Spotlight on United Water Conservation District Well Pump Sequencing

United Water Conservation District (UWCD) manages the water resources of the Santa Clara River, working to protect, conserve and enhance the region's water supply. UWCD enrolled in SoCalREN in 2015 to identify opportunities for improved energy efficiency in their groundwater sourcing and distribution systems.

After completing a series of pump overhaul projects in partnership with SoCalREN and the WISE™ program, SoCalREN's Public Agency Team worked with UWCD's on their control system, adding real-time power and flow monitoring and shifting run hours to their most efficient pumps while still meeting demand and water quality requirements. The project achieved:

- Over $196,000 in annual energy cost savings
- Over $70,000 in utility incentives
- Over 1.8M kWh annual energy savings and 205 kW peak demand savings captured
- Over 2000 metric tons of CO2 avoided (GHG reductions), equivalent to more than 430 cars off the road for one year

These energy savings were nearly three times larger than initially estimated, which, although exciting, created some unique challenges. SCE and the CPUC’s Energy Division conducted multiple rounds of project review, and requested an extended measurement and verification (M&V) period after installation to ensure savings projections were accurate even during peak water demand season. Through this process, UWCD learned that big project changes, even when positive, can create challenges when pursuing utility incentives. They also learned that controls projects after a capital improvement project can provide significant energy savings and non-energy benefits at a modest project cost. SoCalREN recommends this phased approach for other public agency water suppliers in order to maximize energy cost reduction.

Want more agency insights? Check out our archive of success stories at socalren.com/casestudies.
Get To Know Your Network

To help inform SoCalREN’s work, please participate in this month’s network survey: What are the biggest barriers to completing energy efficiency projects at your agency?

- Financing energy efficiency projects
- Finding the time to prioritize energy efficiency projects
- Not having the in-house expertise to pursue energy efficiency projects
- Other (you tell us!)

Upcoming Happenings

April is Earth Month!

Earth Day is Monday, April 22nd, but we will be celebrating our planet all month long! This is a great time to consider how your agency can do more to protect your community’s environment, increase resiliency, and save money.

One great step you can take? Enroll in SoCalREN Public Agency Programs or start a new project now!

Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo (4/18)

Look for the SoCalREN Public Agency Programs booth at the Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo on April 18th in Downey, CA.

This year’s theme is Climate Change Solutions in the New Abnormal. Join SoCalREN and over 600 local government, sustainability, and green building professionals for educational presentations, panel discussions with thought leaders, and networking. We hope to see you there!

Southern California Association of Governments Conference (5/1 - 5/3)

We are looking forward to our 4th year hosting a booth at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Annual Conference & General Assembly from May 1st through the 3rd.

This year’s discussions will be focused on developing a new sustainable vision for the region—Connect SoCal. Along with the 800+ other attendees, we are looking forward to participating in the conversation!

Recent Happenings

American Water Works Association (AWWA) Confluence (3/25/19 - 3/28/19)
SoCalREN co-presented with the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) on 3/26 at the AWWA California-Nevada Section Confluence Spring conference. Strategies to optimize operational performance in water sourcing and distribution systems were reviewed while highlighting the value of energy efficiency programs. Check out our presentation here!

Association of Water Agencies Ventura County Workshop (3/27)

SoCalREN shared project case studies and energy efficiency best practices with water system operators at a training luncheon hosted by the Association of Water Agencies (AWA) Ventura County Chapter on March 27th.

Local Government Partners All Partners Meeting (3/27)

The SCE and SoCalGas All Partners Meeting took place on Wednesday, March 27th from 9AM to 3PM at the SCE Energy Education Center in Irwindale. SoCalREN Public Agency Programs presented on program updates and recent agency success stories. This meeting created an opportunity to connect with fellow local government partnerships to exchange ideas, discuss best practices and share the latest information from each of the utilities.

San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership Benchmarking Lunch ‘N Learn (3/18)

SoCalREN presented with the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership at the San Gabriel Valley Public Works Technical Advisory Committee meeting on March 18th on benchmarking services in support of the California Building Energy Benchmarking Program. Attendees of the workshop expressed how timely and helpful the information was, given California's new building benchmarking requirements. We would like to thank SGVEWP for their ongoing collaboration with the SoCalREN.

For more information regarding benchmarking for your agency please contact your SoCalREN Project Manager.

Cucamonga Valley Water District Check Presentation (3/12)

SCE recently recognized Cucamonga Valley Water District's (CVWD) energy saving accomplishments with a check presentation at their Board of Directors' meeting. The District realized 3.9M kWh and over 100 kW in energy savings, received over $250,000 in incentives and will save over $550,000 per year in energy costs. We look forward to continuing to partner on future energy projects. Congratulations, CVWD!