



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023
12:00 p.m.

**CVAG Conference Room
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

**Members of the Committee and the public may attend and participate by
video at the following remote location:**

**Blythe City Hall
235 N Broadway, Room A
Blythe, CA 92225
760-922-6161**

Public Comment is encouraged to be emailed to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee prior to the meeting at 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**

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, 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 February 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

P5

6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. Regional Efforts to Expand Urban Tree Planting and Increase Shade

P9

– Peter Carlstrom

Recommendation: Information

B. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Governance and Electricity Services Study

P12

– Emmanuel Martinez

Recommendation: Discuss governance options recommended in the joint Local Agency Formation Commission’s Alternative Governance & Electricity Services Study for Imperial Irrigation District and provide feedback on the next steps for identifying a preferred governance alternative to increase Coachella Valley representation on electricity service

C. Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee – Peter Satin P14

Recommendation: Discuss and nominate a CVAG representative to SCAG’s Energy and Environment Committee

D. Update on Inland Regional Energy Network Actions and Program Rollout – Peter Carlstrom P15

Recommendation: Information

7. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

P18

B. **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**

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at noon at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, 92260.

10. **ADJOURN**

ITEM 2A

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
Member Roster
2022 – 2023**



VOTING MEMBERS	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Vice Chair Vincent Gonzales III
City of Blythe	Mayor Joseph DeConinck
City of Cathedral City	Councilmember Nancy Ross
City of Coachella	Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Coachella Valley Water District	Board Member Anthony Bianco
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Russell Betts
Imperial Irrigation District	Director Karin Eugenio
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Donna Griffith
City of Indio	Mayor Oscar Ortiz, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Mayor Linda Evans, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Mission Springs Water District	Director Russ Martin
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Gina Nestande
City of Palm Springs	Councilmember Ron deHarte
City of Rancho Mirage	Councilmember Ted Weill
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Desert Water Agency	Board Member Patricia Oyar
Riverside County – District 5	Supervisor Yxstian Guterrez

ITEM 5A

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023**



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 Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to AB 361 and the guidelines for governing how public meetings are held virtually.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Nancy Ross
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Councilmember Russell Betts
Mayor Donna Griffith
Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Russ Martin
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Councilmember Ron deHarte
Councilmember Ted Weill
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Vice President Vincent Gonzales III
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Director Karin Eugenio
Secretary Altrena Santillanes
Board Member Patricia Oyar
Supervisor Yxstian Guterrez

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Desert Water Agency
Riverside County – District 5

Due to a technical issue, City of Blythe's Vice Mayor Joseph DeConinck was present but unable to cast a vote on the agenda items.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chair Ortiz provided an update from the Southern California Association of Governments. He requested a future agenda item focus on residential solar development, microgrids and other renewable energy solutions.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez noted that conversations are occurring with renewable energy developers around the future of energy, particularly in the unincorporated areas of the county. He stated a future agenda item should focus on forming a regional approach.

Councilmember Nancy Ross noted that financing and funding incentives should be part of the agenda item.

In response to timing of the agenda item, Executive Director Tom Kirk indicated a roundtable discussion could be scheduled quickly but it would likely take a more time to bring back a more detailed staff report.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve November 10, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

B. Authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Imperial Irrigation District, extending the term until December 31, 2023 with an option to extend for an additional year, to assist its Coachella Valley Energy Commission and to help achieve a local collaborative governance and electrical service solution post-2033

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GRIFFITH AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR MARTIN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES, 1 MEMBER PRESENT AND 4 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Vice Chair Vincent Gonzales III	Absent
Vice Mayor Joey DeConinck	Present
Councilmember Nancy Ross	Aye
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Councilmember Russell Betts	Aye
Director Karin Eugenio	Absent
Mayor Donna Griffith	Aye
Mayor Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Director Russ Martin	Aye
Councilmember Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Ron deHarte	Aye
Councilmember Ted Weill	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Secretary Altrena Santillanes	Absent

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Presentation: Coachella Valley Water District and Regional Conservation Programs – Adam McVey, CVWD Acting Conservation Manager

Adam McVey, Coachella Valley Water District's Acting Conservation Manager, provided an overview of their conservation programs. Member discussion ensued, including discussion on turf rebates and ways to promote water conservation.

No action was taken as this was an informational item.

B. Update on Inland Regional Energy Network Agreements, Programs, and Governance – Kenyon Potter

Director of Energy & Sustainability Kenyon Potter provided the staff report. Member discussion ensued.

Mayor Linda Evans and Councilmember Russell Betts were identified to represent the region for the I-REN survey.

C. Urban Tree Planting and Shade Initiative – Kenyon Potter

Mr. Potter provided the staff report. Mr. Kirk noted that approving a big picture goal would help CVAG as it seeks outside funding opportunities.

Member discussion ensued, including discussion of partnering with other agencies and ideas for grant applications.

No vote was taken, but the Committee expressed consensus around endorsing a regional urban tree planting and shade initiative to increase shading, build climate resilience and reduce the impacts of increased heat.

7. INFORMATION – The following items were provided in the agenda for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program

C. Update on Senate Bill 379 and Automated Solar Permitting

D. California Public Utilities Commission NEM 3.0 and Net Billing Tariff Decision

E. Heat Mitigation Opportunities

F. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Guidance

Supervisor Perez announced the upcoming fishing derby for veterans and their families, which Riverside County is hosting at Lake Cahuilla.

Councilmember Ross discussed the City's recent goal setting and the pushback residents expressed in expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Other members – including Chair Ortiz, Mayor Griffith and Director Martin – added the concerns they had received from residents about the impact on California's grid as the availability of EV stations is expanded. Mr. Kirk noted Supervisor Perez's role on the California Air Resources Board.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ortiz asked about getting an update on water negotiations along the Colorado River.

The next meeting of the **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at noon with additional meeting logistics to be announced.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURN –

Chair Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Felci
Assistant Executive Director

ITEM 6A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
April 13, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Regional Efforts to Expand Urban Tree Planting and Increase Shade

Contact: Peter Carlstrom, Management Analyst (pcarlstrom@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: At its February 2023 meeting, the Executive Committee, based on the support by Energy and Environmental Resources Committee, voted to endorse a regional urban tree planting and shade initiative to mitigate extreme heat and projected increased temperatures in the Coachella Valley. By increasing shading and tree canopy cover throughout the Coachella Valley, the region will be better positioned to build climate resilience and reduce the impacts of a warming climate. Ultimately, the goals are to improve public health and safety, reduce energy costs, increase carbon sequestration and increase neighborhood walkability, especially for disadvantaged communities.

CVAG staff has already taken steps to identify and secure funding for this initiative. In March, CVAG staff submitted an application seeking \$650,000 through California's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Adaptation Planning Grant Program. If funded, CVAG's Shading Underserved Neighborhoods Project, or SUN Project, will lead to the development of a master plan to plant trees and implement shade structures in the most vulnerable census tracts throughout the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys. The project has support from both Alianza Coachella Valley, a community-based nonprofit that would help lead community engagement, and the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation (DHCD). CVAG staff will learn in June 2023 whether the application is funded and then bring any related contracts back to the Executive and the Energy & Environmental Resources Committees for approval. The ICARP planning grant will help CVAG be positioned for implementation grant opportunities to address extreme heat, including California's ICARP Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program and CalFire's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program.

The SUN project would also build on efforts already underway in the region, including Imperial Irrigation District's Tree for All program to increase tree canopy coverage by offering free trees to its residential customers. IID's program is funded through its 2.85% Public Benefits charge, and IID allocated \$175,000 in 2022 and \$500,000 in 2023 toward this initiative. The program was successfully promoted and was fully subscribed in 2022. The high demand and popularity of the program demonstrated a strong customer demand for trees. IID customers may participate in the Tree for All program once every 12 months.

The Tree for All program consists of a tree planting program in Imperial County and drive-up distribution events in the Coachella Valley, with each presenting unique advantages and challenges. The tree planting program, for example, allows for the proper planting of larger 15-gallon trees despite higher costs and scheduling constraints. The drive-up events cost less and are quicker to implement, but are limited to 5-gallon trees for recipients to plant themselves. To date, drive-up events have been hosted in the cities of Coachella, Indio and La Quinta. Drive-up events are not restricted to that city's residents, so IID

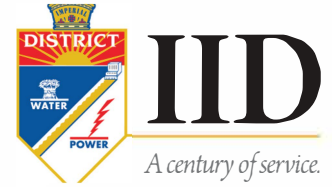
customers can participate in any distribution. To date, the Imperial County tree planting program has planted 300 trees, and the Coachella Valley drive-up events have distributed 600 trees. Tree species are selected for planting and distribution based on drought tolerance, hardiness, water use, and tree height. Customers are offered several species to choose from, and include Crape Myrtle, Chinese Pistache, Pink Chitalpa, Purple Leaf Plum, and Jacaranda.

Information regarding the program can be found at <https://www.iid.com/customer-service/save-energy-and-money/your-home/tree-for-all>. To provide further details about the program and information about upcoming events, Sabrina Barber, IID's manager for Regulatory and Strategic Marketing, will provide a presentation at the April meeting of the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for providing this staff report. CVAG staff will continue to pursue grant funding opportunities to cover costs of upcoming initiatives not already covered by existing programs.

Attachment: IID Tree for All Infographic - 2022

2022 IMPACT REPORT



1,096 lbs
AIR POLLUTANTS
ABSORBED*



514,056 lbs
CARBON SEQUESTERED/
AVOIDED*



650
TREES PLANTED/DONATED



\$50,050
INVESTED



\$40,385
IN COMBINED ENERGY
AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS*



190,042 kWh
SAVED*



600+
HOMEOWNERS ENGAGED



2 MILLION gal.
STORMWATER FILTERED*

Established Fall 2022

*projected 20-year cumulative values

LP40177209



ITEM 6B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
April 13, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Governance and Electricity Services Study

Contact: Emmanuel Martinez, Program Manager – External Affairs (emartinez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Discuss governance options recommended in the joint Local Agency Formation Commission’s Alternative Governance & Electricity Services Study for Imperial Irrigation District and provide feedback on the next steps for identifying a preferred governance alternative to increase Coachella Valley representation on electricity service

Background: The Imperial Irrigation District currently serves electrical services to eastern Coachella Valley cities via the 1934 Agreement of Compromise between the IID and the Coachella Valley Water District. Although the agreement primarily settled water related disputes, it allowed CVWD to lease its potential power rights to IID for 99 years. In exchange, the IID pays CVWD 8 percent of its net energy proceeds. Because the Coachella Valley is outside IID’s jurisdictional boundaries, Coachella Valley voters are not eligible to vote in IID elections. The looming expiration of the Agreement has prompted wide-ranging discussions about the continuation of electrical service beyond 2033. In February 2022, CVAG’s Executive Director was authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with IID to assist with coordination of IID’s Coachella Valley Energy Commission (CVEC), which is exploring a variety of these issues. An amendment to the MOU was approved in February 2023 and, as part of the agreement, regular updates on the CVEC’s activities are provided to CVAG’s Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.

One of the areas of concern for valley cities is representation and increasing their decision-making authority as it relates to electrical infrastructure needs and related matters. The Coachella Valley’s significant growth has outpaced that of Imperial County’s. IID currently serves 159,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers. Of those, 61,900 customers, or 39 percent, are in the Imperial Valley and approximately 97,100 customers, or 61 percent, are in the Coachella Valley. To address local representation concerns, the State’s 2021 Budget Act allocated \$500,000 for a joint-study to help identify a preferred governance alternative. The joint-study to identify governance options is led by both the Riverside County and the Imperial County Local Agency Formation Commissions. The joint-study by the Riverside and Imperial LAFCOs will contribute to better understanding what the preferred governance model could be for the Coachella Valley and IID post-2033.

In 2022, the Riverside and Imperial County LAFCOs issued a request for proposals to conduct the study, which was awarded to Dopudja & Wells Consulting. The scope of the study included evaluating potential alternative service governance structures that are inclusive of the IID’s Coachella Valley service area. A draft of the study was released in March 2023 and is attached for the Committee’s review.

The governance options presented in the study include proportional representation of Riverside County voters served by IID. During the course of the study, Dopudja & Wells Consulting found stakeholders expressed interest in the pursuing a publicly owned model, preference for a special district or joint powers authority (JPA) and that local representation is a must have. Other key elements that were factored into the study include affordability, economic development, financing and local programs, among others. Ultimately, the joint-study analyzed the following options:

- IID continues to provide electrical services to the Coachella Valley
- Annexing the Coachella Valley into the IID service area
- Creating a new sub-Board of Directors for electrical service
- Establishing a JPA among Coachella Valley parties
- Merging with an Investor Owned Utility
- Forming a Public Utility District or Special District
- Creating a Community Choice Aggregation

Although the joint-study comprehensively analyzes the suite of options, there is no preferred alternative being recommended. These options are based on key objectives, which include ease of implementation, achieve vertical integration and ability to adapt to future changes. Ultimately, the study suggests actions to be taken by stakeholders to assist with ongoing efforts to arrive at a preferred alternative. These actions include continuing discussions at the CVEC establishing rights and responsibilities of the parties, develop policy principles, perform a technical feasibility study, evaluate financing mechanisms and continue public engagement.

Starting on its release date of March 29, 2023, the LAFCOs is providing five months for the stakeholders to review, comment and provide feedback on the study's identified alternatives. At the request of Vice Chair Linda Evans, who is a member of the CVEC, CVAG staff will provide an update on the study to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee when it meets on April 13.

Fiscal Analysis: Staff time to monitor and analyze items related to IID electrical service in the Coachella Valley is covered via the memorandum of understanding between the IID and CVAG.

Attachment:

Joint LAFCO study on Alternative Governance & Electricity Services Study for Imperial Irrigation District:
<https://lafco.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/alternative-governance--electricity-services-study-imperial-irrigation-district/LAFCO%20IID%20Energy%20-%20Governance%20Study.pdf>

ITEM 6C

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
April 13, 2023**



Subject: Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee

Contact: Peter Satin, Conservation Program Manager (psatin@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Discuss and nominate a CVAG representative to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee

Background: The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO), representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG's policy is set by the 86-member Regional Council, with CVAG member jurisdictions representing Regional Council Districts 2 and 66. CVAG appoints members to represent the region on SCAG's policy committees: Community, Economic, and Human Development; Energy and Environment; and Transportation.

The mission of SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee is to consider "environmental and energy issues of regional significance, including but not limited to air quality, water quality, solid and hazardous waste, habitat preservation, environmental justice, and environmental impact analysis."

In spring of 2019, CVAG's Executive Committee appointed Indio Councilmember (now Mayor) Oscar Ortiz to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee. The Executive Committee in 2019 also acknowledged that the appointments should be reviewed on occasion and established a two-year term for each of the committee representatives.

Mayor Ortiz was elevated to SCAG's Regional Council in 2022, and has elected to continue to participate in SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee, which leaves the sub-regional seat vacant. recommend the appointment of a new representative for the next two-year term. CVAG staff is recommending CVAG's Energy and Environmental Resources Committee members discuss the issue, and then provide a nomination that can be presented to the CVAG Executive Committee. In advance of this discussion, CVAG staff provided a notification of the vacancy to the Committee members and will share any updates about volunteers at the meeting.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no financial impact to CVAG, and any per diems for these meetings are paid for by SCAG.

ITEM 6D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
April 13, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Inland Regional Energy Network Actions and Program Rollout

Contact: Peter Carlstrom, Management Analyst (pcarlstrom@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: CVAG is collaborating with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) on a joint Regional Energy Network (REN) for the Inland Empire, known as Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN). I-REN is governed by a new Executive Committee. Based on previous CVAG committee direction, CVAG's Energy & Environmental Resources Committee reviews the items being presented to the I-REN Executive Committee and provides direction to the Chair on how to vote for the region.

This staff report provides an update on the near-term I-REN opportunities for CVAG member jurisdictions, including the launch of a fellowship program. It also previews the anticipated items for the next I-REN Executive Committee meeting on April 18. At the point of this staff report, the I-REN agenda was still being finalized but staff did not anticipate any voting items on this agenda for which Energy & Environmental Resources Committee direction would be required. Finally, this staff report gives an overview of actions taken at the two I-REN Executive Committee meetings since the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee last met on February 9, 2023.

I-REN CivicSpark Fellowship

At its March meeting, the I-REN Executive Committee authorized WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, to enter into an agreement with CivicWell to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 fellows in their CivicSpark fellowship program in communities throughout I-REN's service area. CivicWell will support host agencies and I-REN by providing fellows with professional growth opportunities and training on energy and climate resources that can be utilized by the host agency and I-REN. CivicSpark fellow candidate requirements include a minimum of a two-year Associates Degree from an accredited college or university, commitment to the full term of service, ability to work in a professional environment, and strong communication and teamwork skills.

The I-REN Energy Fellowship will last 11 months and approximately 1,700 hours with their host agency. Between 300-400 hours will be for professional growth and learning opportunities provided by CivicSpark, I-REN, and the host agency. The remaining 1,300-1,400 hours will be dedicated to energy projects within the host agency, furthering host agency and I-REN energy initiatives. The only requirements to becoming a host agency are to provide a workspace, access to a computer, and a supervisor to whom the fellow will report. The CivicSpark Program will take care of all administrative matters. There is flexibility in the tasks that the fellow could work on as long as the work pertains to energy efficiency.

I-REN, led by staff in each respective COG, will be reaching out to their member jurisdictions in April to gauge interest and help submit the CivicSpark application. Though the fellowship doesn't start until fall, I-REN staff recommends filling out applications soon to increase the likelihood of securing a CivicSpark fellow. CVAG previously hosted a CivicSpark fellow in 2021 who was responsible for successfully creating CVAG's Urban Greening Guide.

I-REN Orientation Meetings

I-REN staff is setting up orientation meetings that feature presentations from consultants. I-REN staff is arranging 16 orientation meetings across I-REN's service area, broken up evenly between Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Currently three meetings are proposed for CVAG's member jurisdictions. The first will be specific to the City of Blythe. The second meeting will be for cities primarily served by Southern California Edison (SCE): Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells. The third will be for cities served by Imperial Irrigation District: La Quinta, Indio, and Coachella. I-REN staff will also be reaching out to CVAG's Tribal Nations.

The orientations will include I-REN's fellowship opportunity through CivicWell and getting city building information for the Building Upgrade Concierge software program, CVAG staff will be sure to coordinate with member jurisdictions' staffs on the finalized dates and times.

April 18 I-REN Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Discussion items on the April 18 I-REN Executive Committee meeting are as follows:

- Program Equity – In response to a comment at the March 21 I-REN Executive Committee by San Bernardino County Supervisor Curt Hagman, one of SBCOG's representatives on the Executive Committee, I-REN staff is developing strategies and safeguards that ensure that IREN strives for an equitable opportunities for distribution of I-REN services and resources across counties and COGs.
- Public Sector Programs – I-REN staff, together with consultants from The Energy Coalition, will present an update on the development of I-REN's Public Sector programs.
- FY 2023/2024 Budget – I-REN staff will present a preview of I-REN's FY 2023/2024 budget, which has already been approved by the CPUC.
- I-REN Orientation Update – I-REN staff will present an update on the I-REN orientation meetings discussed above.

Recent I-REN Meetings

Since the previous update to CVAG's Energy & Environmental Resources Committee, I-REN's Executive Committee has met twice. Indio Mayor Oscar Ortiz, who has been delegated the region's votes on the Executive Committee, attended both meetings. A recap of both meetings is included below:

- February Meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee:
 - The Executive Committee approved contracts for Public Sector Program Services (The Energy Coalition), Building Upgrade Concierge Software Development Services (AESC), Codes and Standards Program Services (Frontier Energy), and portfolio-wide Marketing and Communications Services (ICF). These contracts have been executed by the Executive Director of WRCOG, which serves as I-REN's administrative lead.
- March Meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee:
 - The Executive Committee authorized the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into an agreement with CivicWell to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit,

- and place up to 27 fellows within the I-REN service territory in fall 2023 (more detailed information in CivicSpark Fellowship section above).
- The Executive Committee authorized WRCOG, on behalf of I-REN, to provide comments on California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings that I-REN is a party to, when the required deadline to provide comments does not allow sufficient time for presentation to the I-REN Executive Committee.
 - The Executive Committee approved I-REN's participation as a subrecipient in the California Energy Commission's application to the U.S. Department of Energy for the funding of SolarAPP+ and CodeCycle projects under the Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Program.

CVAG staff has been working closely with its partners to roll out the consulting work and ensure the eastern Riverside County's interests are reflected in these grant opportunities

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for participation in I-REN. Staff time dedicated to I-REN and the costs of the services of the consultants described above are covered through the I-REN budget, which is nearly \$65.6 million through 2027 for the large area of both counties. This funding comes from customers of Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) such as SCE and SoCalGas through the on-bill Public Goods Charge set by the CPUC and collected by the IOUs. The I-REN Executive Committee, as part of its budget discussion, will review the amounts to be allocated to I-REN's programs established by the CPUC.

The CPUC designated SoCalGas as the fiscal and contracting agent for I-REN, and final execution of the Programs Agreement will authorize the ability to transfer funds from SoCalGas to WRCOG. Pursuant to the MOA, CVAG presents to WRCOG invoices for time and expenses incurred by CVAG staff on I-REN matters. Staff has already requested reimbursement for CVAG staff time on I-REN in 2022.


ITEM 7A

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY 2022-2023**

VOTING MEMBERS	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	-	-		-	✓	-	-		-			
City of Blythe	-	-		-		-	-		-			
City of Cathedral City	-	-	✓	-		-	-	✓	-			
City of Coachella	-	-	✓	-		-	-	✓	-			
Coachella Valley Water District	-	-		-		-	-		-			
City of Desert Hot Springs	-	-	✓	-		-	-	✓	-			
Imperial Irrigation District	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-		-			
City of Indian Wells	-	-		-		-	-	✓	-			
City of Indio	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of La Quinta	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
Mission Springs Water District	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Palm Desert	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Palm Springs	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
City of Rancho Mirage	-	-		-	✓	-	-	✓	-			
Riverside County - District 4	-	-	✓	-		-	-	✓	-			
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	-	-	**	-	**	-	-		-			

EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Desert Water Agency	-	-		-		-	-		-			
Riverside County - District 5	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-		-			

Absent  No Meeting -
 Vacancy ** Present ✓

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
April 13, 2023



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

Contact: Elizabeth Barnwell, Management Analyst (ebarnwell@cvag.org)

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 property tax bill. CVAG staff provides quarterly updates on the PACE program to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee. The attached report details the PACE activity for January through March 2023.

Current active residential and commercial PACE providers in Coachella Valley consist of CaliforniaFIRST/Renew Financial (Renew), HomeRun Financing/PACE Funding (HomeRun), and FortiFi (formerly known as Energy Efficient Equity or E3). Ygrene Energy Fund (Ygrene) has suspended operations as a result of an unfair practices and fraud lawsuit filed by the California Attorney General's Office on behalf of the State of California and Ygrene customers, with the Court's final judgment rendered in favor of the State of California. It is unclear at this time whether Ygrene will continue to service its existing customers. CVAG staff is actively monitoring this situation and will provide updates to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee as soon as they are available.

CVAG will continue to track and report on the status of the PACE residential and commercial PACE providers that operate in CVAG's member jurisdictions.

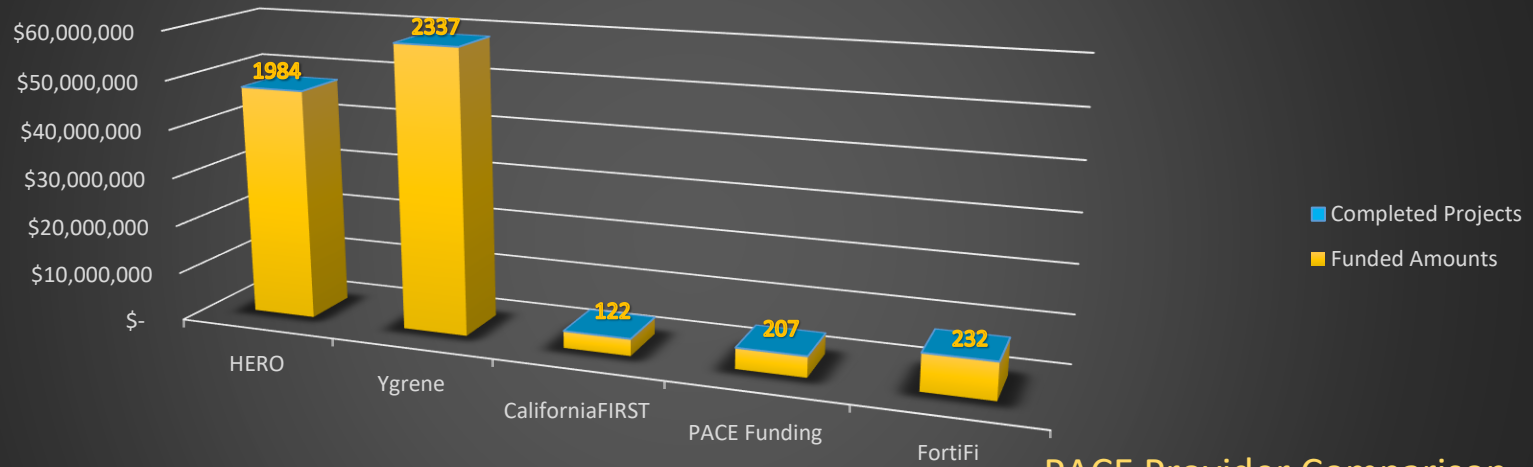
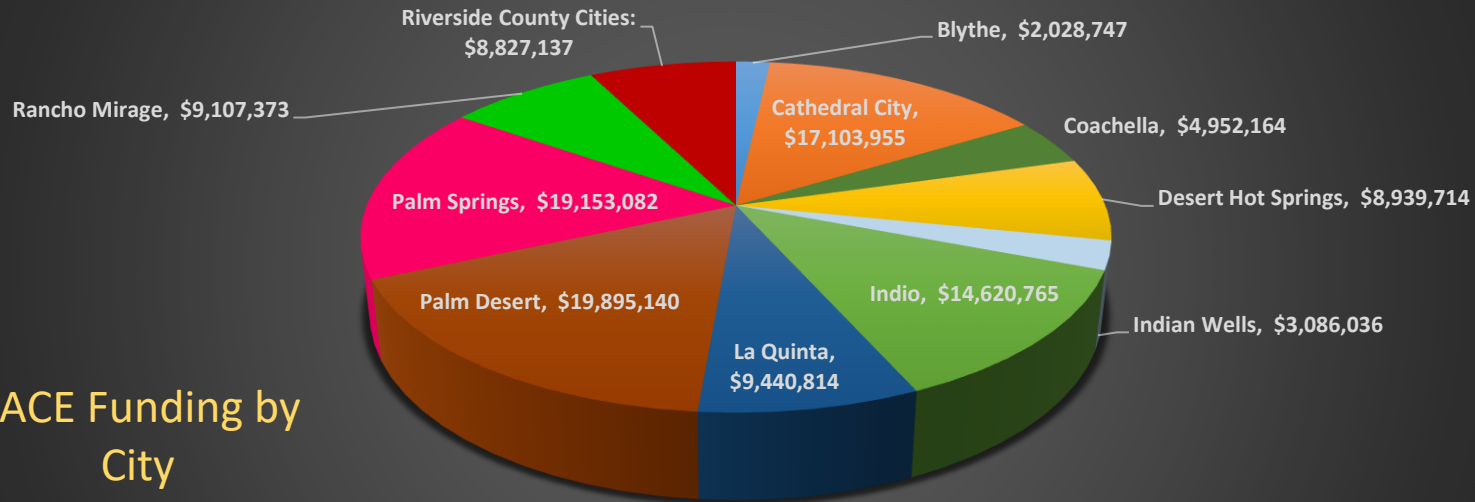
Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost associated with this update. CVAG's staff time spent on these programs is recovered by a participation fee collected from each provider.

Attachment:

PACE Activity Report for First Quarter of 2023

CVAG PACE REPORT

PACE Funding by City



PACE Provider Comparison

CARS REMOVED FROM ROAD: 41841

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

JOBS CREATED: 1065

Updated for April 1, 2023