

SoCalREN Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 30th, 2026
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees

Name	Organization
Lujuana Medina	County of Los Angeles
Minh Le	County of Los Angeles
Tessa Charnofsky	County of Los Angeles
Shelley Osborn	County of Los Angeles
Audrey Bragg	County of Los Angeles
Tory Coffin	County of Los Angeles
Sulma Hernandez	County of Los Angeles
Audrey Bragg	County of Los Angeles
Joe Susca	City of Culver City
Benjamin Lucha	City of Victorville
Sumi Gant	Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
Melani Smith	GCCOG
Eduardo Tapia	GCCOG
Aileen Qin	GCCOG
Gillian Ramirez	GCCOG
Benjamin Druyon	Western Riverside COG
Eleanor Murphy	South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
Addie Aubley	SBCCOG

Shawn Fujioka	SBCCOG
Mackenzie Bolger	San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
Jess Blackwell	High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
Pam Bold	HSEF
Sona Coffee	Clean Power Alliance
Flora Naylor	CALSTART
Rosie Kang	Willdan
Pranesh Venugopal	Orange County Power Authority (OCPA)
Nataly Morales	OCPA
Kodie Baig	ICF
Sarah Adams	ICF
Alfredo Gutiérrez	ICF
Savi Bassa	ICF
Bex Hausheer	TEC
Ivana Dorin	TEC
Mallory Schaefer	TEC

Notes/Key Takeaways

- Ivana Dorin (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)
 - 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 Santa Barbara

- City of Victorville - highlighted Ben Lucha as a returning member, previously with the City of Palmdale
- County of Santa Barbara
- City of Irvine
- Clean Power Alliance
- Orange County Power Authority
- County of Orange
- Imperial Irrigation District (IID)
- San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
- Ventura County Regional Energy Authority
- Invited Guests
 - California Public Utilities Commission
 - California Climate & Energy Collaborative
 - California Climate and Energy Collaborative
 - CalChoice
 - Grounded Research
 - ILLUME
- SoCalREN Staff, Implementers & Regional Partners
 - County of Los Angeles (LAC)
 - The Energy Coalition (TEC)
 - ICF
 - High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF)
 - San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization (SJVCEO)
 - Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)
 - Lincus Incorporated
 - Willdan
 - USGBC - CA
- Purpose of Advisory Committee
 - Guide and advise
 - Collaborate and innovate
 - Be informed
 - Be an advocate
- Meeting agenda review
- SoCalREN Welcome (Minh Le, LA County)
 - A news headline from ACEEE reports underinvestment in energy efficiency in lower-income communities, which is something our programs focus on. The work we do is really important, and we need to implement it as efficiently as possible because it is impacting our communities. I encourage you to collaborate and see how we can improve programs to continue to serve the community. Bring your ideas and suggest to us how to make it better.
- Legislative Updates (Tessa Charnofsky, LA County)
 - Legislative Calendar, 2026:
 - May 15—May Revision

- June 15—Budget Bill must be passed
 - June 30—Gov must sign the budget
 - August 31—Last day for each house to pass bills
 - Sept 30—Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills
 - Of this 1.5% bill impact, only .26% is attributable to the energy efficiency programs administered by the RENs.
 - What is driving cost increases? Not energy efficiency.
 - Utility Revenue Requirements rose by approximately 38% between 2019 and 2024.
 - Wildfire-related costs increased from about 5% to 17% of revenue requirements over this period, driving roughly half of total growth.
 - Energy efficiency investments remained flat and are not a driver of bill increases.
 - See slides for the list of State Legislators LA County met with so far
 - State Budget—Agreement, not yet signed
 - \$351.7 billion state budget, with a surplus of \$4.5 billion
 - \$2 billion in state revenue next year through tax hikes on corporations
 - Increase in rainy day fund by \$6.4 billion
 - A constitutional amendment on the ballot that would raise a cap on mandatory deposits into the rainy day fund from 10% to 20% of general fund revenue.
 - \$11.25 billion for affordable housing, a bond for the November ballot that would include down payment and mortgage assistance to veterans and low-income families.
 - No details on energy programs in the agreement
- SoCalREN Regulatory Update (Lujana Medina, LA County)
 - A.26-03-009 Pre-Hearing Conference and Draft Scoping Memo
 - Defines scope, schedule, and issues for the 2028–2031 EE portfolio approval process + 2028–2031 business plans
 - Issues determined to be in scope for the proceeding
 - Budgets, savings forecasts, and cost-effectiveness
 - Program approval, portfolio design, implementation approach
 - Operational elements (equity definitions, SW programs, financing, etc.)
 - Major topics to be debated
 - Cost-effectiveness treatment and how strictly portfolios must adhere
 - REN oversight and whether additional controls or limits are applied
 - Equity funding thresholds and potential caps on those investments
 - Workforce standards, and if new labor requirements are included
 - Out of Scope Issues (handled in other proceedings noted below)
 - R.22-11-013 (DER)
 - Cost-effectiveness framework updates (incl. non-energy impacts)
 - R.25-04-010 (EE)
 - Governance and oversight reforms (including REN oversight)
 - Policy manual updates, EM&V, DEER, CAEECC processes
 - Broader EE policy and structural changes

- Implications for SoCalREN
 - Continued focus on cost-effectiveness at the portfolio level, with risk for harder-to-reach and public sector programs
 - Ongoing debate over equity funding thresholds, including potential limits affecting disadvantaged communities
 - Uncertainty around whether new workforce requirements will be incorporated into portfolio approval
 - Broader policy changes are being deferred, but these same issues will continue in parallel rulemakings
- See slides for Business Plan Application Timeline Overview
- Other R.22-11-013 (DER Rulemaking) Activity
 - Avoided Cost Calculator (ACC) Updates
 - CPUC is considering updates to how DER benefits are valued in the ACC (tool used to estimate the value of EE and other DERs)
 - SoCalREN has concerns that the changes could undervalue EE and electrification programs
 - Impacts may be more significant for equity and harder-to-reach customers
 - SoCalREN is aligned with other RENs and clean energy parties on these concerns
 - Initial staff proposal released April 2026; comment period in progress
 - Data Working Group
 - CPUC is reviewing recommendations to improve DER data access and standardization
 - The issues include privacy rules, aggregation thresholds, data governance, and statewide data tools
 - Better data access would support local planning, program targeting, and equity-focused delivery
 - SoCalREN will likely emphasize usable data access, fair cost allocation, and REN participation
 - Final report issued June 2026; comment period in progress
- SoCalREN's Annual Report Overview (Fernanda Craig, LA County)
 - Portfolio Overview
 - Achieved a cost-effective Resource Acquisition TRC of 1.13 (209% above the forecasted goal).
 - Generated \$26.6 million in Total System Benefits (TSB), hitting ~100% of the forecasted goal.
 - Deep Equity Focus: Maximized environmental equity by accelerating project delivery in Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and Hard-to-Reach (HTR) areas.
 - See slides for TRC and TSB table
 - Finance Sector
 - Removing Capital Barriers: Addressed the primary hurdle for public agencies by matching project financial analysis with application support.

- 0% Interest Financing: Provided accessible capital through the Revolving Savings Fund (RSF).
 - Proven Investment: Disbursed \$3.8 million to date, successfully expanding energy efficiency improvements into traditionally underserved communities.
- Public Sector
 - Substantial Community Savings: Generated \$23 million in lifetime energy bill savings for participating public agencies.
 - Resource Impact: Delivered > \$6 million in TSB, 52.3 million lifetime kWh savings, and 4.7 million lifetime therm savings.
 - Carbon Reductions: Avoided 37,200 metric tons of lifetime CO2 emissions.
 - Pipeline & Employment: Supported 130 projects, contributed to 363 jobs, and secured 24 new agency enrollments in 2025.
 - Cost-Effective Delivery: Led by the Rural-HTR Public Agency Direct Install Program with a strong 1.47 TRC
- Residential Sector
 - Broad Reach: Impacted approximately 24,000 households with a portfolio sector TRC of 1.08 and over \$12.9 million in TSB.
 - Multifamily Milestones: Completed a record 84 retrofit projects serving 9,938 households, 58% of which are in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).
 - Targeted Direct Install: Upgraded 317 apartment units via the Small HTR Direct Install Program.
 - Community Education: Engaged 13,742 students through the Kits for Kids program to build long-term energy literacy.
- Workforce, Education & Training Sector
 - Served 480 unique participants with 317 dual enrollment course participants across 15 schools and 26 industry partners.
 - Professional Credentials: Awarded 70 ACES Skill Certificates, 10 ACES Professional Certifications, 57 Green Path Careers (GPC) certifications, and 20 E-Contractor Academy designations.
 - Paid Career Paths: Provided 53 student internships, injecting \$92,578 directly into student wages.
 - Youth Leadership: Hosted the 3rd Annual Future Green Leaders Summit in San Bernardino, engaging 513 Title 1 middle school students in sustainability careers.
- Commercial Sector
 - Rapid Scale: Completed 82 projects in just six months, engaging 889 businesses and injecting \$2.2 million in incentives.
 - Strong Value Generation: Generated \$3.45 million in TSB, avoiding 930 metric tons of CO2 emissions.
 - 100% Equity Delivery: Every single project (100%) served HTR participants, with 89% in DACs and 61% in low-income, low-access communities across six counties.
- Agriculture Sector

- Accelerated Launch: Delivered measurable regional impacts within just three months of implementation.
- High Cost-Effectiveness: Achieved a stellar sector TRC of 1.49 and generated \$4.1 million in TSB.
- Rural Support: Deployed \$1.4 million in incentives across 13 farms and agricultural facilities—100% located in Disadvantaged Communities.
- Resource Savings: Secured over 5.6 million net kWh savings and 59,053 therm savings.
- Community Alliances & Engagement
 - Future Green Leaders Summit
 - Hosted 513 Title 1 middle school students at the historic Enterprise Building in San Bernardino for hands-on clean-energy workshops.
 - Community-Based Design Collaborative
 - Partnered with frontline CBO groups (e.g., ActiveSGV, CCAC) to co-design and implement highly specialized local energy efficiency programs.
 - Regional Partner Initiatives
 - Expanded ongoing alliances to seamlessly align local outreach and accelerate projects.
- Regional Partner Initiatives
 - 2025 Impact & Hyper-Local Project Deployment
 - Program Mandate: An agile framework that uses a streamlined, ongoing application process to fund and test hyper-local energy efficiency (EE) interventions through trusted regional partners.
 - 2025 Performance: 4 Partners | 4 Active Initiatives
 - San Gabriel Valley COG (SGVCOG) — Residential Efficiency: Deployed a dual-action campaign pairing free in-person home energy assessments with physical direct-install energy conservation kits.
 - Gateway Cities COG (GCCOG) — emPOWER Campaign: Partnered with local CBOs to aggressively market and drive customer enrollment in SCE home energy assessments.
 - South Bay Cities COG (SBCCOG) — Cool Roof Infrastructure: Launched a specialized municipal initiative analyzing the feasibility and thermal impacts of cool roof surfaces across public agency facilities.
 - High Sierra Energy Foundation (HSEF) — Facility Inventories: Advanced targeted data collection to build out actionable facility equipment inventories for hard-to-reach, rural public agencies.
- Marketing
 - Award-Winning Podcast: Our "Hi, Energy!" series built critical community energy literacy, winning a prestigious Gold Viddy Award in Education.
 - Equitable Bus & Billboard Ads: Focused regional campaigns in underserved communities secured over 1.3 million impressions on public transit and 969,000+ impressions on neighborhood billboards.

- Digital Marketing Growth: The SoCalREN newsletter surpassed average industry click-open benchmarks by 1.5 times, generating 178,000 discrete website events.
 - Discussion and Feedback
 - Mackenzie Bolger (SGVCOG): Is there a way for Regional Partners to engage more closely with activities of the CBDC within our regions?
 - Lujana Medina (LAC): In the next advisory meeting, we can have Audrey give an update on where the CBDC process is at.
 - Lujana: To the board, to the RPARs, we wouldn't have been successful without you all, so this is an applause to you all as well. We look forward to our next business plan development to continue serving the market needs.
- Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Launch (Lujana Medina, LA County)
 - The program officially launched this spring
 - EBD has already began enrollment and have a pipeline of enrolled single-family and multi-family homes
 - The goal for 2026 is 1,300 households, with a greater goal of 9,800 over the next four to five years
 - Focused on building capacity with our community partners and having them drive the enrollments
 - The program has decarbonization measures and heat resiliency offerings
 - Community application process: eligible households have to be in community focus areas approved by the CEC, but starting in 2027, they will have an opening for community applications to add more communities to the eligibility status
 - LAC will give notice in Q4 on the application process
 - Pam Bold (HSEF): We are not in the region for this program or the northern program, but the central program has been quiet. Do you have any info on where they stand?
 - Lujana Medina (LAC): They are really behind and have had a lot of turnover recently. LAC has mentioned that if they can support the region, they are happy to. In the next meeting, I will have our program lead come with more info.
- Closing Remarks (Ivana Dorin, TEC)
 - Thank you to all of our presenters. I hope most of you found an opportunity to see each other in person at CCEC to share ideas and celebrate all the great work we've done so far. There will be even more opportunities to connect in the second half of this year.
 - Please complete the [Q2 Meeting Survey](#) (ACTION ITEM)
 - 2026 Proposed meeting schedule
 - Q1- March 31st, 2026 (virtual) - COMPLETE
 - Q2- June 30th, 2026 (virtual) - COMPLETE
 - Q3- September 2nd, 2026 (in-person, Frontier Project, CVWD)
 - Q4- December 9th, 2026 (virtual)
 - 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](#)
- Upcoming SCR events:
 - Green California Summit: September 15–16, 2026, Pasadena, CA
 - League of California Cities Annual Conference: September 23–25, 2026, Anaheim, CA
- The Q2 SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting was adjourned