-09-026](#) (September 15, 2022) – Eliminated gas line extension allowances, refunds, and discounts regarding all new applications for gas line extensions submitted on or after July 1, 2023, for all customers in all customer classes.

[D.23-02-005](#) (February 2, 2023) – Authorizes the transfer of \$50M appropriated by AB 179 to fund the continued implementation of the TECH Initiative.

Status Update:

[D.23-02-030](#) (February 23, 2023) – Extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until January 31, 2024.

Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings:

1. Beginning with the second quarterly report in 2023, SCE, as the TECH Initiative implementer, shall include within its quarterly public reporting, strategies and funding for workforce training targeted towards serving equity customers, among other information.

CPUC Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) Proceeding ([R. 20-05-012](#))

Proceeding Overview: The SGIP was established in 2001 and provides financial incentives for the installation of eligible behind-the-meter distributed generation and energy storage technologies that meet all or a portion of a customer's electricity needs, including heat pump water heaters (HPWH). The proceeding helps define those technologies, incentives, and rules.

Key I-REN Issues:

1. Ensure coordination of I-REN programs with SGIP and improving participation of tribal customers in SGIP.

Key Decisions:

[D. 22-04-036](#) (April 7, 2022) – Adopts final budgets, incentive levels, and other program requirements for the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) and Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) Program, including training, inspection, and workforce development requirements.

[Assigned Commissioner's Ruling](#) (October 26, 2022) – Seeks comments from parties on issues related to improving outcomes for low-income customers under the SGIP, and a variety of implementation issues related to the funding authorized by Assembly Bill 209.

Status Update:

- Parties were directed to file opening comments on the questions contained in the Assigned Commissioner's Ruling no later than December 2, 2022, and reply comments no later than December 16, 2022.

Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings:

1. None pending.

CEC 2025 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking ([22-BSTD-01](#))

Proceeding Overview: This docket is used to document public interaction regarding preliminary rulemaking activities for the 2025 California Energy Code. This includes the research and gathering of information necessary to develop the documents required to conduct a formal rulemaking proceeding.

Key I-REN Issues:

1. Energy Code enforcement has historically been difficult for local jurisdictions, particularly smaller communities with fewer resources.
2. Track and provide information on California Energy Code.
3. Perform updates to training curriculums to reflect adopted changes to California Energy Code.

Key Decisions: This is not a formal rulemaking docket. A separate formal rulemaking docket will be established to support the development of the 2025 Energy Code.

Status Update:

- January – March 2023: Utility-sponsored stakeholder meetings.

Upcoming Filings / Decisions / Meetings:

1. July 2023: Codes and Standards Enhancement (CASE) Reports to CEC.
2. May – August 2023: CEC pre-rulemaking workshops.
3. October 2023 – January 2024: File and open rulemaking.
4. January – June 2024: CEC rulemaking.
5. June 2024: 2025 Energy Code adopted.
6. January 1, 2026: 2025 Energy Code goes into effect.

CPUC Required Reporting

Staff will address the applicable reporting requirements to the CPUC. Per the I-REN Executive Committee request, the table in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report illustrates the various reports that I-REN must comply with throughout the year. These reports are required by the CPUC for all RENs. Therefore, in accordance with CPUC policy, the I-REN Executive Committee does not need to approve the reports prior to submitting them to the CPUC. Most of these reports are submitted through a CPUC-authorized tool called CEDARS (California Energy Data and Reporting System), which all RENs, IOUs, and CCAs that offer ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs use to upload various data, including

their monthly expenditures, program information, energy savings, etc. The system processes the data through quality checks and validations, and automates cost effectiveness test calculations that the CPUC uses to evaluate the success of a program or programs. CEDARS also provides a publicly-available dashboard to view data and download documents. The table in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report illustrates these required reports and when they are due.

Prior Action(s):

No prior actions for this item.

Fiscal Impact:

All costs associated with the development of an I-REN Energy-Efficiency Program are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Agency Budget under the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - I-REN Regulatory and Reporting Update](#)

I-REN Required CPUC Reporting for 2023

Report Type	Due Date	Content	Status
January 2023 Monthly Report	3/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	Not required, as I-REN invoice to SoCalGas is forthcoming as of due date.
2022 Q4 Claims	3/1/2023	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q4.	Not required, as I-REN invoice to SoCalGas is forthcoming as of due date.
February 2023 Monthly Report	4/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	Initial preparation underway.
2022 Annual Monthly Report	4/14/2023	"Month 13" report to align savings and expenditures with annual claim true up and annual report.	Initial preparation underway.
2022 Annual Report	4/14/2023	Narrative and spreadsheet format report on overall Portfolio performance and Program level accomplishments.	Currently in development.
2023 JCM	TBD	Narrative describing coordination with other PAs in I-REN territory.	Initial coordination meetings held. BayREN requested (with other PAs' support) an extension to 90 days following forthcoming decision in A.22-02-005.
2022 Annual Claims True up	4/14/2023	Yearly report which sums up all Quarterly reports; opportunity for PAs to true up/reconcile any errors in reporting from previous quarters and/or monthly reports.	
March 2023 Monthly Report	5/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
2023 Q1 Claims	6/1/2023	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q1.	

Report Type	Due Date	Content	Status
April 2023 Monthly Report	6/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
May 2023 Monthly Report	7/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
June 2023 Monthly Report	8/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
July 2023 Monthly Report	9/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
2024-2031 Business Plan True Up Advice Letter	~9/1/2023	True up of 2024-2031 Business Plan forecasting.	No specific due date or guidance has been issued by CPUC as of 12/31/2022. FE will coordinate with PLs to make any forecasting adjustments.
2023 Q2 Claims	9/1/2023	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q2.	
August 2023 Monthly Report	10/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
September 2023 Monthly Report	11/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
October 2023 Monthly Report	12/1/2023	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	

Report Type	Due Date	Content	Status
2023 Q3 Claims	12/1/2023	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q3.	
November 2023 Monthly Report	1/1/2024	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
December 2023 Monthly Report	2/1/2024	Current month's expenditures, plus YTD Expenditures, Committed Funds, Gross and Net Savings for all Programs in the Portfolio.	
2023 Q4 Claims	3/1/2024	Program expenditures and committed funds (YTD) PLUS Project level savings, measures, participant costs, incentives, etc., being claimed in Q4.	
<p>Abbreviations: Q = quarter of the year; CEDARS = California Energy Data and Reporting System; YTD = year to date; SFTP = Secure File Transfer Protocol; PII = personally identifiable information; PL = program lead; PA = program administrator; FE: Frontier Energy</p>			



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN Participation in U.S. Department of Energy Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Program

Contact: David Freedman, CVAG Energy & Sustainability Program Manager, dfreedman@cvag.org, (760) 346-1127

Date: March 21, 2023

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve I-REN's participation as subrecipient in the California Energy Commission application to the U.S. Department of Energy for funding of SolarAPP+ and CodeCycle projects under the Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Program.
2. Authorize WRCOG Executive Director to sign Partner Commitment Letters to the California Energy Commission and other ancillary documents in connection with the application to Department of Energy.

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to recommend approval of I-REN's participation in a grant funding opportunity for I-REN's Codes and Standards Sector.

Background:

On November 18, 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) formally approved the I-REN Business Plan through 2027. On December 13, 2022, the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Executive Committee met for the first time to learn about the history of Regional Energy Networks (RENs), how the concept for I-REN was developed through a cooperative process between the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), and about the submittal of a Business Plan to the CPUC for consideration for I-REN to become a Program Administrator. On January 17, 2023, the I-REN Executive Committee received an update on upcoming federal and state funding opportunities that I-REN could potentially assist local jurisdictions in leveraging.

As noted in the staff report presented to the I-REN Executive Committee at its January 17, 2023, meeting, staff have been tracking various upcoming funding opportunities that will be available to local government agencies and tribes as well as unincorporated communities within the I-REN territory. The first opportunity being pursued by the California Energy Commission (CEC) includes having I-REN as a partner in the U.S Department of Energy's (DOE) Resilience and Efficient Code Implementation (RECI) Program, established under the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Section 40511 of the IIJA, titled Cost-Effective Codes Implementation for Efficiency and Resilience, invests \$225M over five years, encompassing Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026, to “enable sustained cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes.” The Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) Program centers around updating to more efficient building energy codes that save money for American homes and businesses. The RECI Program also supports the federal government’s initiative to accelerate adoption of modern building codes to improve resiliency, create good-paying jobs, and lower energy bills. Individual awards may vary between \$500,000 and \$10,000,000.

In October 2022, the CEC hosted a webinar to solicit input from local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) and other interested parties on federal funding proposal ideas developed by CEC staff for the RECI Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that was issued by the DOE in December 2022. The CEC proposal ideas focused on supporting local AHJs with California Energy Code enforcement by developing and piloting innovative digital compliance software that will streamline the compliance, implementation, and enforcement processes. The webinar included a CEC staff presentation on the proposal ideas that have been developed for the FOA and a discussion of partnership opportunities for local AHJs that were interested in partnering.

Because the CEC webinar focused on streamlining the Energy Code compliance, implementation, enforcement process and workforce development, it was attended by statewide Codes & Standards program staff from I-REN as well as from 3C-REN (serving Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties) and BayREN (serving the nine-county Bay Area). Following the webinar, staff of the three RENs began initial discussions with the CEC and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to pursue a grant opportunity under the RECI Program. As a first project under the RECI Program, the three RENs would like to partner with the CEC to pursue funding for a demonstration project to expand the already successful SolarAPP+ automated permitting software developed by NREL for residential solar permitting; the software is free to AHJs. The additional technologies that will be included as part of the expanded SolarAPP+ scope are heat pump (HVAC and water heating) systems, Photo Voltaic (PV) systems for residential new construction, and additions to existing PV systems.

Many AHJs in I-REN’s region have already begun adopting SolarAPP+ to meet the deadlines of SB 379, a bill passed in 2022 that requires most California AHJs to adopt an online automated platform for solar PV permits such as SolarAPP+ no later than September 30, 2024. The expansion of SolarAPP+ is a natural extension because of anticipated growth in the number of heat pump installations under the State’s energy efficiency initiatives and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, as well as federal incentives that are now available under the Inflation Reduction Act. The three RENs will manage the demonstration in their respective areas and support AHJ participants. The RENs will also convene training to AHJs and permit applicants in the use and application of the software.

The CEC’s other proposed project for funding under the RECI Program is a demonstration project to the existing CodeCycle digital software tools to support Energy Code compliance. [CodeCycle.org](https://www.codecycle.org) digitizes and simplifies compliance verification by employing map-based visuals with compliance information tied to plans, automated analysis, inspection highlights, questions, and prioritization, and a refined user interface for ease of use. AHJs that have deployed CodeCycle have expressed great support for the software based on feedback provided at CEC stakeholder discussions. In 2019, the CEC awarded CodeCycle a grant of \$450,000 for a Central Valley demonstration project. The software expansion will cover nonresidential mechanical systems, building envelope, covered processes, and include acceptance testing, which California uses to help ensure that the installed equipment in nonresidential

buildings is operating as designed and in compliance with the Energy Code. This will provide a unique opportunity, starting at the plan check stage, to identify the requirements that need to be completed or verified at the end of a project. The expanded software will then be demonstrated and tested in jurisdictions across California to gather feedback and further refine the tool for consideration of use in regulatory compliance. With assistance from the CodeCycle team, the three RENs will manage the demonstration in their respective areas, conduct evaluations on the impacts to code compliance, and convene AHJs and permit applicants for training.

The SolarAPP+ and CodeCycle projects for which the CEC is seeking RECI Program funding, including for the RENs, are consistent with the goals and strategies set out in I-REN's Business Plan approved by the CPUC. Under Codes & Standards Strategy 3.3, I-REN will develop technical assistance tools and resources to assist building departments and the building industry in understanding, evaluating, and permitting of energy codes. Similarly, under the Workforce Education & Training Sector, I-REN will promote relevant training opportunities to upskill the workforce.

The training and evaluation to be provided by the RENs for the SolarAPP+ and CodeCycle projects is the same type that I-REN will be providing in its region through the Codes & Standards and Workforce Education & Training programs. In 2022 I-REN staff held two webinars for AHJs on SolarAPP+ featuring speakers from the SolarAPP+ team and the CEC. In addition, AHJs in I-REN's region will have the opportunity to serve as pilots for the SolarAPP+ and CodeCycle demonstration projects. The City of Menifee, in the WRCOG subregion, was one of the original SolarAPP+ pilot AHJs and has informally indicated its interest in again being a SolarAPP+ pilot AHJ. I-REN staff is reaching out to other AHJs to see if they would also be interested in participating in a pilot program. Similar to other I-REN programs, staff will endeavor to ensure that AHJs and workforce pools in all three I-REN subregions will have an equal opportunity to participate in the demonstration and trainings.

With input from staff of the three RENs, the CEC submitted concept papers as the applicant for the SolarAPP+ and CodeCycle projects to the DOE in late January 2023. The DOE encouraged the CEC to submit full applications for RECI Program funding under the procedure set forth in the FOA, which are due March 27, 2023. After further discussion with the CEC, the CEC is asking each of the RENs to commit to participate as a subrecipient of the award(s) to the CEC by providing commitment letters, as well as budget justification worksheets and information on each of the senior / key personnel expected to work on the projects.

The expected date for DOE selection notifications under the FOA is June 26, 2023, and the expected timeframe for award negotiations is June 26 through August 29, 2023. If the DOE awards the CEC funding for one or both RECI projects, specific material support for the project(s) will be defined and executed through a subsequent agreement negotiated between I-REN and the CEC. I-REN staff will bring the agreement(s) back to the Executive Committee for approval.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Fiscal Impact:

All costs associated with the development of an I-REN Energy-Efficiency Program are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Agency Budget under the Energy & Environment Department.

The CEC is applying for the maximum award of \$10M for each RECI Program project. The requested REN subrecipient award for the SolarAPP+ project is \$500,000 (one-third for each REN) over a five-year performance period. For CodeCycle, the requested subrecipient award for I-REN and 3C-REN is \$200,000 each over a four-year performance period. Each REN is also being asked to commit a total of \$50,000 over the performance period for each project as an in-kind contribution for AHJ and workforce training. I-REN's contribution will be covered under the budget for the Codes & Standards and Workforce Education & Training programs approved by the CPUC for staff time and work by I-REN's Codes & Standards implementer, Frontier Energy.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Discussion of I-REN Executive Committee 2023 Meeting Location Schedule
Contact: Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs,
cdailey@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6720
Date: March 21, 2023

Requested Action(s):

1. Determine and approve I-REN Executive Committee meeting locations for 2023.

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to discuss and obtain approval of a meeting location schedule for 2023.

Background:

In December 2022, the I-REN Executive Committee approved a January 17, 2023 meeting, and discussed the need to have additional meetings throughout 2023 in order to receive additional comprehensive presentation(s) related, but not limited to, I-REN Business Plan development and CPUC approval, and Strategic Plan and contracting activities. The Committee retains discretion to meet at any time or frequency the members deem appropriate.

On January 17, 2023, the Committee reviewed two scheduling options and approved monthly meetings on every 3rd Tuesday at 2:00p.m through the end of 2023. In the event a meeting is not needed, the Executive Committee has the right to cancel a meeting on an as-needed basis.

Day and Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
3rd Tues. @ 2:00 p.m.	17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	19

It was suggested at the February 21, 2023, meeting to add an agenda item to the March 21, 2023 meeting to discuss possible locations (one location, rotating locations, etc.) for the remainder of 2023.

Staff seeks input from Committee members to establish future meeting locations for the above meeting schedule for the remainder of 2023.

Prior Action(s):

January 17, 2023: The I-REN Executive Committee approved monthly meetings on every 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. through the end of 2023.

Fiscal Impact:

This item is for informational purposes only, therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment(s):

None.