

SoCalREN Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 16th, 2024
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees

#	Name	Organization
1	Lujuana Medina	County of Los Angeles
2	Joe Susca	City of Culver City
3	Sumi Gant	Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
4	Natalie Hernandez	Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
5	Nicholas Ryu	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
6	Wendy Angel	Emerald Cities
7	Allison Hart	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
8	Craig Perkins	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
9	Fernanda Craig	County of Los Angeles
10	Pam Bold	High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
11	Tessa Charnofsky	County of Los Angeles
12	Amanda Hassan	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
13	Mallory Schaefer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
15	Talia Perluss	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
16	Kim Fuentes	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
17	Sona Coffee	Clean Power Alliance (CPA)
18	Angie Hacker	California Climate Energy Collaborative (CCEC)
19	Patrick Ngo	Lincus, Inc.

20	Sabrina Barber	Imperial Irrigation District
21	Tara Tisopulos	OC Waste & Recycling
22	Aaron Katzenstein	South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
23	Benjamin Lucha	City of Palmdale
24	Aileen Qin	Gateway Cities COG
25	Chris Moore	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
26	Cody Coeckelenbergh	ICF
27	Courtney Kalashian	San Joaquin County Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)
28	Cristalle Mauleon	Lincus
29	Rebecca Hausheer	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
30	Lisa Tanaka	South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCQAMD)
31	Savi Bassa	ICF
32	Shanette Anderson	Emerald Cities
33	Sophia Akin	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
34	Steven Halligan	Orange County Power Authority (OCPA)
35	Sulma Hernandez	County of Los Angeles
36	Jacob Alvarez	Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
37	Joanne O'Neill	Clean Power Alliance
38	Eduardo Tapia	Gateway Cities Council of Government (GCCOG)
39	Kodie Baig	ICF
40	Melani Smith	Gateway Cities Council of Government (GCCOG)

Notes/Key Takeaways

- Allison Hart (The Energy Coalition) began the meeting by reviewing the following administrative items:

- Introductions/logos of invited participants
 - Advisory Committee Members
 - Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)
 - Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
 - San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
 - South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
 - Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
 - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
 - City of Culver City
 - City of Palmdale
 - City of Santa Barbara
 - County of Ventura
 - County of Santa Barbara
 - City of Irvine
 - Clean Power Alliance
 - Orange County Power Authority
 - County of Orange
 - Imperial Irrigation District (IID)
 - Invited Guests
 - California Public Utilities Commission
 - California Climate & Energy Collaborative
 - CalChoice
 - Grounded Research
 - South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
 - SoCalREN Staff, Implementers & Regional Partners
 - County of Los Angeles
 - The Energy Coalition (TEC)
 - ICF
 - High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
 - San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)
 - Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)
 - Lincus Incorporated
- Purpose of Advisory Committee
 - Guide and advise
 - Collaborate and innovate
 - Be informed
 - Be an advocate
- Meeting agenda
- SoCalREN Welcome (Lujana Medina, LA County)
 - Lujana expressed excitement as 2025 comes around that there will be more opportunities to collaborate and more resources
 - LA County has been looking to take SoCalREN nationally with the idea that it can be replicated and scaled across the country

- With this, they are looking to form multi-jurisdiction and multi-state coalitions
- They have also been in talks with some sister cities to take what we learned here and develop it in the Midwest or East Coast
- Regulatory and Policy Updates (Fernanda Craig, LA County)
 - Please reach out to Fernanda if you have any additional questions that were not covered during the presentation
 - Assembly Bill 3264
 - Overview
 - CPUC + CEC must develop a framework to assess, track, and analyze total annual energy costs for Californian residential households.
 - IOUs/CCAs must publish and provide visual representations of cost categories in residential rates annually, starting January 1, 2026.
 - Must include costs due to energy efficiency programs
 - Revises Section 913.5 of the current PUC code to include RENs in required reporting.
 - By July 1, 2025, the CPUC, in consultation with CEC, IBANK, and CAISO, will submit a study to the Governor and Legislature on reducing the cost of expanding the electrical transmission grid to meet state goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The author frames the bill as collecting information on total energy costs and identifying evidence-based approaches to reduce those costs.
 - Reporting Updates
 - Section 913.5 of the Public Utilities Code was amended and increased reporting requirements for RENs and other EE Portfolio Administrators (PAs). This could impact compliance and administrative burdens for PAs and individual programs.
 - More like a replacement of the old reporting structure
 - Requires new information not previously included, which is listed below
 - SoCalREN's programs are transparent and track data beyond existing reporting requirements; we can currently meet many of the new evaluation requirements.
 - The report will include all DSM (including C&S), with evaluations for each program that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 - Program description and target population;
 - Authorized budgets and actual expenditures;
 - Projected and actual energy savings over the program cycle;
 - Projected and actual bill savings to the average participating and the average nonparticipating ratepayer;
 - Cost-effectiveness analysis, including a TRC and a PAC test;
 - Public interest impacts, as applicable;
 - Actual customers served, aggregated by customer class, geographic distribution, and income level;

- Peak demand reduction, as applicable; and,
 - Total System Benefit
- Program Administrators need to be diligent in keeping data needed for reporting updated and accurate
- Only focuses on resource programs
 - Non-resource programs that benefit the communities will not be tracked under this reporting
- Gov. Newsom said at the end of September that he would take action in the next few weeks that would address utility rates
 - Some of the items on utility bills that fund these programs may be affected by this action
- Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) (Cristalle Mauleon, Lincus)
 - Overview
 - Refrigerants are chemicals used in heating and air conditioning and refrigeration systems to provide cooling/heating
 - Refrigerant molecules leak from devices and end up in the atmosphere
 - They reflect radiated energy back to Earth's surface (re-radiation)
 - Global Warming Potential (GWP) measures how much energy 1 ton of a greenhouse gas (GHG) will re-radiate compared to 1 ton of CO₂
 - Current refrigerants have GWPs that are in the 1000s
 - R134a:1430
 - R404a: 3920
 - R410a: 2090
 - Low-GWP refrigerants have GWPs of 700 or less
 - R454b: 470
 - R32 (aka HFC32): 675
 - Ultra-Low-GWP refrigerants have GWPs of 10 or less
 - R290 (aka propane): 3
 - R600a (aka isobutane):6
 - R717 (aka ammonia): 0
 - Federal Regulations
 - Clean Air Act (CAA) Passed - 1963
 - Clean Air Act passed to reduce and control air pollution in the US
 - CAA Amendment - 1990
 - Includes Title VI, establishing EPA SNAP to address ozone-depleting substances
 - SNAP Rule 20 - 2015
 - Regulates certain High-GWP HFCs used in commercial refrigeration
 - Kigail Amendment - 2016
 - Targets phase-out of certain High-GWP HFCs in specific end-uses, including stationary refrigeration and foam blowing

- Outlines a schedule for the reduction of HFC production and consumption
 - AIM Act - 2020
 - Empowers EPA to regulate production, consumption, and uses of HFCs using authority granted by CAA
 - AIM Act Final Rule - 2023
 - Restricts uses of HFCs in specific sectors/subsectors
 - Established process for technology transitions petition
 - Established recordkeeping and reporting requirements
 - CA Regulations
 - AB 32 Global Warming Solution Act Passed - 2006
 - Establishes GHG emissions targets for CA
 - SB 1383 - 2016
 - By 2030, HFC levels to be reduced by 40% of 2013 levels
 - SB 1013 - 2018
 - California Cooling Act codifies schedule for phasing out HFCs
 - Carb HFC Regulation - 2018
 - Prohibits specific HFCs
 - CARB HFC Regulation Update - 2020
 - Adds GWP limits for new chillers and AC equipment
 - Mandates for retail food companies
 - Establishes R4 Program
 - SB 1206 - 2022
 - Prohibits the sale of bulk new HFCs while allowing the sale of reclaimed HFCs
 - California and federal government regulations are not well-aligned
 - Reference slides for graphs on Light Commercial HVAC Limits and Chiller limits
- Low-GWP Challenges
 - Reference slides for refrigeration classification method
 - Refrigerants used in HVAC equipment are usually A1, meaning they are low toxicity and have no flame propagation. Low-GWP and Ultra-Low-GWP refrigerants are almost always A2Ls or A3s, meaning they are not toxic, but they are flammable. Building codes and standards do not like flammable refrigerants.
 - California Mechanical Code (CMC) currently does not allow A2L or A3 refrigerants in High Probability systems
 - Effectively, this prohibits Low-GWP refrigerants in most air conditioning systems
 - Local Authorities Having Jurisdictions (AHJs) are in charge of enforcing CMC or their own local code
 - AB 209 - 2022
 - "This bill would require the commission, on or before July 1, 2023, to consider whether to adopt specified consensus safety standards. If the commission does not adopt the consensus safety standards, then the bill

would prohibit a state or local building code from prohibiting the use of a refrigerant listed as acceptable under specified provisions of the federal Clean Air Act if the use is installed in accordance with specified standards, effective July 1, 2024.”

- This means an AHJ may not prohibit an A2L from being installed if the EPA has approved it through their SNAP program for that type of equipment
- Public Agency Questions
 - Are your AHJs aware of CMC or AB209?
 - Have they received training on CMC requirements?
 - Have they received training on CARB/EPA requirements?
 - Have they begun to seek quotes for low-GWP HVAC equipment?
- SoCalREN New Programs
 - SoCalREN New Programs: WE&T (Tessa Charnofsky, LA County)
 - SoCalREN Workforce Education and Training Sector –Opportunity Hub
 - The WE&T Opportunity Hub connects contractors and workers to jobs and opportunities.
 - Organizes the infrastructure needed to connect SoCalREN’s small and minority contractors and disadvantaged workers to capacity-building resources and opportunities.
 - All WE&T programs access Hub services.
 - Resource Library- A centralized source to provide tools, templates, and information to support small contractors in managing and growing their businesses.
 - Training Center—The Training Center offers specialized education to improve skills for contractors and job seekers. It will be on-demand and available as modules, videos, or live learning.
 - Marketplace- The Marketplace/Opportunity clearing house will serve as the hub for small contractors, and individual workers can find relevant projects, bid opportunities, job postings, etc.
 - Dialogue
 - Small to Medium Commerce
 - As local governments, what are some current local small business contractor needs or challenges you are hearing about?
 - Sumi Gant (GCCOG)- have not been doing a lot of work with contractors. I wonder if you have any focus groups that you use, made of contractors or small businesses because they would know best.
 - Aileen Qin (GCCOG)- GCCOG gathered together small businesses to connect them to workers and workers to employment- The most prevalent thing they needed was connection and visibility of resources

- Cody Coeckelenbergh (ICF)- I'd be looking for money, job opportunities, and project opportunities. Those would be prerequisites for project participation.
- Pam Bold (HSEF)- For the hub to be successful, we need to do the outreach so people know about it and are incentivized to use it
- Benjamin Lucha (Palmdale)- We have issues on the other end, especially with solar. We have issues with bad actors who spread false information and even ripping people off. How could we create a network where they can be differentiated from those bad actors?
 - Lujana Medina (LA County)- We need to have a prequalified trade ally network. Have a trusted partner certification or something similar.
- Tara Tisopulos (Orange County)- The small and medium businesses I hear from indicate that it's very difficult to navigate the "qualified vendor" and procurement process.
- Natalie Hernandez (GCCOG)- Is a qualified vendor the same as a "trade ally" who is trusted and vetted for SoCalREN programs?
- Chris Moore- Specifically for solar, the CPUC has a guide for consumers that contractors who interconnect are required to provide: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/solarguide/>
 - What would help them be more competitive?
- Green Economy Workforce
 - If you were a worker with some skills training in energy-related fields, what would you seek in a resource Hub?
 - Amanda Hassan (TEC)- Networking opportunities or webinars/training sessions
- SoCalREN New Programs: Residential (Lujana Medina, LA County)
 - The SoCalREN Hard-to-Reach Direct Install: Multifamily program helps customers who do not have easy access to program information due to a language, income, housing type, geographic, or home ownership barrier, still enjoy the benefits of energy efficiency upgrades.
 - After a consultation with a Program Trade Ally and an energy assessment, a licensed and qualified contractor will install energy efficiency measures available through the program for free, followed by a project wrap-up to review results to the satisfaction of all involved.
 - Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG)- What is considered small multifamily
 - 50 units or less, and they need to be in DAC zipcode
 - The minimum number of units is four
 - Program Objectives

- Providing services that create a significant positive impact on a historically very underserved multifamily market sector.
- Establishing a team of local DI contractors to serve a diverse geographic region.
- Serving 644 small multifamily buildings meeting HTR criteria and providing bill savings measures to over 16,000 tenant units within the 2024-2027 program cycle.
- Expected to launch in early December.
- Program Summary
 - Program Segment - Resource Acquisition
 - Program Cycle Period - Four years (2024-2027)
 - Target Sector - Residential (Small MF <50 units)
 - Incentive Path Offered - Direct Install
 - Key program performance metrics
 - TSB, Savings (kWh, therms), TRC
 - Hard to Reach multifamily properties served
 - Tenant units served
 - Total project costs in DAC
 - Total project costs in Rural/HTR
 - Annual quantitative program targets
 - Serve 160 multifamily buildings in DAC ZIP codes or meeting HTR criteria
 - Provide bill savings measures to 2,400 tenant units
 - Establish a team of local Direct Install Contractors to serve a diverse geographic region
- Delivery Pathway
 - ICF worked closely with key trade ally partners to develop this experience-based design for the Small Multifamily HTR DI program sector.
 - These key trade allies have the customers and business structure to support ICF in successfully delivering the goals of this program and can begin installing projects immediately upon program launch.
 - Regional Account managers will recruit trade allies in HTR communities and then concurrently train individuals on the installation principles associated with the measures offered through the program and the policies and guidelines of the SoCalREN Small Multifamily HTR DI program.
 - Pam Bold (HSEF)- Is this the SEED initiative?
 - Cristalle Mauleon (Lincus)- What measures are offered in this program? Any water heater replacements? Or mostly lighting/aerators/controls?
 - Water heating would be eligible, and yes, all listed

- Jacob Alvarez (CVAG)- For EB Decarb: Given that the program is trying to reach these hard-to-reach communities, what is the likelihood that they own their property? And if not, how will the program get the property owner to participate?
 - Lujana Medina (LA County)—Tenants don't typically own their property. We are speaking of working with property owners who are non-primary English speakers. Depending on the community or city, we find there are many. They are typically family-owned.
- SoCalREN New Programs: Public (Rebecca Hausheer, The Energy Coalition)
 - Rural & Hard to Reach - Small Public Agency Direct Install
 - Program Description: Will provide no-cost EE retrofits at underserved public agency facilities with < 20 kW of peak demand usage.
 - Program Services:
 - Offers streamlined, no-cost implementation of energy efficiency measures.
 - Measures may include lighting, HVAC replacements, HVAC controls, and window film.
 - Provides public agencies with technical expertise and knowledge through project managers and vetted contractors.
 - Water and Wastewater Strategic - Energy Management (SEM)
 - Program Description: Will help municipally-owned potable water systems and wastewater treatment plants expedite comprehensive peak demand reduction projects. The SEM approach creates a foundation for sustained energy savings by fostering staff's ability to integrate strategic energy decisions into their workflow.
 - Program Services:
 - Delivery of an SEM Roadmap to set energy and operational goals.
 - Trainings on how to identify, prioritize, and implement energy-saving actions.
 - Cash incentives and access to no-cost technical assistance.
 - Underserved Schools Strategic - Energy Management (SEM)
 - Program Description: Will engage K-12 school districts and community college building occupants on systematic energy management best practices and will develop energy leadership among staff, administrators, and educators.
 - Program Services:
 - Provide a designated SoCalREN Project Manager.
 - Provide tools and guidance to support schools with their long-term strategic energy planning.
 - Develop and help agencies integrate energy efficiency curriculum.

- Expand one-stop energy efficiency project delivery to include IDSM audits and recommendations.
 - Tara Tisopulos (Orange County)- Is an Underserved School defined as a Title 1 school?
 - Yes
 - Water Infrastructure Program
 - Program Description: The Water Infrastructure program will incentivize long-term energy efficiency solutions to water production, distribution, and treatment systems. Measures incentivized will include wastewater mixing, ultraviolet controls, pump sequencing, etc.
 - Program Services:
 - Cash incentives for energy efficiency measures.
 - Project development support and education on emerging technologies.
 - Assistance with identifying additional funding and financing pathways.
 - Pam Bold (HSEF)- When can we anticipate these public programs being rolled out?
 - LA County is aiming to roll them out in December
- INVEST CLEAN through CPRG Funding (Aaron Katzenstein, SCAQMD)
 - Background
 - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) created \$4.6 B U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG)
 - The goals to develop climate action plans and implement projects:
 - Reduce GHG emissions
 - Support jobs
 - Leverage funding, maximize emission reductions and community benefits
 - Address environmental justice
 - South Coast AQMD worked with two Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and played an active role
 - \$500 million award, the largest in the nation
 - CPRG Development Process
 - Planning Grant
 - January/February 2023 - April 2023
 - Created Steering Committees
 - LA-OC MSA: Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim
 - Inland Empire MSA: Riverside-San Bernardino, Ontario
 - Developed Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)– foundation for implementation grants
 - Worked to prioritize Goods Movement application
 - Coordinated regionally and with the State
 - Implementation Grant
 - February 2024 – April 2024

- South Coast AQMD took the lead for CPRG Southern California Goods Movement Working Group
 - PCAP submitted in March 2024
 - Built consensus on goods movement proposal framework
 - Developed proposal and submitted in April 2024
- INVEST CLEAN: Four Incentive Measures
 - Heavy-duty Charging Infrastructure
 - Battery Electric Class 8 Heavy-duty Trucks and Last Mile Freight for Class 4 & 5 Vehicles
 - Battery Electric Cargo Handling Equipment
 - Battery Electric Switcher Locomotive Pilot Projects
- Jobs, Workforce Training & Community Benefits
 - Jobs
 - Near-term, over 470 jobs to be created in CA and 4,700 nationwide
 - Workforce Training
 - Partnership with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers where they will connect with the following organizations to encourage workers to consider these jobs- National Electrical Contractors Association, workforce non-governmental organizations, community colleges, and universities
 - Community Benefits
 - Steering Committee to conduct outreach and education on climate, air quality, and zero-emission technologies
 - Community priorities are incorporated as voluntary measures that infrastructure project
 - can elect to implement
 - Emissions reductions and workforce training
- Climate & Air Quality
 - Benefits over 25 years
 - 12 million metric tons of CO2 emissions reduced
 - 1,600 of NOx emissions reduced per year
 - 28 tons of PM2.5 emissions reduced per year
 - 30 tons diesel PM emissions reduced per year
 - 1 billion+ gallons of diesel avoided
- Next Steps
 - SCAQMD Board approval & recognition of the award (Sept. 2024)
 - EPA grant agreement (Oct. 2024)
 - Solicitation for 3rd party facilitator (Dec. 2024)
 - Subaward agreements for Workforce, NREL, & First Mile Freight (Q1 2025)
 - Develop an implementation plan (Q1 2025)
 - Release Program announcement for incentive measures (Q2 2025)
- Contact information
 - For more information, please subscribe to updates at:

- <https://www.aqmd.gov/sign-up>, and select “Climate Pollution Reduction Grant”
 - Aaron Katzenstein
 - Deputy Executive Officer Technology Advancement Office
 - 909-396-2219 / akatzenstein@aqmd.gov
 - Lisa Tanaka O’Malley
 - Deputy Executive Officer Legislative & Public Affairs
 - 909-396-3327 / lomalley@aqmd.gov
 - General inquiries: INVESTCLEAN-CPRG@aqmd.gov
- Sumi Gant (GCCOG)- For the truck charging stations, who are those funds available to?
 - Aaron Katzenstein (SCAQMD)- We haven’t really defined who is not included, so municipalities could potentially be included. The goal is to make this as public as possible so that municipalities can use these charging stations as much as possible.
- Tara Tisopulos (Orange County)- Pilot program for switcher locomotives: are you testing or purchasing them?
 - Aaron Katzenstein (SCAQMD)- The idea is for locomotive companies to lease them to test the technology. Get them in place and operate them for 5-10 years, and the OEMs can take the locomotives back, or the operators can continue to use them. About \$200 million is going to this program. We are not sure yet where we are going to target for the locomotives.
 - We will be targeting corridors for the truck charging stations
 - The range of the trucks is typically around 200-250, but it depends on the manufacturer and usage
- Closing Remarks (Lujana Medina, LA County)
 - Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. If you have any questions regarding the programs we talked about, feel free to reach out to me or anyone on my team. My hope is at the next advisory meeting, we will be able to discuss commercial and agriculture programs.
 - I know many of you may have participated in CPRG, and we are looking for ways to overcome the competitive nature of these programs so we can get more resources into our communities across CA and other regional states
 - As we find new opportunities to identify external funding, we will provide that information
- Closing Reminders (Allison Hart, The Energy Coalition)
 - Please complete the [Q3 Meeting Survey](#) (ACTION ITEM)
 - Contact Laurel Rothschild (The Energy Coalition) if you would like to present at a future SoCalREN Advisory Committee meeting and share resources with the group
 - SoCalREN Podcast and Social Media
 - Don’t forget to follow us on social media
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Twitter](#)

- [Instagram](#)
- [Online Resource for Advisory Committee Members](#)
- 2024 Meeting Schedule
 - Q1: March 20th, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
 - Q2: August 8th, In-person - SGVCOG Offices, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
 - Q3: October 16th, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
 - Q4: December 11th, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12 pm
- The Q3 SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned.