

SoCalREN Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 6, 2025

10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Hybrid: in-person at Frank R. Bowerman Landfill in Irvine and virtually via Zoom

Attendees

#	Name	Organization
1	Minh Le	County of Los Angeles
2	Fernanda Craig	County of Los Angeles
3	Frederick Chung	County of Los Angeles
4	Sulma Hernandez	County of Los Angeles
5	Tessa Charnofsky	County of Los Angeles
6	Shelley Osborn	County of Los Angeles
7	Sumi Gant	Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
8	Natalie Hernandez	GCCOG
9	Aileen Qin	GCCOG
10	Eduardo Tapia	GCCOG
11	Nicholas Ryu	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
12	Eleanor Murphy	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
13	Kim Fuentes	SBCCOG
14	Pam Bold	High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
15	Jess Blackwell	HSEF
16	Courtney Blore Kalashian	San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)
17	Benjamin Lucha	City of Palmdale
18	Joe Susca	City of Culver City

19	Joanne O'Neill	Clean Power Alliance (CPA)
20	Angie Hacker	California Climate Energy Collaborative (CCEC)
21	Kathy Wells	CalChoice
22	Jacob Alvarez	Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
23	Wendy Angel	Emerald Cities Collaborative
24	Patrick Ngo	Lincus, Inc.
25	Rosie Kang	Willdan
26	Kimberly Jaeger Johnson	ILLUME
27	Nataly Morales	Orange County Power Authority (OCPA)
28	Pranesh Venugopal	OCPA
29	Steve Halligan	OCPA
30	Tara Tisopulos	Orange County
31	Savi Bassa	ICF
32	Cody Coeckelenbergh	ICF
33	Kodie Baig	ICF
34	Benjamin Lyon	ICF
35	Nora Gutierrez	California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
36	Hope Christman	CPUC
37	Christopher Moore	CPUC
38	Allison Hart	The Energy Coalition (TEC)
39	Craig Perkins	TEC
40	Rebecca Hausheer	TEC
41	Laurel Rothschild	TEC

42	Amanda Hassan	TEC
43	Mallory Schaefer	TEC

Notes/Key Takeaways

- Laurel Rothschild (TEC) 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 Barabra
 - 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
 - Energy Solutions
 - 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 (Minh Le, LA County & Tara Tisopulos, OCWR)
 - Minh Le started the meeting by welcoming everyone and discussing the importance of collaboration within the programs we work on, as it helps strengthen our defense against defunding. There will be challenges at the federal level going forward even with existing funding, as well as with the State level. The way we overcome these challenges is to show the value of our partnerships and the value of the impact we have.
 - Tara from OCWR welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced and thanked the OCWR staff who helped prepare the space for the meeting.
- Regulatory Updates (Fernanda Craig, LA County)
 - New Order Institute Rulemaking for energy efficiency was just released that following the closing of the last energy efficiency proceeding
 - Mid-Cycle Advice Letter Overview
 - Purpose: Adjusting technical inputs, forecasts, and portfolio to account for the changes in energy efficiency potential and goals.
 - Advice letter required elements:
 - Program Closure
 - New Programs
 - Community Engagement Indicators
 - Updated cost-effectiveness inputs and portfolio summaries
 - Specific descriptions of how PAs have incorporated or otherwise addressed impact evaluation recommendations for specific Commission studies released after 2022- ED to decide which studies must be included.
 - Deadline is September 1st, 2025
 - Community Engagement Indicators Decision Prompt
 - (OP24) Portfolio administrators shall develop indicators to measure community engagement and should include them in their Mid-Cycle advice letters in 2025. After the advice letters are addressed by the Commission, the portfolio administrators shall report on the adopted community engagement indicators in their annual reports.
 - (7.8) With this guidance in mind, and once recommendations are developed through the CAEECC metrics working group, we will require that the PAs include agreed-upon community engagement indicators in their mid-cycle advice letters due September 1, 2025. Indicators that received widespread support but may not have reached consensus should also be reflected in the advice letters. Thereafter, the administrators should report on each of the agreed-upon indicators in their annual reports
 - Community Engagement Workplan
 - "The indicators should be designed by engaging ESJ communities and CBOs directly." (Decision 23-06-055, 7.8-3, p68)
 - Purpose

- Based on the decision language above, SoCalREN understands that the development of community engagement indicators should involve a collaborative process in which Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) communities, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and stakeholders are directly engaged.
 - This ensures that the indicators are relevant and meaningful and reflect the unique needs, challenges, and priorities of the communities being served. By involving these stakeholders from the outset, we can ensure that the indicators effectively capture the impact of energy efficiency programs, are culturally and contextually appropriate, and promote long-term, sustainable engagement.
 - Additionally, this process fosters a sense of ownership and accountability, empowering CBOs and community members to actively participate in shaping the indicators that will ultimately guide program success.
 - EJS Community Panel
 - Background
 - In November 2024, the CAEECC facilitation team proposed and sought approval to host an ESJ Panel at a CAEECC meeting to share the Panel’s experiences with Equity segment program implementation and outreach.
 - In February, the Panel was rescheduled to create space for SoCal/LA Panelist.
 - Purpose: To hear perspectives of community engagement and outreach for energy (efficiency) programs. PAs can take these insights to develop outreach processes/indicators for Mid-Cycle Advice Letters.
 - The discussion will center around questions that focus on the challenges communities have gone through when trying to participate in energy efficiency programs.
 - Invitation: Facilitation team is inviting organizations with experience in equity program implementation, community-based outreach, and small-to-medium business experience in the energy space.
 - When: 4/9/25 @ 1:30pm, 90minutes
 - Meeting link: <https://www.caeccc.org/4-9-25-ee-community-engagementpanel>
- Equitable Building Decarbonization Program (Frederick Chung, LA County)
 - Program Overview
 - CEC & LAC executed a 5-year term Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Agreement in December 2024 with a total award of \$328,977,740.
 - The EBD Statewide Direct Install (DI) Program will provide building decarbonization upgrades for low-income and moderate-income households in single-family, multifamily, and manufactured homes in under-resourced communities.
 - The program is being administered separately in Northern, Central, and Southern California. LA County leads a coalition of Community Partners to deliver the EBD DI Program in the Southern Region.

- Regional Outreach & Engagement
 - Please view the slides for the infographic and community partners
- Initial Community Focus Area Criteria
 - Identified communities with high pollution, economic disadvantage, and climate vulnerability using data from CalEnviroScreen 4.0, CA Justice40, and FEMA Flood Maps.

Data Type	Feature(s)	Source
Demographic and Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housing costs ● Household income at or below poverty level ● Households making less than 80% of area median family income ● Low employment and unemployment ● Linguistic isolation (share of households where no one over age 14 speaks English) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CalEnviroScreen 4.0
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CA Justice40
Hazards Exposure and Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PM 2.5 in air level of inhalable particles ● Diesel particulate matter exposure ● Proximity to hazardous waste facilities ● Proximity to Superfund Sites ● Proximity to Risk Management Plan Facilities ● Projected flood risk ● Wildfire threat ● Wastewater discharge modeled toxicity ● Urban heat island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CA Justice40 ● CalEnviroScreen 4.0 ● Cal Fire Hazard Severity ● FEMA Flood Maps ● NASA TAIR

- 26 Community Partner Agreements in Review
 - Please see the slides for the list of partners and the timeline
- Eligible measures
 - Heating and cooling
 - Heat pump
 - Duct testing/sealing
 - Smart thermostat
 - Ceiling fan, whole-house fan
 - Building envelope
 - Insulation
 - Air sealing
 - Solar window film
 - Water heating
 - Heat pump water heater

- Low-flow showerheads and faucets
 - Cooking, laundry
 - Induction range or cooktop
 - Electric clothes dryer
 - Air quality, lighting
 - Air filtration
 - LED lights
 - Electrical and remediation
 - Electrical wiring and panel upgrades
 - Remediation and safety
- Program Impact
 - Over 12,000 homes are expected to benefit from the program
 - Single-Family
 - Multifamily
 - Manufactured/ Mobile
- Questions
 - Tara Tisopulos (OCWR): Does the program align with the new SCAQMD regulation amendment regarding boilers, water heaters, etc. in existing and new-build homes?
 - Laurel Rothschild (TEC): Given these are all electrification measures, they should all comply
 - Angie Hacker (CCEC): [State/Local Energy & Climate Coordination \(SLECC\)](#) is discussing the issues and barriers around residential decarbonization and, how to help customers navigate incentives, financing, and code alignment. If you want to join the SLECC meeting, reach out to Angie.
 - Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG): When will the MOU process be done?
 - April 1st is when all agreements should be signed
 - Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG): When will you start meeting with CBOs?
 - Once the agreement is in place
 - Laurel Rothschild (TEC): TEC will be supporting coordination among partners after the MOUs are signed, so we will keep in mind that SBCCOG wants to be part of the CBO meetings
 - Laurel Rothschild (TEC): Do you want to share the anticipated timeline for the first installation for the communities?
 - We are looking to complete three Rapid Start projects by the end of this summer
- SoCalREN 2025 Program Updates (Sulma Hernandez, LA County)
 - Current SoCalREN Programs



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway to Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multifamily Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Green Leaders Summit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolving Savings Fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Delivery Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kits for Kids Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACES 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlined Savings Pathway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard-to-Reach Direct Install 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Path Careers 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metered Savings Program* • <i>Closing Q1 2025</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-contractor Program 	

- Key Updates to Existing Public Sector Programs
 - The Metered Savings Program has closed to new projects, and performance-based incentives (NMEC) will now be available through the Streamlined Savings Pathway
 - Pathway to Zero will be updated to help public agencies access the Direct Pay option for clean energy tax credits
 - Upon CPUC approval IDSMS Advice Letter approval, the Project Delivery Program will begin offering distributed energy resource (DER) technical assistance
 - We continue to prioritize Regional Reach and ensure equitable distribution of services across SoCalREN’s service territory
- Public Sector Programs & Incentives
 - High-opportunity project types
 - Interior lighting & controls (to achieve 10% savings at the meter or more)
 - Sports lighting
 - Heat pump water heaters, with the highest incentives for police depts, fire stations, dorms, and facilities with gyms or pools
 - Up to 100% cost coverage
 - Bundle with additional water measures, including pipe insulation, faucet aerators, and low-flow shower heads
 - Storage or tankless gas water heaters can be supported if there are barriers to electrification
 - Incentives will be based on lifecycle energy savings and delivered TSB.
- New Public Sector Programs

Program Name	Segment	Objectives
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Rural Hard-to-Reach (HTR) Public Agency Direct Install	Equity	Help agencies located in underserved & hard-to-reach communities achieve no-cost energy and peak demand savings through turnkey services
Underserved Schools Strategic Energy Management (SEM)	Equity	Engage Title I Schools and support them establish systemic processes that result in meaningful energy impacts (e.g., develop long-term energy goals, complete campus-wide EE retrofits, etc.)
Water & Wastewater Strategic Energy Management (SEM)	Market Support	Supports agencies with municipally-owned potable water systems and wastewater treatment plants expedite comprehensive peak demand reduction projects
Water Infrastructure Program	Resource Acquisition	Provides technical assistance and incentives for long-term EE solutions for water production, distribution, and treatment systems.

- Promote and join an upcoming webinar to learn more!
 - Registration links
 - [Water/wastewater agencies](#)
 - [School districts & higher education](#)
 - [Local governments](#)
- Key Updates to Residential Sector Programs
 - Multifamily: 2025 target of around 74 projects to meet goal
 - Kits for Kids: Goal of 1000 classrooms (previously 325 classrooms)
 - Growing team to reach new district relationships
 - New Climate Resiliency game launching this month
 - Hard-to-Reach Direct Install
 - New program that launched in January
 - Strong regional outreach approach
 - Large interest from Housing Authorities
- Key Updates to WE&T Programs
 - Future Green Leaders Summit: Happening in October
 - ACES: spring dual enrollment began in February
 - Academic Support was launched to support students with dual enrollment courses
 - K-8 Curriculum development has begun in collaboration with the LA County Youth Climate Council
 - Green Path Careers: second cohort began in February
- New Market Sectors & Programs
 - Commercial Programs
 - Small & Hard to Reach (HTR) Direct Install

- Healthy Stores Refrigeration Program
 - Small and Medium Business (SMB) Energy Advisor
 - Agriculture
 - Agriculture Project Delivery Program
 - HTR Direct Install
 - Agriculture Retrofit
- Other SCR Initiatives
 - Community-Based Design Collaborative
 - Tribal Program Initiative
 - Regional Partner Initiatives – Four pilot programs aimed at addressing barriers in their region
- Building a Framework for Community-Designed Energy Programs
 - Goal: Develop a framework for working with community-based organizations (CBOs) to identify and fund locally-focused energy programs and recommend a scalable community-driven process to develop energy program pilots.
 - Objectives:
 - Facilitate discussions to gather input and insights from CBOs on equitable program design.
 - Develop key elements of the framework guidelines such as types and costs of projects.
 - Deepen connections between CBOs, public agency stakeholders, and potential funding opportunities.
 - Learn from the broader regions served what the energy-related gaps and needs are in the community.
 - Please see slides for members and the timeline with key milestones
- Even Access Portfolio Updates
 - Charge4All
 - Southern CA Even Access Program – Public Power-Up & Multifamily EV Connect
- Los Angeles County's Charge4All Program
 - Upcoming webinar on March 18th for multifamily property owners who are interested in obtaining chargers
 - Enjoy the Benefits of EV Chargers
 - No-cost EV chargers installed, owned, operated, and maintained for 10 years
 - Attract new tenants and retain current tenants
 - Increase the value of your property
 - Tenants, vendors, and visitors are charged a lower rate than public EV charging
 - Eligibility
 - Multifamily properties with 50 units or more in LA County: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, or Ventura Counties
 - 50% of the properties must be in *disadvantaged communities
 - Preference to be given to multifamily properties with enclosed,

secure parking locations

- Questions
 - Angie Hacker (CCEC): Do you feel like you're at a point to share the Community Based Design Collaborative model?
 - Shelley Osborn (LA County): We've had two meetings with CBOs and will have three more over the next three months. We're still in the early phases, so not yet ready to fully share, but happy to discuss more
 - Pranesh Venugopal (OCPA): On a high level, could you speak to which projects would go to the EBD DI program versus the SoCalREN program?
 - It depends on the context of the project but we are looking to use other funds before using the EBD funding.
 - Nicholas Ryu (SGVCOG): Do the multifamily properties for Charge4All have to be existing properties?
 - Yes
 - Nataly Morales (OCPA): What school districts are you working with for kits for kids? Can you share the list?
 - Savi Bassa (ICF): Yes, we have a list and are currently organizing them by district and can share it
- Policy Updates: CPUC Response to Executive Order N-5-24 Discussion (Tessa Charnofsky, LA County)
 - What was Governor's Executive Order N-5-24?
 - California Public Utilities Commission
 - The California Public Utilities Commission is requested to examine the benefits and costs to electric ratepayers of programs it oversees and rules and orders it has promulgated pursuant to statutory mandates that may be unduly increasing electric rates or whose funding might more appropriately come from a source other than ratepayers.
 - California Energy Commission
 - The California Energy Commission is directed to examine all electric ratepayer-funded programs it oversees or administers and to identify any programs, and any other regulations that may be unduly adding to rates, for which the electricity system benefits may not be justified by the costs they impose on electric ratepayers, or whose funding might more appropriately come from a source other than ratepayers.
 - The California Public Utilities Commission is requested to take immediate action under existing authorities to modify or sunset any underperforming or underutilized programs or orders whose costs exceed the value and benefits to electric ratepayers.
 - Why are People's Bills Going Up?
 - Ratepayers' bills are rising because of:
 - Wildfire liability, insurance, and risk reduction measures, e.g., undergrounding, tree trimming, etc.
 - Infrastructure costs

- Legacy Net Energy Metering programs
 - Inequitable rate structures, programs that require energy procurement that is not needed or is not competitively priced,
 - Programs that provide bill reductions or discounts to one group of ratepayers, thus leaving other customers with a larger share of overall costs.
 - “Socializing investments” helps certain populations that need extra support! However, the costs of these investments are divided among all customers, and bill savings for one customer necessarily increase costs for everyone else.
- Background on Utilities
 - Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) collect operational costs on a “cost of service” model: IOUs are permitted to collect all the costs of providing electricity service to customers. The IOUs’ operations are a straight pass-through of costs. Utilities do not earn a profit on these costs.
 - Infrastructure – substations, transmission, distribution lines, metering infrastructure, and more – they earn a return on these investments, known as their “authorized rate of return,” or profit. The cost of capital invested by the utility plus a guaranteed rate of return (shareholder profit) is paid back over time by all customers. (When they do expensive things, like undergrounding, they make a profit.)
 - In 2023, the parent of Edison recorded \$1.2 billion in profit — a jump of 95% from the year before.
- What Does a Ratepayer’s Bill Pay For?
 - Please see the slides for a graphic on the breakdown of the bill
- Net Energy Metering
 - Legacy Net Energy Metering (NEM) program costs are pointed to as one of the largest contributors to rising electricity rates for customers that do not have rooftop solar. According to the Public Advocate’s Office, the NEM program’s and the Net Billing Tariff’s (NBT) combined \$8.5 billion cost shift constitutes 21-27% of the average non-participating customer’s bill. The NEM cost-shift analysis is hotly disputed by numerous parties.
 - As fewer customers contribute to direct costs, the rest of the customers pay higher rates to compensate.
- Fixed Charge
 - CPUC’s adopted monthly flat rate of \$24.15 for those who can pay and \$12 per month for low-income customers.
- Threats to Energy Efficiency Program Dollars
 - Open an Energy Efficiency Rulemaking The CPUC plans to open a new rulemaking on energy efficiency in 2025. It will include a focus on cost-effectiveness.
 - Move toward incorporating a greater share of ratepayer costs into the State General Fund for holistic review and decision-making.
 - Programs that are underutilized and could return funds to ratepayers.

- On Cost Effectiveness
 - Eliminating programs that are not considered cost-effective would... “achieve a rate drop of approximately 2.3% starting in 2027 through statutory changes in 2025 that fund programs without cost-effectiveness scores from non-ratepayer sources.”
 - “However, these programs also provide benefits - repealing them entirely would produce ongoing savings significantly lower than 2.3%, by also eliminating any benefits they provide.”
- How Much Does Energy Efficiency Cost Ratepayers?
 - Annual cost: \$810 million
 - Reduction in Average Rates if Funded by Non-Ratepayer Funds: 1.5%
 - Only 0.26% of the 1.5% is attributable to combined RENs’ budgets.
 - Message from EE Advocates: For every dollar spent on EE, the total system benefit gives us \$8 dollars.
- Wildfire Mitigation Costs
 - Between 2019 and 2024, IOUs collected approximately \$24 billion from ratepayers to pay for wildfire mitigation costs and insurance premiums.
 - Undergrounding raises rates the most and takes the longest to implement.
 - Undergrounding every IOU distribution line in high-fire-threat areas could cost an estimated \$92-224 billion. Undergrounding transmission would be significantly more costly. In contrast, installing a covered conductor would cost approximately one-fourth as much.
 - The most effective way to reduce the impact of electricity bills is to fund these investments from a source other than ratepayers.
- CPUC Recommended Strategies to Save Ratepayers Money Going Forward:
 - All energy-related mandates should be assessed for overall cost-effectiveness with the goal of achieving the lowest possible rates for all customers of each utility.
 - Supplement essential wildfire mitigation programs and extreme weather-related catastrophic event response costs with other sources of funding.
 - Identify cost-reduction measures by integrating wildfire mitigation strategies into the existing General Rate Case process.
 - Equitable rate structures: Refine the elements of Net Energy Metering so that all customers share wildfire mitigation, public purpose programs, and system costs.
 - Redistribute the Climate Credit to customers most impacted by increasing electricity costs.
 - Fund today’s and future cost-shifting programs from non-ratepayer sources.
 - Ensure that programs benefitting all electric customers are supported by all customers, including customers of publicly-owned utilities.
- Quick Summary of CEC Report:
 - California’s energy efficiency programs are working. The residential electricity consumption between 2009 and 2019 increased by only 2 percent despite the population growing by 7 percent (which would be expected to cause a matching

- 7 percent growth in energy demand, all else being equal), as well as a major increase in consumer electronics and air conditioner saturation.
- The CEC found California's efficiency programs are highly cost-effective to ratepayers and have long been key to achieving affordable bills and meeting the state's energy and environmental goals
 - The CEC recommends retaining the ratepayer-supported programs that directly contribute to these foundational efforts, in particular the CPUC-overseen and IOU-managed Statewide Codes & Standards Program. However, the Legislature should consider if the costs of this foundational program should be borne more broadly by electric and gas ratepayers across all of California, given the statewide customer benefits these programs provide.
- Discussion Questions
 - The threat to funding we faced last year was able to be stopped by showcasing the importance of the energy efficiency programs being funded by rate-payer funds
 - What is your perception of the risks to energy efficiency program dollars?
 - Ratepayer dollars fund the entire SoCalREN portfolio.
 - Craig Perkins (TEC): To clarify- SCR portfolios do not meet established cost-effective test, but there are individual programs in the portfolio that meet the test. That assumes the cost-effectiveness test is actually valid in measuring what we need
 - Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG): Eliminating programs based on cost-effectiveness seems counterproductive when rates are based on transmission. Are we including that in argument pushback?
 - Tessa Charnofsky: We need to argue that our programs are valuable and have a return on investment. Our programs are a small part of the bill, and they help the most vulnerable population.
 - Craig Perkins (TEC): The pie chart (see slides) is based on revenue requirements. What we really have to think about is where the cost growth is in terms of the pie chart—its distribution and transmission costs.
 - Angie Hacker (CCEC): At the statewide level, this conversation is happening in all different circles. The affordability issue is not going away. There are lots of conversations with each other, but less so are we shifting the conversation to talk in unison and take a stronger position.
 - Shelley Osborn (LA County): Has anyone been successful at this?
 - Laurel Rothschild (TEC): CEDMEC has really started raising funds and made great headway on this last year. They have launched a public information campaign and put out ads. They are also meeting with key legislators on this.

- Angie Hacker (CCEC): A large consortium that met last year, including many environmental groups, also made some progress last year.
 - Courtney Blore Kalashian (SJVCEO): I think we need to look at who we see as our opponents and how they are doing it well. It always has to do with cost. We really need to articulate the cost impact to the billpayer. We need to be able to say that the bill will go down, but costs will go up by no more EE. How do we counteract the cost conversation?
 - Courtney Blore Kalashian (SJVCEO): The solution is strong coordination between IOUs, implementers, and everyone. IOUs should cover more wildfire costs from shareholder profit.
 - Cody Coeckelenbergh (ICF): Affordability is a crisis in CA for electric rates.
 - Craig Perkins (TEC): One other element, the sliver of energy efficiency on the pie chart, does not account for the benefits in terms of reductions in other cost categories.
- What do you see as potential solutions?
 - Angie Hacker (CCEC): There are usually legislative platforms in local governments, and they don't usually do a great job on energy unless told.
 - Courtney Blore Kalashian (SJVCEO): I encourage people to get involved with the National Energy Affordability Commission. There are many talking points already ready to go if they want to start those conversations. <https://neuac.org/>
 - Tessa Charnofsky (LA County): As we've been saying, we need to find alternative sources to pay for some of these programs. LA County is considering educating legislators on the value of our programming.
 - Laurel Rothschild (TEC): When you talk with local governments, what do you hear from them?
 - Nora Gutierrez (CPUC): Conversations have been around fires, Public Safety Power Shutoffs, and constituents' bill prices. State Assembly Energy Utility is having hearings on these issues; it's all up in the air. We need to hear from the experts and everyone in this room.
 - Pam Bold (HSEF): These programs weren't asked to be cost-effective when they were being made, and now they are.
 - Ben Lyon (ICF): The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is another source this audience should consider now. It can fund many of your projects, but you need to get your RPA form in before March 9th. Ben can speak more to this if anyone would like to reach out.
- Legislation, FYI
 - SB 684, the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (Menjivar, Addis)

- Bill would levy a fee on the largest climate polluters, creating funds that, in some cases could sub in for money now collected in electric bills.
- SB 332, the Investor-Owned Utility Accountability Act (Wahab)
 - Bill would limit annual rate hikes for Edison, PG&E, and SDG&E residential customers to no more than a measure of inflation. The bill would also require utility shareholders to cover 95% of future payments to California's \$21-billion wildfire fund, which is designed to help keep utilities out of bankruptcy if their power lines ignite costly wildfires. Ratepayers now cover 50% of those payments.
- Closing Remarks and Reminders (Laurel Rothschild, TEC)
 - Thank you all for coming.
 - Please complete the [Q1 Meeting Survey](#) (ACTION ITEM)
 - SoCalREN Podcast and Social Media
 - Don't forget to follow us on social media and to check-out the updated SoCalREN podcast Hi, Energy!
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Online Resource for Advisory Committee Members](#)
 - 2025 Meeting Schedule
 - Q2: June 9th (new date), Virtual, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
 - Q3: September 10th, Virtual or In-person, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
 - Q4: December 3rd, Virtual, 10:30 am - 12 pm
 - If one of these meeting times does not work for you, please contact Laurel Rothschild (ACTION ITEM)
- The Q1 SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned ahead of the optional tour of the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill.