

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A UNIQUE PANELIST LINK BY EMAIL. PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.**



Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 18, 2020), this meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021  
12:00 p.m.**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87618965250?pwd=QXZvNy9NSXBmZ2loMW1PYm5ORzZKZz09>

Passcode: 232912

**One tap mobile:** +16699009128,,87618965250#

**Dial In #:** +1 669 900 9128

**Webinar ID:** 876 1896 5250

**Passcode:** 232912

*This will provide listening access and ability to address the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee when called upon.*

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127**

Public Comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee prior to the meeting at [cvag@cvag.org](mailto:cvag@cvag.org) by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting.

Comments intended to be read aloud should be no more than 300 characters.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.  
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, Chair

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. **Member Roster**

[P4](#)

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Anyone wishing to address the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. At the discretion of the chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve January 14, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes**

[P5](#)

6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. **Update on SB 1383 and waste disposal reduction goals** – Benjamin Druyon

[P8](#)

**Recommendation:** Information

B. **Better Battery Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction Act of 2021** – Katie Barrows

[P9](#)

**Recommendation:** Authorize the CVAG Chair to sign a letter of support for Senate Bill 289, the state's Better Battery Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction of 2021

C. **Input on Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2021-2022** – Katie Barrows

[P12](#)

**Recommendation:** Discuss and provide direction to staff

7. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

[P15](#)

B. **Regional Energy Network Update**

[P16](#)

C. **Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program**

[P19](#)

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Any member of the public wishing to address the Committee on items not appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 2 minutes. At the discretion of the chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next scheduled meeting via Zoom videoconference:**

- Energy & Environmental Resources Committee – May 13, 2021 at 12 p.m.
- Executive Committee – April 26, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

## **10. ADJOURN**

**Item 2A**

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee  
Member Roster  
2020 - 2021**



<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
City of Blythe	<b>Councilmember Joseph DeConinck</b> <i>Alternate: Councilmember Joseph Halby III</i>
City of Cathedral City	<b>Councilmember Nancy Ross</b> <i>Alternate: Councilmember Rita Lamb</i>
City of Coachella	<b>Councilmember Neftali Galarza</b> <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Josie Gonzalez</i>
City of Desert Hot Springs	<b>Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts</b> <i>Alternate: Councilmember Gary Gardner</i>
City of Indian Wells	<b>Councilmember Donna Griffith</b> <i>Alternate: Mayor Richard Balocco</i>
City of Indio	<b>Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, Vice Chair</b> <i>Alternate: Mayor Elaine Holmes</i>
City of La Quinta	<b>Mayor Linda Evans, Chair</b>
City of Palm Desert	<b>Councilmember Gina Nestande</b>
City of Palm Springs	<b>Councilmember Dennis Woods</b> <i>Alternate: Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Middleton</i>
City of Rancho Mirage	<b>Councilmember Charles Townsend</b> <i>Alternate: Councilmember Richard W. Kite</i>
Riverside County – District 4	<b>Supervisor V. Manuel Perez</b>
Coachella Valley Water District	<b>Board Member Anthony Bianco</b>
Imperial Irrigation District	<b>Director Alex Cardenas</b>
Mission Springs Water District	<b>President Nancy Wright</b> <i>Alternate: Vice President Randy Duncan</i>
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	<b>Unassigned</b>
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians	<b>Unassigned</b>
<b>Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members</b>	
Riverside County – District 5	<b>Supervisor Jeff Hewitt</b>
Desert Water Agency	<b>Board Member Patricia Oyar</b>

<b>Staff</b>
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Katie Barrows, Director of Energy & Environmental Resources
Benjamin Druyon, Management Analyst
Trisha Stull, Program Assistant II

**ITEM 5A**

**Energy and Environmental Resources Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2021**



The audio file for this meeting can be found at: <http://www.cvag.org/audio.htm>

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Gov. Newsom’s executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Councilmember Joey DeConinck  
Councilmember Nancy Ross  
Councilmember Russell Betts  
Councilmember Donna Griffith  
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, Vice Chair  
Mayor Linda Evans, Chair  
Councilmember Gina Nestande  
Councilmember Dennis Woods  
Councilmember Charles Townsend  
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez  
Director Alex Cardenas  
President Nancy Wright

**Agency**

City of Blythe  
City of Cathedral City  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of Indio  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert, *arrived during Item 6A*  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage, *arrived during Item 6A*  
Riverside County – District 4, *left during Item 6B*  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Mission Springs Water District

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Supervisor Jeff Hewitt  
Riverside County – District 5

**Others Present**

Tom Kirk	CVAG
Katie Barrows	CVAG
Benjamin Druyon	CVAG
Trisha Stull	CVAG
Erica Felci	CVAG
Joanna Stueckle	CVAG
Claude Kilgore	CVAG
Kathleen Brundige	CVAG
Peter Satin	CVAG
Oscar Vizcarra	CVAG
Tory Brewster	CivicSpark Fellow
Doug Kollmyer	UCR
Rosibel Ochoa	UCR
Zorik Pirveysian	South Coast Air Quality Management District
Pat Cooper	Riverside County – District 4
Deborah McGarry	Southern California Gas Co.
Jennifer Cusack	Southern California Edison
Todd Warden	South Coast Air Quality Management District
Trish Rhay	Indio Water Authority
Emmanuel Martinez	Imperial Irrigation District

**Members & Ex-Officios Not Present**

Councilmember Neftali Galarza	City of Coachella
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Coachella Valley Water District
Board Member Patricia Oygur	Desert Water Agency

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Deborah McGarry, of Southern California Gas Company, commented on Item 6D and shared an update on SoCal Gas' current and upcoming projects.

**4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Councilmember Ortiz provided an update on environmental discussions at the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) committee meetings.

Councilmember Betts said he was glad to be back on CVAG's Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve September 10, 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ORTIZ TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 8 AYES, 2 ABSTAINS AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.**

Councilmember Joey DeConinck	<b>Aye</b>
Councilmember Nancy Ross	<b>Aye</b>
Councilmember Neftali Galarza	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Russell Betts	<b>Abstain</b>
Councilmember Donna Griffith	<b>Aye</b>
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	<b>Aye</b>
Mayor Linda Evans	<b>Aye</b>
Councilmember Gina Nestande	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Dennis Woods	<b>Aye</b>
Councilmember Charles Townsend	<b>Absent</b>
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	<b>Aye</b>
Board Member Anthony Bianco	<b>Absent</b>
Director Alex Cardenas	<b>Aye</b>
President Nancy Wright	<b>Abstain</b>

**6. DISCUSSION / ACTION**

**A. Presentation on the Southern California Energy Innovation Network (SCEIN) and OASIS programs**

Rosibel Ochoa, from UCR, gave a presentation on UCR's OASIS program which is a sustainability innovation hub. Doug Kollmyer, from UCR, gave a presentation on the Southern California Energy Innovation Network and its current opportunities. Member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken as this was an informational item.

**B. South Coast Air Quality Management District: Coachella Valley Ozone Plan**

Zorik Pirveysian, of SCAQMD, gave an update on the current attainment status and ozone plan for the Coachella Valley. Member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken as this was an informational item.

**C. Introduction of CiviSpark Fellow**

Katie Barrows introduced the CivicSpark Fellow working with CVAG, Tory Brewster. Ms. Brewster previewed the projects she will be working on during her fellowship.

There was no action taken as this was an informational item.

**D. Semi-Annual Review of Committee Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Katie Barrows introduced the staff report reviewing the Committee's goals and objectives for 2020-2021. Member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken.

**7. INFORMATION** – The following item was provided in the agenda for information only:

**A. Attendance Record**

**B. Resolution of Support for UC Riverside Solar Valley Consortium**

**C. Regional Energy Network Update**

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next scheduled meeting via Zoom:

- Energy & Environmental Resources Committee – February 11, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
- Executive Committee – The next meeting is expected to be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. CVAG staff does not anticipate holding a meeting in January 2021.

**10. ADJOURN** – Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Trisha Stull*

**ITEM 6A**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee**

**April 8, 2021**



**Staff Report**

**Subject: Update on SB 1383 and waste disposal reduction goals**

**Contact:** Benjamin Druyon, Management Analyst ([bdruyon@cvag.org](mailto:bdruyon@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Senate Bill 1383: Short-lived Climate Pollutants was legislation approved by California in 2016 to establish methane emissions reduction targets as part of a statewide effort in various sectors of the economy. The legislation established targets to achieve a 50% reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste, based on 2014 levels, by the year 2020, and a 75% reduction by the year 2025. SB 1383 also establishes an additional target by the year 2025 for edible food that has been disposed of, requiring less than 20% to be recovered for human consumption.

The state authorized CalRecycle as the agency that establishes and enforces the targets required to achieve the waste disposal reduction goals. CalRecycle has provided resources with education and outreach tools, which are available online. Requirements of SB 1383 include outreach on organics recycling to all residents, businesses that generate food that can be donated, local food banks, recovery organizations, solid waste facilities, and haulers. The online resources are available in non-English languages so all residents and businesses can effectively participate in organics collection services.

In December 2020, CVAG's Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group met to start a regional discussion on the impact of SB 1383. The Technical Working Group, which has since been transitioned into the recycling roundtable group is comprised of city staff from CVAG member agencies that handle recycling. The discussions have continued and included input from Burrtec Waste & Recycling Services and FIND Food Bank. There is an interest from cities to combine efforts to achieve the reduction goals set forth by the State. Though each city will be responsible for creating and tailoring a program specific to their needs, CVAG staff is exploring ways to coordinate a community outreach campaign that ensures a unified message could be broadcast throughout the Coachella Valley.

At the April 8 meeting, Debbie Espinosa from FIND Food Bank will provide an update to the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee about SB 1383 and the opportunities for regional coordination.

**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no financial impact to CVAG from these programs. Staff time spent on SB 1383 and other similar subjects is reimbursed by AB 939 funds received from Riverside County for solid waste and recycling efforts.



## **ITEM 6B**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee  
April 8, 2021**



### **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Better Battery Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction Act of 2021

**Contact:** Katie Barrows, Director of Environmental Resources ([kbarrows@cvag.org](mailto:kbarrows@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Authorize the CVAG Chair to sign a letter of support for Senate Bill 289, the state's Better Battery Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction Act of 2021**

**Background:** One of the goals for the CVAG Energy & Environmental Resources Committee is to encourage waste reduction, recycling and reuse. A bill recently introduced in the California Legislature, SB 289 (Newman) aims to address the need for more recycling of batteries, including lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries. Batteries are considered hazardous waste because of the hazardous metals and corrosive materials they contain. Currently, it is required that batteries not be put into the general waste stream and they are banned from solid waste landfills. Recycling of batteries is still a problem for consumers due to a lack of collection sites. SB 289 would replace two other battery recycling bills and require that all battery manufacturers either individually start stewardship programs or join others in a stewardship alliance that would set up battery collection sites and ensure proper recycling of batteries.

SB 289 would require the installation of battery collection bins at retailers that supply batteries, to provide an easily accessible way for consumers to safely place batteries into the bins for proper disposal rather than simply discarding them into the garbage, as is commonplace. The levels of toxic batteries entering the waste stream is increasing, due in part to increased consumption as well as a lack of convenient disposal options. Batteries are collected at hazardous waste collection events held throughout the region, however not everyone participates in these events. Estimates indicate that 75% to 92% of lithium-ion batteries are not disposed of properly and labeling makes it difficult for consumers to separate them from other battery types. The full text of the bill is available online at: [SB 289 Bill Text](#).

Another concern with batteries is the fire risk which has been an issue at waste recycling and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). According to a California Product Stewardship Council survey in 2018, batteries account for as much as 65% of fires occurring at Material Recovery Facilities. The attached fact sheet provides more background on the benefits of battery recycling to reduce this safety risk and fire hazard.

CVAG staff is recommending that the CVAG Chair send a letter of support. This legislation is consistent with efforts to promote recycling, better options for consumers to recycle batteries, and safe handling of the hazardous materials found in batteries. If supported by the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, this letter would be presented for approval at the April 26 meeting of the Executive Committee.

### **Attachments**

1. Draft Letter of Support
2. SB 289 Fact Sheet

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Ben Allen  
Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
California State Capitol, Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 289 (Newman) Better Battery Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction Act of 2021 – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Allen:

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), I am writing to express support for SB 289 (Newman), which would create a convenient, statewide, producer-run collection and recycling program for loose and product-embedded batteries.

Due to the hazardous metals and corrosive materials that batteries contain, California classifies batteries as hazardous waste and bans them from solid waste landfills. When consumers are done with their loose batteries and portable electronics, they must collect, sort, and ultimately find an appropriate disposal option. Unfortunately, California currently lacks a streamlined and convenient collection and recycling system for batteries and batteries embedded in products.

Because of a combination of increased consumption and a lack of convenient disposal options, higher levels of toxic batteries and products are entering the waste stream. When improperly discarded, lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries in particular pose serious fire, health, and safety hazards. The influx of improperly disposed of Li-ion batteries into the waste stream has resulted in an alarming number of material recovery facilities, waste collection trucks, and landfills experiencing fires.

Oftentimes, Li-ion batteries are embedded in and irremovable from products, such as phones, laptops, and power tools. When loose Li-ion batteries or Li-ion batteries embedded in products experience intense physical pressure – which is common in California’s waste processing system – the batteries can spark a fire or even explode. According to FireRover’s November 2020 report, over 1,800 fires were experienced at MRFs and other solid waste and recycling facilities in the US and Canada in the prior 12 months, including “22 reported injuries and three deaths that can either be directly or indirectly attributed to these fire incidents”.<sup>1</sup> The majority of these fires have been known to be caused by Li-ion batteries.

For the average consumer, it can often be difficult to distinguish between chemistries of batteries. Therefore, in order to ensure the proper disposal of all battery chemistries and reduce the fire and safety risk, SB 289 (Newman) would require free collection bins for most loose and product-embedded batteries at convenient retail locations across the state. SB 289 (Newman) would also encourage manufacturers to be more responsible for the life cycle of their products by creating a

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<sup>1</sup> FireRover, (Nov, 2020). Fire Report: Another Fire Surge?

producer-run program. Lastly, SB 289 (Newman) would create a consumer outreach and education campaign to further encourage the proper disposal of all batteries.

CVAG has long supported efforts toward waste reduction, recycling, and reuse. Finding ways for manufacturers to be more responsible for the products they create – both loose batteries and ones embedded in other products – as well as expanding outreach and education for consumers about battery recycling offer a positive solution.

I hope you will join me in supporting SB 289. Please don't hesitate to contact CVAG Executive Director Tom Kirk at (760) 346-1127 or [tkirk@cvag.org](mailto:tkirk@cvag.org) if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Glenn A. Miller  
CVAG Chair

cc: The Honorable Josh Newman  
The Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Melissa Melendez, Senate District 28  
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Assembly District 56  
Assemblymember Chad Mayes, Assembly District 42

## **ITEM 6C**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee  
April 8, 2021



### **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Input on Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

**Contact:** Katie Barrows, Director of Environmental Resources ([kbarrows@cvag.org](mailto:kbarrows@cvag.org))

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**Recommendation: Discuss and provide direction to staff**

**Background:** Each spring, as part of CVAG's budget preparation process, the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee reviews and provides input for the proposed goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. These goals and objectives bring together the valleywide efforts to promote conservation and sustainable use of local resources. A six-month review of the progress on the 2019-2020 Goals and Objectives was discussed at the January 2021 meeting. Staff is seeking input from Committee members on ideas and suggestions for issues to focus on for the coming fiscal year, FY 2021-2022.

**I. Water Conservation and Water Quality:**

Promote long-term conservation of water resources and support efforts to maintain a clean, reliable, and sustainable water supply in the Coachella Valley.

**Objectives:**

1. Collaborate with member jurisdictions and local water agencies to identify a reasonable metric for valley-wide per capita water conservation goal. This metric needs to recognize past efforts to conserve water. Work with CV Water Counts, a collaborative of valley water agencies.
2. Partner with member agencies and partners to implement innovative programs, policies, and best practices, to achieve sustainable water use.

**II. Salton Sea Restoration:**

CVAG strongly supports efforts to maintain and revitalize the Salton Sea.

**Objectives:**

1. Continue to support Salton Sea revitalization as opportunities and/or requests for support arise.
2. Provide Committee members with updates on geothermal and other energy development in the Salton Sea region, particularly as it relates to potential funding for Salton Sea restoration.
3. Provide information to the member jurisdictions about efforts to restore and revitalize the Salton Sea including the North Lake Concept being developed by the Salton Sea Authority.

**III. Energy Efficiency/Conservation:**

The goal of the energy efficiency program is to encourage awareness about energy use and to initiate, encourage, and promote energy conservation and energy efficiency initiatives within the Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valley.

**Objectives:**

1. Continue development of a Regional Energy Network to compliment the efforts of the

Desert Cities Energy Partnership. Collaborate with member jurisdictions, local utilities and other partners.

2. Continue regional PACE programs with various PACE providers, monitor program effectiveness and provide quarterly updates to Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.
3. Continue with Community Choice Aggregation program in the region through Desert Community Energy.
4. Explore and provide information on opportunities that could benefit energy consumers in the CVAG region (e.g., community solar, battery storage).
5. Promote implementation of green building, energy efficiency, and zero net energy buildings.
6. Coordinate and communicate with Imperial Irrigation District with respect to Coachella Valley energy issues.

#### **IV. Air Quality:**

The goals of the Air Quality program are to improve the air quality in the Coachella Valley and to reduce the impacts of PM<sub>10</sub> through regional coordination.

##### Objectives:

1. Implement a study in partnership with South Coast Air Quality Management District to evaluate and improve effectiveness of the Regional Street Sweeping program.
2. Evaluate the use of and impact of gas-powered leaf blowers.
3. Support restoration and related activities for the Salton Sea to limit impacts to regional air quality and health.
4. Monitor air quality issues, including PM<sub>10</sub>, in the eastern Coachella Valley and valley-wide; coordinate established PM<sub>10</sub> mitigation efforts with member jurisdictions and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
5. Promote air quality and emissions reduction through development of the CV Link project.
6. Continue ongoing programs including collaboration with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to support air quality legislative efforts, monitoring of the Landscape Model Ordinance and other air quality programs.

#### **V. Sustainable Resource Use:**

Significant efforts have been made by CVAG jurisdictions to promote sustainable resource use. A goal is to continue to highlight past successes by CVAG's member jurisdictions and identify future opportunities to promote sustainable resource use.

##### Objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for information sharing among member jurisdictions at Committee meetings so members can learn about other member agency projects on energy, resource conservation, livability, and sustainability.
2. Identify and encourage opportunities for access to biogas and biofuels.
3. Promote and seek funding for implementation of the Regional Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan, completed in 2014.

#### **VI. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction:**

Coordinate efforts to enhance awareness of climate change and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

##### Objectives:

1. Explore a "1,000 Trees Initiative" and urban greening opportunities for the Coachella Valley to promote greenhouse gas friendly trees that are also suited for the climate. Gather information on what member agencies are doing and examples from other regions.
2. Develop an urban greening guide for local jurisdictions and the region, with support from CVAG CivicSpark Fellow.

3. Promote and support local jurisdictions' efforts, as well as regional greenhouse gas reductions strategies. Track and highlight progress on local jurisdiction goals for greenhouse gas reduction.
4. Identify regional needs for climate adaptation and climate resilience. Consider climate action and resilience planning recommendations for the desert region.
2. Provide a minimum of two workshop/training opportunities for member agencies on tools to implement climate action/sustainability plans and track progress.

**VII. Solid Waste:**

Increase the reduction, recycling and reuse of solid wastes through regional coordination.

Objectives:

1. Develop an outreach program in collaboration with member jurisdictions to promote organic waste recycling and surplus food recovery consistent with SB 1383.
2. Explore opportunities for waste to energy and biogas projects.
3. Identify opportunities with member jurisdictions to promote composting as a way to encourage waste reduction and recycling.
4. Continue our ongoing program Used Oil Recycling Program and regional coordination on Household Hazardous Waste collection. Re-initiate a Waste Tire Recycling Program.
5. Work with member jurisdictions on ways to encourage waste reduction, recycling and reuse.

**VIII. Report Card:**


Develop and maintain a "report card" through semi-annual evaluations of the Coachella Valley's progress toward sustainability goals.

**Fiscal Analysis:** This information item has no fiscal impact.

**ITEM 7A**

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE RECORD  
FY2020-2021**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>
City of Blythe	-	-		-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of Cathedral City	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of Coachella	-	-		-	-	-						
City of Desert Hot Springs	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of Indian Wells	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of Indio	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of La Quinta	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of Palm Desert	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of Palm Springs	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
City of Rancho Mirage	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
Riverside County - District 4	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
Coachella Valley Water District	-	-		-	-	-						
Imperial Irrigation District	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
Mission Springs Water District	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians												
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians												
<b>EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS</b>												
Riverside County - District 5	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-			
Desert Water Agency	-	-		-	-	-						

Absent/Vacant   
 No Meeting \*

Scheduled Dark Month -

## **ITEM 7B**

# Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

April 8, 2021



## **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Regional Energy Network Update

**Contact:** Benjamin Druyon, Management Analyst ([bdruyon@cvag.org](mailto:bdruyon@cvag.org))

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### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** For the last several years, CVAG has been collaborating with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) on the possibility of creating a new joint Regional Energy Network (REN) for the Inland Empire. RENs are becoming a viable model that many local governments are looking towards to replicate and implement within their service territory to continue providing energy efficiency support to their communities. The potential for an Inland Empire REN is a way to fill some of the gaps in funding for energy efficiency programs and to bring additional resources to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This new REN could bring funding estimated at \$5-10 million dollars for the three partner agencies in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

At the January 14, 2021 meeting, staff updated the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee on the status of the I-REN and the development of a business plan. The submittal of a business plan to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the next step in getting a REN approved. Staff had planned on providing the business plan to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee prior to submittal to the CPUC. However, the meeting in February was canceled and timing for submittal to the CPUC was critical to avoid the potential for consideration of the business plan to be delayed until 2023. Based on feedback from CPUC staff, the business plan was submitted to the CPUC on February 26, 2021. If the business plan is approved, the next phase involves development of an implementation plan and detailed budget, which will be submitted to the CPUC for final approval and assignment of funds.

RENs are pilot programs approved in 2012 and overseen by the CPUC to supplement and enhance the energy efficiency support provided to local governments in collaboration with Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs), Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company. The CPUC's intent is for RENs to undertake programs that the IOUs either cannot do or do not intend to pursue. Existing RENs work with the utilities to ensure their programs do not overlap. RENs can target hard-to-reach areas and low-income customers, and the programs have the potential to be scaled to larger geographic areas. Additionally, the CPUC directed the RENs to address the areas of Workforce Education & Training, technology development, and Water – Energy Nexus.

The REN program is funded through public goods charges collected from customers of IOUs including Southern California Edison and SoCal Gas. The public goods charge funds available for RENs are separate from other “pots of money” used to fund energy efficiency programs through the CPUC. Participating in a REN would not compete with the potential to apply for other programs funded through the public goods charge (e.g. local government partnerships or Community Choice Aggregation agencies). CVAG previously received one of the largest strategic plan funding grants through the Desert Cities Energy Partnership in 2009, over \$4 million dollars. This funding was used to help cities establish long term energy savings goals as well as



develop energy and climate action plans, greenhouse gas inventories, and energy efficiency policies.

The business plan explains the ideas of the new REN and describes which sectors it plans on targeting. Because of the technical nature of the REN development and business plan preparation, a consultant was brought on board through a competitive process. The selected consultant team, Frontier Energy, Inc and BluePoint Planning, has been working with CVAG and its partners with the planning and development of the business plan for a Regional Energy Network. The business plan must then be presented to the California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC) for comments before being submitted to the CPUC for consideration. The CAEECC is a venue for stakeholders to discuss energy efficiency matters transparently. WRCOG conducted a preliminary presentation at the CAEECC meeting on May 14, 2020 to inform them of the intention of creating a new REN to service Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The IREN business plan and draft budget was presented to the CAEECC on December 3, 2020 for vetting, highlighting the importance of launching now, rather than having to wait two or more years. The presentation was well received and the CAEECC provided constructive comments for proceeding with the submission to the CPUC. The meeting notes can be viewed here: <https://www.caeec.org/12-3-20-coordinating-committee-meet>. Some of the comments suggested a more targeted focus on low income and disadvantaged communities as well as ramping up outreach efforts to those areas. Other interested parties expressed “an appreciation of the focus on governance, infrastructure, and coordination plan for statewide programs and other actors,” that the IREN business plan detailed.

Throughout this business plan development, staff from all three councils of governments have been in coordination with CPUC staff who have provided great support and have advocated on this REN initiative. In addition to discussions with the CPUC, staff has been working with their member agencies to acquire letters of support and to finalize details towards IREN’s business plan.

Should the I-REN Business Plan be approved by the CPUC, the CVAG Energy & Environmental Resources Committee and Executive Committee will be involved in providing oversight and guidance regarding the programs offered in the Coachella Valley. The Business Plan includes an organizational chart of the I-REN governance structure. Under this structure the Executive Committees for CVAG, WRCOG, and SBCOG will provide oversight of the program and budget approval (see Chapter 1, page 1.5). WRCOG will serve as the fiscal agent. I-REN anticipates existing committees such as the Energy & Environmental Resources committee will provide recommendations and vision for the I-REN program. Sub-committees will be formed as needed to provide advice to the I-REN Executive Committee on each sector of the program, which are Codes and Standards, Public Sector, and Workforce, Education and Training.

The IREN team will also continue close collaboration with the IOUs, other existing RENs, and with other operational CCAs within its service territory, such as Desert Community Energy and Rancho Mirage Energy Authority, to ensure there is no duplication of efforts.

This item is included for information to keep the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee informed of our progress on the REN development. An informational staff report will also be presented to the CVAG Executive Committee.

**Fiscal Analysis:** The CVAG Executive Committee approved \$50,000 on June 24, 2019 for the creation and submission of a business plan to the CPUC. If the business plan is approved by the CPUC, the IREN team would need to go out to bid for the implementation plan phase. A cost estimate for that work will be provided in the future.

**Attachment:**

1. [https://www.cvag.org/library/pdf\\_files/enviro/REN\\_Biz\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.cvag.org/library/pdf_files/enviro/REN_Biz_Plan.pdf)

## **ITEM 7C**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee  
April 8, 2021



### **Staff Report**

**Subject:** Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program

**Contact:** Benjamin Druyon, Management Analyst ([bdruyon@cvag.org](mailto:bdruyon@cvag.org))

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### **Recommendation: Information**

**Background:** Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs provide financing to property owners to implement energy saving, renewable energy, water conservation, and seismic strengthening improvements to their homes and businesses, with little or no money out of pocket. Financing for these improvements is paid back through a lien placed on the property and collected through the annual tax bill. PACE programs continue activity in the Coachella Valley. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, participation has dropped and there have been some impactful changes.

One of the most impactful changes comes from the HERO program created in 2011 by Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) with the financing and administration provided by Renovate America. Renovate America grew the HERO program very quickly increasing in company size and program territory throughout California and even sought to start programs in other states.

Over the past few years, participation in the HERO program has started to decline and Renovate America made the decision to downsize the company. The decline progressed when COVID-19 hit California. The company ultimately decided to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2020. Effective October 16, 2020, Renovate America discontinued accepting new HERO applications and has begun winding down the HERO Program completely. Existing HERO customers will be transitioned to WRCOG and WRCOG will be responsible for providing customer payoffs and inquiries about the residential HERO program. WRCOG will not be accepting any new applications for the residential portion of the program. Instead, WRCOG will continue to administer the commercial portion of the program.

There are still several PACE providers in operation in CVAG's jurisdiction, both residential and commercial, which will continue offering services. CVAG will continue to monitor and report on the status of these PACE providers.

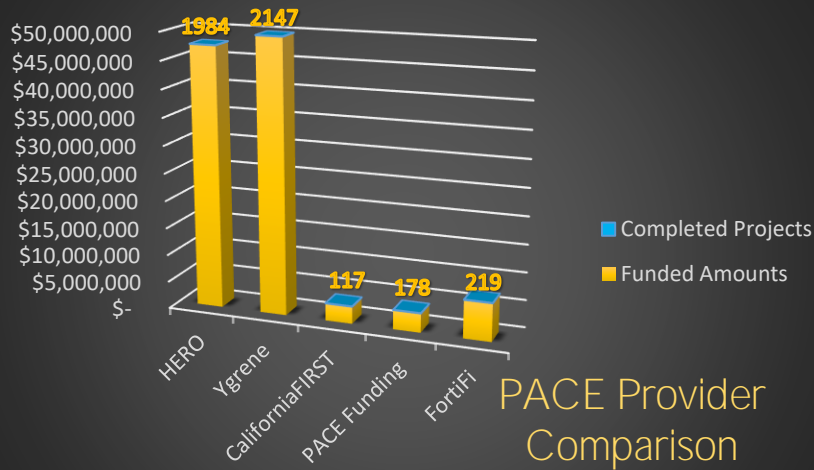
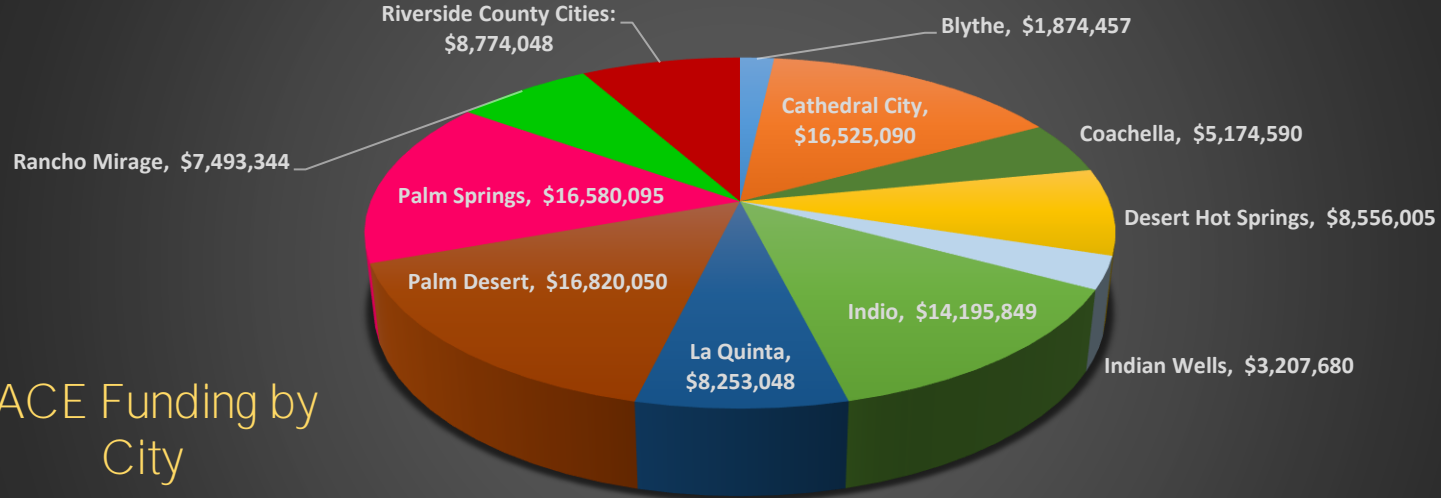
**Fiscal Analysis:** There is no financial impact to CVAG from these programs. Staff time spent on these programs is recovered by a participation fee collected from each provider.

### **Attachment:**

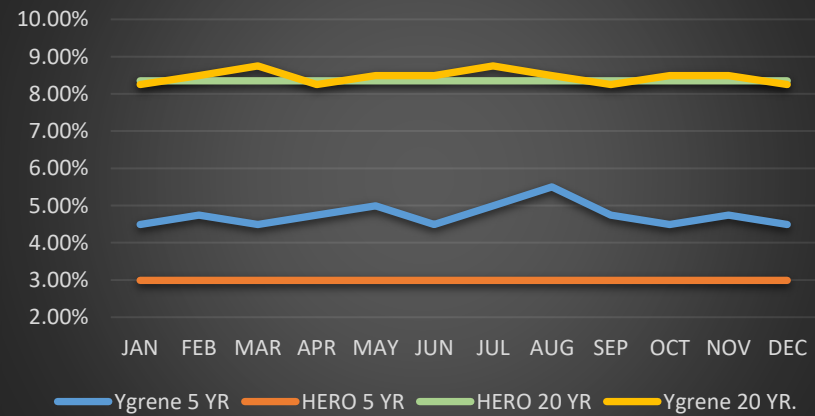
1. PACE Report

# CVAG PACE REPORT

PACE Funding by City



PACE Interest Rates



**CARS REMOVED FROM ROAD: 38377**

Other PACE providers have interest rate ranges from 5.99%-10.98%

**JOBS CREATED: 977**

Updated for April 08, 2021