

SoCalREN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2020
10:30 am - 1:30 pm

City of Irvine -- Los Olivos Community Center
101 Alfonso, Irvine, CA 92618

Confirmed Action Items

- SoCalREN will start sending out grant opportunities to Advisory Committee
- SoCalREN will reach out to the Advisory Committee to see who is interested in joining Resiliency Working Group
- SoCalREN will reach out to the Advisory Committee to see who is interested in joining SCE RFA/RFP (Public Sector Solicitation) Working Group
- Advisory Committee to send SoCalREN suggestions on tools or resources they would like to see added to the Network Toolkit
- Advisory Committee to let SoCalREN know if there is interest in having a multilingual workshop for residents in your community
- Advisory Committee to let SoCalREN know if there is interest in promoting local workforce/small business contractors
- Advisory Committee to let SoCalREN know if there is interest in leading a small business contractor workshop
- SoCalREN to share reference websites for SCE high threat fire alerts with Advisory Committee
- SoCalREN to share Regulatory Report with Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis
 - Add SGIP decision to Report
- SoCalREN to draft considerations for local governments in relation to regulatory proceedings and distribute to Advisory Committee along with ongoing Regulatory Reports
 - First distribution by March 24
- SoCalREN to follow-up with calendar invites for Q2, Q3 and Q4 meetings
- Advisory Committee to send SoCalREN suggestions for future locations
- Advisory Committee to send SoCalREN suggestions for future presenters

Notes/Key Takeaways

- SoCalREN Welcome (Lujana Medina)
 - Roll call and introductions
 - Review of today's agenda
 - Lujana thanked today's special guests including CPUC representatives and Tim Unruh, Executive Director of NAESCO
- Host Welcome (Sona Coffee)

- Welcome to the City of Irvine's newest Community Center
- Sona shared the City of Irvine's current sustainability activities including updates on the City's CCA efforts (planned launch 2022)
- Opportunities for Collaboration (Lujana Medina)
 - As a reminder, the Advisory Committee's purpose is to help ensure SoCalREN is delivering maximum benefit to all of our communities
 - The Advisory Committee's inputs, feedback and guidance will help to continue to evolve SoCalREN's offerings, and increase overall impacts as Advisory Committee members are on the front line of the communities we serve
 - The guiding principles of the Advisory Committee are to:
 - Guide & advise
 - Collaborate & innovate
 - Be informed
 - Be an advocate
 - The Committee will meet quarterly to provide advice, guidance, and support for SoCalREN's portfolio
 - The Committee will review program performance, receive regulatory updates, and offer an opportunity for feedback and discussion on topics critical to the ongoing success of the SoCalREN
 - The Committee should provide feedback on the following:
 - What works in your community?
 - What can we learn from what exists?
 - Where are the gaps?
 - How can we amplify our successes even further?
- Disadvantaged Workforce Update (Lujana Medina)
 - Development of a WE&T program that seeks to address the homeless workforce
 - Working with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) and the County of Los Angeles' Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) Department to develop the program
 - Focuses on at-risk youth
 - Five step program
 - Recruitment
 - Personal Enrichment Training
 - Certification
 - On job training
 - Job/job ready
 - Scheduled to be fully developed by mid-year
 - Multiple funding sources
 - An example of a program that could potentially be replicated across regions, throughout SoCalREN's territory

- Grant Working Group Updates (Genaro Bugarin)
 - Subgroup of the Advisory Committee
 - Purpose is to identify, pursue and secure funding opportunities for energy, resiliency and sustainability projects
 - Facilitate discussions with regional and state agencies that administer grant opportunities (e.g. AQMD, ARB, SGC, etc.) to provide the perspective on Local Government needs and influence more meaningful programs on future funding opportunities
 - Opportunities are tracked and shared with the Advisory Committee
 - Services include:
 - Eligibility/requirements review
 - Strategic support
 - Application coordination
 - Technical assistance including copy-editing and other support as needed
 - The Grant Working Group recently worked with Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG) & San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) on the California Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program, Round 3 Planning Grant (\$200,000)
 - SGVCOG did not end up submitting
 - GCCOG did submit
 - The Energy Coalition, through the Grant Working Group, provided application coordination, project tracking support, copy-editing support, and GIS support
 - The County of Los Angeles provided a letter of support
 - Stephanie Cadena from GCCOG stated that the support offered by The Energy Coalition was "extremely helpful...because we do not have grant writers on staff"
 - It is important to note that funding for the Grant Working Group will come from SoCalREN for EE related grants and from Los Angeles County for non-EE related grants
 - Sona Coffee from the City of Irvine requested the Advisory Committee provide regular, ongoing information on current grant opportunities
 - SoCalREN will start sending out grant opportunities to Advisory Committee (ACTION ITEM)
- Gaps & Opportunities (Lujana Medina)
 - The Advisory Committee reviewed the enhancements the Committee would like to see in their regions as identified at the Q4 2019 meeting
 - Enhanced programs/service
 - Programs that aren't limited and can help overcome all barriers to meeting the challenge of climate change
 - Not losing the structure, expertise and resources of the Energy leader partnerships (local government partnerships) so cities (especially DACs) can continue work in energy efficiency
 - Financial, technical, and political assistance for investment in energy

efficiency, residential programs, and commercial/business programs.

- Communications/awareness
 - Awareness of available programs so communities don't have to pursue energy efficiency and sustainability efforts on their own
 - Emphasis on energy efficiency as an affordable source of savings for communities with lower economic resources
 - Broader public outreach on EE/sustainability efforts
- Expanding electrified transportation infrastructure and microgrid support
- Increased focus on building electrification/reach codes
- The Advisory Committee discussed other potential Working Groups
 - Resiliency/Microgrid Working Group
 - SoCalREN will reach out to the Advisory Committee to see who is interested in joining Resiliency/Microgrid Working Group (ACTION ITEM)
 - SCE RFA/RFP Public Sector Working Group]
 - SoCalREN will reach out to the Advisory Committee to see who is interested in joining SCE RFA/RFP Working Group (ACTION ITEM)
 - RFAs are scheduled to come out Q4 2020
- SoCalREN Programs Update (Laurel Rothschild)
 - Public Agencies
 - Residential
 - Financing
 - Workforce
- Public Agency Programs (Rebecca Hausheer)
 - 2020 Programs
 - Project Delivery Program
 - Metered Savings Program
 - Launched Q2 2019
 - Revolving Loan Fund
 - Launched Q2 2019
 - Pathway to Zero
 - Launched Q2 2019
 - Benchmarking Call to Action (BMCTA)
 - New in 2020!
 - Enhances Pathway to Zero services by adding technical expertise to DERs (DER audits)
 - Funding is from California Energy Commission (CEC)
 - 2021 Initiatives
 - Launch of Online Network Toolkit
 - Expands SocalREN's reach
 - Builds agency capacity and expertise

- Advisory Committee to send SoCalREN suggestions on tools or resources they would like to see added to the Network Toolkit (ACTION ITEM)
 - 2020 Regional Partners
 - SJVCEO
 - HSEF
 - Additional partners planned for 2020
- Residential Programs (Paul Kylo)
 - 2020 MultiFamily Program
 - Whole Building Path
 - Express Path
 - For 50 units or less
 - Now can be either SCE or SoCalGas (used to have to be both)
 - New in 2020!
- Residential Community Coordinator
 - Multilingual community outreach
 - Created to help public agencies and enhance communities
 - Advisory Committee to let SoCalREN know if there is interest in having a multilingual workshop for residents in your community (ACTION ITEM)
- Workforce, Education & Training (Lujuana Medina)
 - Leveraging WE&T program for public agencies
 - Procurement training and support
 - Public agency bid solicitation training for contractors
 - Advisory Committee to let SoCalREN know if there is interest in promoting local workforce/small business contractors (ACTION ITEM)
 - SoCalREN programs contractor training
 - Your workforce development/ACES Youth Program
 - Advisory Committee to let SoCalREN know if there is interest in leading a small business contractor workshop (ACTION ITEM)
- 2021 Outlook: Collaborative Discussion on Current Market Gaps (Laurel Rothschild)
 - The Advisory Committee's inputs, feedback and guidance will help to continue to evolve SoCalREN's offerings, and increase overall impacts as Advisory Committee members are on the front line of the communities we serve
- Regulatory Updates (Marc Costa)
 - Reviewed Regulatory Report attachment, including
 - Rolling Portfolio Proceeding
 - Building Decarb
 - SCE increase in 2021 revenues
 - Electric De-energization
 - Rulemaking regarding Building Decarbonization

- Rulemaking regarding Micogrids
- The Advisory Committee discussed Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS)
 - SoCalREN to share reference websites for SCE high threat fire alerts with Advisory Committee (ACTION ITEM)
 - SoCalREN to share Regulatory Report with Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis (ACTION ITEM)
 - Add SGIP decision to Report
 - Applications open April 1
 - SoCalREN to draft considerations for local governments in relation to regulatory proceedings and distribute to Advisory Committee with ongoing Regulatory Reports (ACTION ITEM)
 - First distribution by March 24
- The Advisory Committee broke for lunch (All)
- Funding Resiliency & Local Government Sustainability (Tim Unruh, Executive Director, National Association of Energy Service Companies or NAESCO)
 - NAESCO
 - A non-profit trade association advocating for the energy service company market
 - In existence since 1983
 - Membership of 98 companies
 - Home of the only Energy Service Company (ESCO) Accreditation
 - 30 Accredited ESCOs
 - Reviewed Energy Performance Contracts (EPC), Energy Service Companies (ESC) and Measurement & Verification (M&V)
- Schedule of Activities & Closing Remarks (Laurel Rothschild)
 - Reviewed scheduled REN-wide events including SEEC, MGBCE, CAF and SCAG
 - Reviewed planned Public Agency Programs events including League of CA Cities, ACWA, AWWA, APWA and CASBO
 - Reviewed 2020 meeting schedule and proposed locations
 - May 19th at City of Palmdale
 - Confirmed 10:30 - 1:30 time frame works well
 - Perhaps extend start time to 10:00 to allow for more networking
 - August 4th and Nov 5th as tentative holds
 - SoCalREN to follow-up with calendar invites for Q2, Q3 and Q4 meetings (ACTION ITEM)
 - Advisory Committee to send SoCalREN suggestions for future locations (ACTION ITEM)
 - Advisory Committee to send SoCalREN suggestions for future presenters (ACTION ITEM)
- Meeting Adjourned