



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

AGENDA

**Thursday, March 20, 2025
9:30 AM**

**Western Riverside Council of Governments
3390 University Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501**

Remote Meeting Locations:

**City of Beaumont
Beaumont Civic Center
550 East 6th Street, Map Room
Beaumont, CA 92223**

**City of Calimesa
Senior Center Map Room
908 Park Avenue
Calimesa, CA 92230**

**City of Lake Elsinore
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room
130 S. Main Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530**

**City of Menifee
City Hall
29844 Haun Street
Menifee, CA 92586**

**City of Murrieta
City Hall, Conference Room 2C
1 Town Square
Murrieta, CA 92562**

**City of Temecula
City Hall, City Manager's Office**

41000 Main Street
Temecula, CA 92590

City of Wildomar
City Hall
23873 Clinton Keith Road, Suite 201
Wildomar, CA 92595

March Air Reserve Base
14205 Meridian Parkway, Ste. 140
Meridian Conference Room
Riverside, CA 92518

3593 Eastfield Court
Carmel, CA 93923

Members of the public are welcome to participate remotely from any location. Committee member participation is limited to locations that are listed on the published agenda.

[Public Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 845 3727 4013

Passcode: 478832

Dial in: 669 444 9171 U.S.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in the Technical Advisory Committee meeting, please contact WRCOG at (951) 405-6706. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting. In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, agenda materials distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting which are public records relating to an open session agenda item will be available for inspection by members of the public prior to the meeting at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside, CA, 92501.

In addition to commenting at the Committee meeting, members of the public may also submit written comments before or during the meeting, prior to the close of public comment to lfelix@wrcog.us.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting in light of this announcement shall contact Lucy Felix at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at (951) 405-6706 or lfelix@wrcog.us. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

The Committee may take any action on any item listed on the agenda, regardless of the Requested Action.

1. **CALL TO ORDER (Clara Miramontes, Chair)**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. ROLL CALL

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time members of the public can address the Committee regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that are not separately listed on this agenda. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda unless authorized by law. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing and only pertinent points presented orally.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. Prior to the motion to consider any action by the Committee, any public comments on any of the Consent Items will be heard. There will be no separate action unless members of the Committee request specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar.

A. Action Minutes from the February 20, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the Action Minutes from the February 20, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Assembly Bill 98 Update

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

B. Environmental Department Program Activities Update

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

C. I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan Activities Update

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

D. I-REN Energy Fellowship 2025/2026 Program Service Year: Public Agency Participation

Requested Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Willson

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Members are invited to suggest additional items to be brought forward for discussion at future Committee meetings.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members are invited to announce items / activities which may be of general interest to the Committee.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, at 9:30 a.m., in WRCOG's office at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Technical Advisory Committee

Action Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Clara Miramontes at 9:31 a.m. on February 20, 2025, in WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Miramontes led the Committee members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Canyon Lake - Aaron Brown
- City of Corona - Brett Channing
- City of Eastvale - Mark Orme
- City of Hemet - Noah Rau
- City of Jurupa Valley - Rod Butler
- City of Lake Elsinore - Jason Simpson
- City of Menifee - Bryan Jones
- City of Moreno Valley - Sean Kelleher
- City of Murrieta - Justin Clifton
- City of Perris - Clara Miramontes (Chair)
- City of Riverside - Ruby Castillo
- City of San Jacinto - Travis Randel
- City of Temecula - Betsy Lowrey
- City of Wildomar - Dan York*
- Western Water - Tim Barr
- March Joint Powers Authority (JPA) - Dr. Grace Martin

* Arrived after Roll Call

Absent:

- City of Banning
- City of Beaumont
- City of Calimesa
- City of Norco
- County of Riverside
- Eastern Municipal Water District
- Riverside County Office of Education

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Moreno Valley
SECONDER:	Eastvale
AYES:	Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, Western Water, March JPA
ABSTAIN:	Hemet

A. Action Minutes from the January 16, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Action Minutes from the January 16, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. C-PACE Activities Update and Annual C-PACE Program Bond Capacity Review

ACTION:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	San Jacinto
SECONDER:	Lake Elsinore
AYES:	Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, Western Water, March JPA

Action:

1. Recommended that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to approve an increase of \$80M in bond capacity for the Greenworks / Nuveen Green Capital Commercial PACE Program to a total of \$580M in bonding capacity through Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

C. Appointment to the Riverside County Emergency Medical Care Committee

ACTION:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	San Jacinto
SECONDER:	Jurupa Valley
AYES:	Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, Wildomar, Western Water, March JPA

Action:

1. Nominated Jason Simpson, City of Lake Elsinore, to serve as the WRCOG primary representative and Arron Brown, City of Canyon Lake, to serve as the WRCOG alternate representative to the Riverside County Emergency Medical Care Committee.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kurt Wilson was not present.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Chair Miramontes requested an update on Assembly Bill 98.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member Arron Brown announced that the Canyon Lake Administrative Offices have moved to Canyon Lake City Hall.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., in WRCOG's office at 3390 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Assembly Bill 98 Update

Contact: Taylor Libolt Varner, Amplify Communities, Policy Specialist,
tliboltvarner@amplifycommunities.org, (909) 639-1857

Date: March 20, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

Assembly Bill (AB) 98, signed into law in September 2024, imposes new design and build standards for new or expanded logistics uses across the state. Efforts are being made to seek feedback and input on technical corrections, gather suggested amendments, and build consensus among stakeholders to improve the Bill's clarity and application. Taylor Libolt Varner from Amplify Communities will provide an update into these efforts and share opportunities to provide feedback from Committee members.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on AB 98. This effort aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #1 (Serve as an advocate at the regional, state, and federal level for the Western Riverside subregion).

Discussion:

Background

AB 98 has a number of provisions related to the siting of warehouse facilities and the designation of truck routes. There is an effort to seek feedback and input on technical corrections, gather suggested amendments, and build consensus among stakeholders to improve the Bill's clarity and application. This presentation will focus on these opportunities.

In addition, WRCOG is developing an implementation guide. The goal is to provide a checklist to comply with the Bill's requirements and to provide sample ordinances, design handbooks, etc.

Present Situation

Work on this implementation guide began in December; the guide will be brought to this Committee

when a draft is ready for review. The presentation will provide a summary to-date on the development of the guide.

Prior Action(s):

December 12, 2024: The Planning Directors Committee received and filed.

Financial Summary:

This item is for informational purposes only; therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

Attachment(s):

None.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Environmental Department Program Activities Update
Contact: Olivia Sanchez, Program Manager, osanchez@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6721
Date: March 20, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
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Summary:

WRCOG oversees a range of comprehensive environmental programs promoting sustainability and community well-being. These initiatives include solid waste management, focusing on waste reduction and recycling. WRCOG also actively supports used oil / filter collection and recycling programs, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. Additionally, WRCOG emphasizes community engagement through the Love Your Neighborhood Program, fostering positive environments and addressing pollution prevention. Overall, WRCOG's environmental programs contribute to an integrated approach to environmental stewardship, waste management, and community development in the western Riverside County region.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

This item provides an update on the Environmental Department's programs. This effort aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #6 (Develop and implement programs that support resilience for our region) and sub-goal #6.3 (Continue to support the Solid Waste and Recycling Program).

Discussion:

Background

WRCOG's Environmental Department is dedicated to addressing environmental issues in western Riverside County, covering aspects such as solid waste, used oil recycling, hazardous waste, pollution prevention, and providing resources to member agencies to fulfill legislative environmental mandates. The Environmental Department oversees three key programs:

1. Solid Waste and Recycling Program: Through WRCOG's Solid Waste Committee, WRCOG collaborates with member jurisdictions, partners, and CalRecycle to help western Riverside County achieve state-mandated waste diversion goals.
2. Love Your Neighborhood Program: Administered by WRCOG and supported by the Riverside

County Watershed Protection Program and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, this Program is a pollution prevention effort that empowers residents with resources to keep their neighborhoods pollution-free.

3. Oil Recycling Program: Focused on promoting proper recycling and disposal of used motor oil, used filters, and household hazardous wastes, aiming to prevent improper disposal that could contaminate water and the environment. This Program specifically targets reducing improper disposal of used motor oil.

Present Situation

Over the past year, WRCOG staff has been actively engaged in implementing and advancing several key programs. The following is an update on the progress and achievements of these initiatives.

Solid waste programs have made significant strides in supporting and enhancing services for WRCOG's member agencies. Staff successfully prepared and coordinated quarterly meetings of the Solid Waste Committee, producing detailed agendas and comprehensive reports and facilitating seamless collaboration with guest speakers to address key issues. Staff also completed the Annual Solid Waste and Recycling Rate & Franchise Service Agreement Survey, delivering valuable insights to help member agencies make informed decisions on rates and service agreements. Additionally, staff prepared the Electronic Annual Report (EAR) for participating member agencies, ensuring compliance and effective reporting of recycling and diversion activities.

In line with regulatory developments, staff conducted in-depth analyses of relevant legislation and bills, providing critical assessments of their potential impacts—both positive and negative—on solid waste and recycling programs. These efforts have kept WRCOG and its member agencies ahead of regulatory changes, enabling timely and effective responses. Staff stayed engaged and informed by actively participating in and providing presentations at conferences, workshops, and webinars on emerging solid waste issues. Through these engagements, staff delivered regular updates and acted as a vital liaison between the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and WRCOG member agencies.

To further support member agencies, staff conducted extensive research into grant opportunities at the state, federal, and foundational levels, providing pathways for additional funding and program enhancements. A major focus remained on monitoring the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and staying abreast of policies, legislation, and trends that influence solid waste and recycling practices. This proactive approach ensures that member agencies have the resources and expertise necessary to advance their recycling and sustainability initiatives. Additionally, the Solid Waste Program continued to provide ReCollect, an innovative online tool designed to optimize waste collection information. This platform, offered at no additional cost to member agencies, provides residents with user-friendly access to trash schedules, recyclable material guidelines, and collection day reminders.

Over the past year, the Love Your Neighborhood (LYN) Program has achieved significant milestones in fostering community engagement and environmental stewardship. This comprehensive initiative strengthens community ties while addressing critical environmental concerns. The Program has focused on trash abatement, promoting responsible recycling practices, ensuring the proper removal of hazardous waste to prevent storm drain pollution, and tackling overwatering issues to encourage water conservation. Together, these efforts have contributed to creating cleaner, more sustainable neighborhoods that foster unity and enhance residents' quality of life.

In 2024, the LYN Program hosted 22 community events across WRCOG jurisdictions, engaging hundreds of volunteers who removed 13 tons of trash from neighborhoods, parks, and public spaces. These events improved the physical environment and inspired a deeper sense of ownership and pride among community members. To expand its reach and impact, staff provided outreach and education to several member agencies through tabling events, clean-up efforts, and collaboration with jurisdictional staff and leadership. This Program is free to WRCOG member agencies, ensuring broad accessibility and support for local communities.

In addition to clean-up activities, the Program continued its partnership with Eco-Hero to provide engaging school outreach presentations on recycling used motor oil and pollution prevention. These assemblies, available to all member agencies, deliver critical environmental education to younger generations. Staff scheduled 40 presentations, reaching over 5,200 students.

The Regional Food Rescue and Technical Assistance Program has substantially addressed food rescue gaps in compliance with SB 1383 while delivering measurable environmental and social benefits in the past year. This optional Program supports participating member agencies in meeting the critical requirements of food rescue and diversion through a comprehensive set of services. The Program facilitated the rescue of an impressive 91,665 pounds of edible food from 414 sources, providing valuable resources to communities in need and reducing 133.27 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) greenhouse gas emissions. These outcomes highlight the Program's dual impact on improving food security and reducing the environmental burden of organic waste.

To ensure compliance with SB 1383 mandates, the Program inspected Edible Food Generators (EFGs) and Food Rescue Organizations (FROs) while providing hands-on technical assistance. It also supplied EFGs, FROs, and participating member agencies with access to the CAREIT food rescue app, a critical tool for tracking and optimizing food rescue efforts. Additionally, the Program supported the establishment of complaint mechanisms and assisted in organic and edible food capacity planning, further strengthening the region's food rescue infrastructure.

The Used Oil Program has made significant strides in promoting responsible used oil management across WRCOG's member agencies. This comprehensive initiative focuses on collecting, recycling, and properly disposing of used motor oil, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations, and fostering sustainable practices within the community. In 2024, the Program hosted 28 used motor oil filter exchange events at local Certified Collection Centers, such as auto parts stores. These events successfully exchanged 2,196 used oil filters, diverting significant amounts of waste from improper disposal and contributing to the region's overall environmental health.

Collaboration with member cities has been a cornerstone of the Program, helping to optimize efficiency and maximize the positive environmental impacts of used oil recycling efforts. Member agencies benefited from access to oil containers and other Program-related materials to distribute to residents, further enhancing outreach and engagement. Staff actively supported several events, providing on-site assistance to strengthen community engagement and promote awareness of proper used motor oil disposal practices.

WRCOG offers a variety of opportunities and programs for member agencies to participate in. Staff are available to address any inquiries and furnish detailed information upon request.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to Solid Waste are included in the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget under the Solid waste Fund (130).

Attachment(s):

None.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan Activities Update

Contact: Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, cdailey@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6720

Date: March 20, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The draft 2028 I-REN Business Plan is currently in progress, preparing for submission to the California Public Utilities Commission to secure funding for program years 2028 – 2035. At a minimum, I-REN staff will retain the same sectors outlined in the current business plan: Public, Codes & Standards, and Workforce Education & Training.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to provide updates on the draft Business Plan progress to date and continue the discussion around the potential for adding other market sectors. This effort aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #6 (Develop and implement programs that support resilience for our region).

Discussion:

Background

At the January 21, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting, staff presented an overview of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application process for I-REN Energy Efficiency (EE) Program funding for program years 2028 – 2035. The Application, or “Business Plan,” is due to the CPUC in February 2026 and will consist of an eight-year strategic business plan and four-year portfolio plan. In addition to outlining detailed plans for program years 2028 - 2031, the 2028 I-REN Application will also include high-level strategies, future plans, and goals for program years 2032 – 2035.

At the February 18, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting, staff presented findings on existing programs available in I-REN's service territory and continued the discussion of the potential for including other sectors in the next Business Plan filing.

Preparing the 2028 Application will involve assessing the energy efficiency needs of stakeholder communities within the CPUC-defined market sectors that I-REN wishes to serve, determining capabilities to address those needs, and developing a compelling set of strategies and a justifiable budget request to serve those sectors.

Factors the CPUC are likely to consider in evaluating the reasonableness of I-REN and other Portfolio Administrators' (PAs) applications include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Results from PA's initial round of funding, e.g.:
 - Performance on goals and metrics
 - Utilization of budget
 - Lessons learned
- PA communities' unmet needs for energy efficiency, reflected in quantitative and qualitative data from primary and/or secondary research
- Overlapping programs offered by other PAs that may already be able to serve I-REN communities
- PA's capability to plan and deliver forward-thinking and effective approaches to address demonstrated needs
- Overarching policy trends and issues, e.g.:
 - Energy bill affordability concerns
 - State goals for decarbonization

Statutory requirements for REN programs will also be considered, alongside the factors mentioned above. In accordance with CPUC Decision (D.) 19-12-021, in order to obtain CPUC approval, RENs must propose activities that meet at least one of the criteria below (D.19-12-021, Ordering Paragraph 4):

1. Activities that utility or Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) PAs cannot or do not intend to undertake.
2. Pilot activities where there is no current utility or CCA Program offering, and where there is potential for scalability to a broader geographic reach, if successful.
3. Activities serving hard-to-reach markets, whether or not there is another utility or CCA Program that may overlap.

Present Situation

PAs such as I-REN are expected to be good stewards of ratepayer dollars that fund EE Programs, and, in 2024, PAs saw a marked increase in scrutiny from regulatory bodies and lawmakers due to the increasing energy bill affordability crisis in the state. The California Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates) worked throughout the year to convince lawmakers that EE Programs, especially REN programs, were not a good use of ratepayer dollars. Relatedly, in October 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-5-24, calling for the CPUC to "modify or sunset any underperforming or underutilized programs or orders whose costs exceed the value and benefits to electric ratepayers." This level of scrutiny is expected to continue and increase in 2025. It is within this context that I-REN staff is examining whether to expand into new market sectors and/or continue existing programs in the next Business Plan.

The question of exploring new market sectors was mentioned at the January 21, 2025, I-REN Executive Committee meeting, specifically with regard to commercial and industrial new construction program opportunities and California Assembly Bill (AB) 98, signed into law on September 29, 2024. AB 98

becomes effective January 1, 2026, and relates to warehousing and trucking activity, and is relevant for the I-REN region as it is home to numerous existing and planned warehouse facilities and trucking routes. Additionally, it was also brought to staff's attention that the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) would like to discuss the potential of adding the residential and small and medium commercial sectors in the next Business Plan submission.

Staff and consultants have begun research to identify whether any gaps exist in current EE program offerings for commercial, industrial new construction, and residential, and whether staff have the capacity to propose a REN program for any of these market sectors. In doing so, staff have identified a large-scale existing statewide program for non-residential new construction serving commercial, public, high-rise multifamily, industrial, and agricultural projects in Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, SoCalGas, and San Diego Gas & Electric service areas. The California Energy Design Assistance (CEDA) Program is a comprehensive statewide program that promotes electrification and decarbonization to reduce energy demand, consumption, and carbon emissions related to new building construction and major renovation projects. Attachment 1 to this staff report provides information on the CEDA Program.

Staff have also identified approximately 58 residential EE programs, and 66 commercial EE programs currently offered in the I-REN region. Staff are working on identifying the active EE programs supporting Commercial, Industrial, and Residential Sectors that are offered in the I-REN territory to identify what, if any, gaps exist in the market that I-REN could support. If it is determined that there are no gaps in the existing EE programs offered in the region, but rather a lack of awareness and utilization of those programs, staff can work to build up the external EE program engagement efforts as part of the ongoing work.

While it is too early to know if I-REN is ready and able to expand into additional sectors beyond Public, Workforce, Education & Training, and Codes & Standards, staff have received direction from the I-REN Executive Committee that, at minimum, to pursue the existing sectors in the next Business Plan. This direction will give staff and its implementers sufficient direction to begin the process of incorporating the three existing sectors in the next Business Plan. I-REN is effectively halfway through the initial funding period (2022-2027) and the programs across the three current sectors are only now starting to function as designed and beginning to yield the outcomes desired as described in the initial Business Plan.

Prior Action(s):

February 18, 2025: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized staff to continue the development of the 2028 Business Plan for the Public, Codes & Standards, and Workforce Education & Training Sectors and directed staff to return at a future meeting for a discussion of possible inclusion of additional sectors.

January 21, 2025: The I-REN Executive Committee received and filed.

Financial Summary:

The I-REN has an existing, six-year, \$65M budget approved by the CPUC from 2022 through 2027. The amount for the next funding period will be determined at a later time, prior to filing the new Business Plan in 2026.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - California Energy Design Assistance \(CEDA\) Program Guide](#)

Attachment

California Energy Design Assistance (CEDA) Program Guide

2023 v2

Program Guide

We provide intelligent decarbonization analysis;
you make informed energy decisions.....

California Energy
Design Assistance



WHAT IS CEDA?

The California Energy Design Assistance (CEDA) program promotes the electrification and decarbonization of new building construction or major renovation. CEDA works in collaboration with project teams to reduce energy demand, consumption, and carbon emissions.

CEDA serves commercial, public, high-rise multifamily, industrial, and agricultural projects in Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), SoCalGas (SCG), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) service areas.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Advance the market to achieve California's aggressive decarbonization goals
- Promote electrification and all-electric buildings
- Reduce long term energy costs and emissions
- Drive adoption of high-performance measures
- Make buildings true grid resources
- Educate the market

Overall Goals

Increase supply and demand for all-electric and high-performance measures

Build relationships with the A/E/C community

Drive Innovation

WHY PARTICIPATE IN CEDA?

- Receive complimentary custom **decarbonization** analysis to identify and evaluate opportunities
- Gain analysis of **energy costs and paybacks**
- Receive **financial incentives** to help offset the costs of decarbonization measures for qualified projects
- Demonstrate commitment to high performance building practices and design





- New construction projects and/or major alterations
- Projects in design phase
- Owner pays/will pay the Public Purpose Program surcharge on the account where the Energy Efficiency (EE) measures are installed
- No double-dipping incentives with other utility sponsored ratepayer energy efficiency programs for the same measures
- Allow access to project site at project completion for verification of installed measures

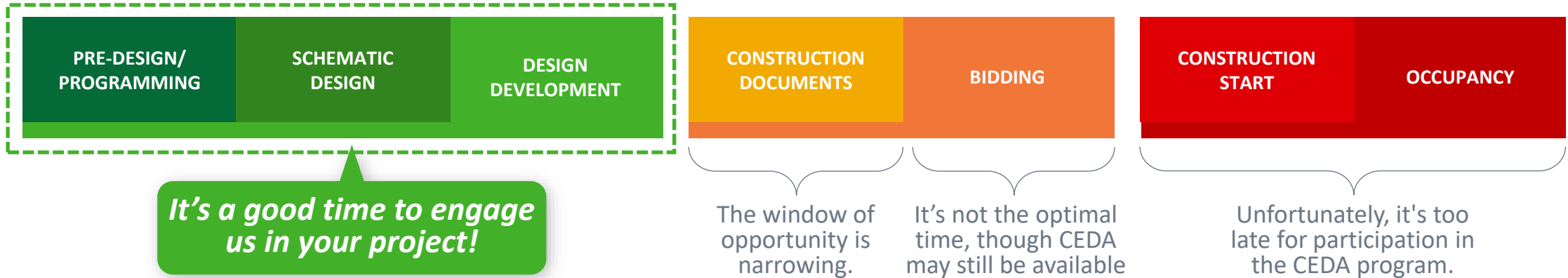
Major alterations must meet the following criteria:

- Changes in space function (building or space occupancy type change) **OR**
- Substantial changes ($\geq 30\%$) in design occupancy (square feet per person) **OR**
- Increase ($\geq 10\%$) in conditioned floor area **OR**
- Any expansion or addition of substantial process or conditioning load to an existing facility

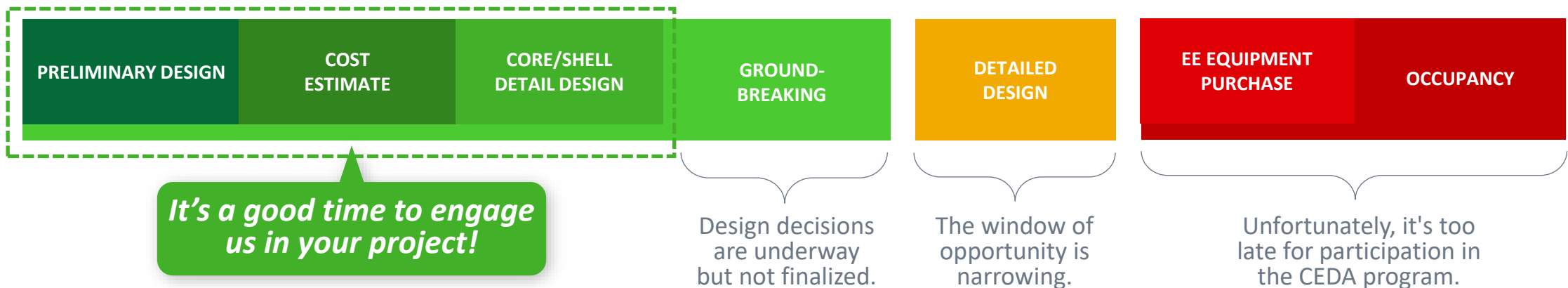


ENROLLMENT TIMING

TRADITIONAL DESIGN/BID/BUILD PROCESS



FAST-TRACK OR DESIGN/BUILD PROCESS



1



Enrollment

You provide schematic information about your building through our Energy Design Assistance application or directly to one of our outreach specialist

2



Discovery

Willdan performs a real-time evaluation of decarbonization measures and bundle potential whole-building strategies for further analysis

3



Results

You determine the measures that best align with your project goals, from which estimated savings, and incentives are calculated

4



Verification

We confirm your project was constructed to plan and issue a final report confirming savings, incentives as applicable

5



Savings

Enjoy continual energy savings, helping to actualize decarbonization goals and being a grid partner

Design teams are stretched thin on time and budget, but that doesn't mean decarbonization needs to be put on the back burner.

CEDA is now offering participation incentives on top of the incentives your project will get for implementing decarbonization measures.

It's a win-win!

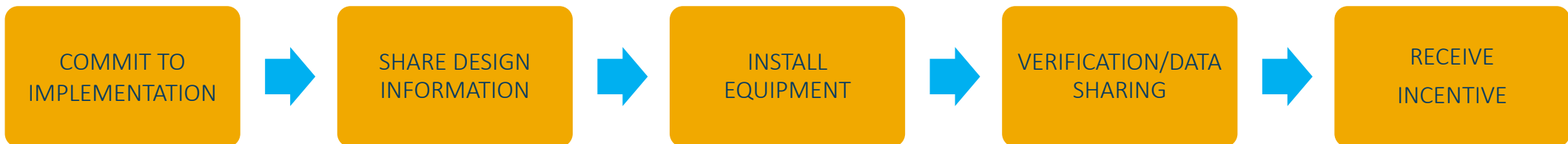


CEDA offers incentives to reward buildings of the future that implement high performance measures and electrification.

Incentives are also available for the installation of traditional above code minimum energy efficiency measures



Inducements Process:



Examples of high-performance measure types to help your teams evaluate decarbonization opportunities and available incentives



Space heating system

Heat pumps, controls, heat pump chillers and heat pumps for VAV reheat systems



Service water heating

Central heat pump water heaters, distributed heat pump water heaters, water heater and distribution systems



Plug Loads

Heat pump clothes dryers, induction cook tops, electric commercial kitchens



Process Loads

Heat pump pool heaters, high temp heat pumps for industrial processes, microwave or other electric drying processes



Refrigerant Systems

Low GWP refrigerants for heat pumps, VRF, chillers, water heaters, reduced refrigerant leakage

If there is a decarbonization consultant on your design team already, there is still an opportunity to participate in CEDA Lite and be eligible for measure incentives and a design team stipend.

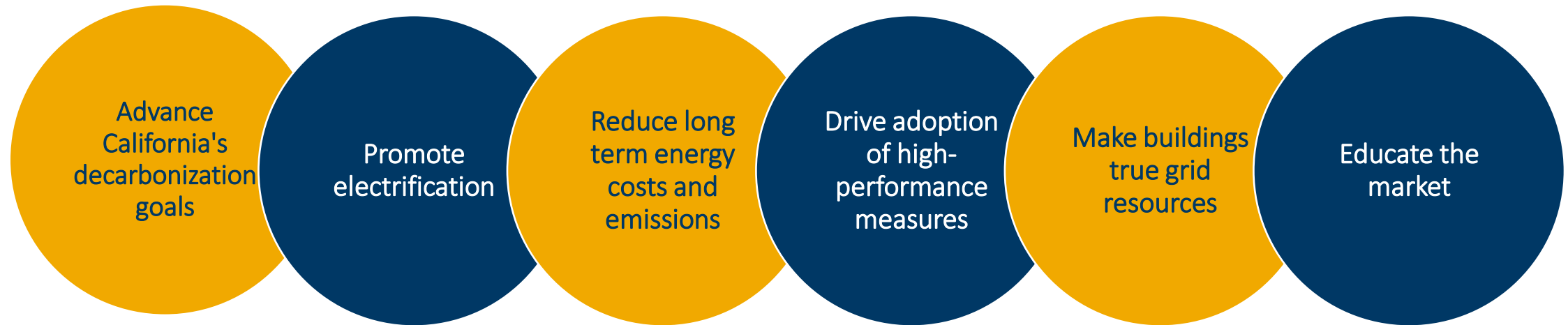
For CEDA Lite, project teams must

- Complete all program documentation requirements
- Adhere to program modeling protocol
- Calculate energy savings using Approved Baseline (this is not CEC Title 24 modeling)
- Receive approval for modeling approach and software tool

Design team stipend paid at savings claim submission acceptance and measure incentive paid at Verification



Together we can achieve our goals to:



Enroll your project today to determine,
which decarbonization methods will benefit your project.

HAVE A PROJECT TO DISCUSS?

For more information, please contact one of our program outreach specialists:



Jeff Glover
Program Outreach Lead
JGlover@Willdan.com
952.938.1588



Tina Hendrix
Program Outreach Specialist
THendrix@Willdan.com
760.585.7577

GET STARTED TODAY!



CaliforniaEDA.com



855.502.3914



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company®**

The California Energy Design Assistance (CEDA) program is funded by California utility customers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and supported by the state's other investor-owned utilities, (IOUs) under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Customers who choose to participate in this program are not obligated to purchase any additional goods or services offered by Willdan or any other third party.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN Energy Fellowship 2025/2026 Program Service Year: Public Agency Participation

Contact: Tyler Masters, Program Manager, tmasters@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6732

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Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) Energy Fellowship Program host agency application process will open March 20, 2025, with applications for 2025 expected to increase due to improved outreach strategies. Over the past two years of the Energy Fellowship, Fellows have directly contributed to 26 energy efficiency projects, securing \$1.1M in savings for agencies, representing nearly 40% of I-REN's Public Sector incentive dollars, and highlighting the Program's broader impact on workforce development and regional energy efficiency efforts.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to inform the Technical Advisory Committee members of the success of the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program over the past two years, as well as to inform the Committee on the upcoming program years' application process. This effort aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #6 (Develop and implement programs that support resilience for our region).

Discussion:

Background

The I-REN Energy Fellowship Program, partnered with CivicSpark, an AmeriCorps Program, has a goal to place up to 27 Fellows within public agencies in the Inland Empire. Fellows are college or university students / alumni with at least an associate's degree who have submitted an application, are interviewed, and ultimately selected by interested public sector agencies in the I-REN subregion. Fellows are placed with a public sector agency full-time for 11 months to provide energy efficiency project support on all things I-REN, at no cost to the member agency. While participation comes at no cost to public sector agencies, these Fellows are provided a living stipend of \$31,000 annually. This stipend is covered by I-REN on behalf of the city that is receiving the support.

The Fellowship Program launched in 2023, and there were a total of 11 Fellows deployed at 11 separate agencies throughout the regions of all three local I-REN COG partners. The first cohort of Fellows were able to participate in a trip to the ESRI Campus in the City of Redlands, as well as the 15th Annual California Climate and Energy Collaborative Forum as part of their energy efficiency and networking skill building. One of the main requests from the Fellows was increased involvement in energy efficiency educational experiences and additional opportunities for networking within the field. The Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) team responded to that feedback and began exploring options to expand additional energy-related learning opportunities and resources for Fellows participating in the 2024 cohort.

The 2024 Program service year saw a marked increase in both interest from potential Fellows as well as agencies interested in utilizing Fellows' support. A total of 14 Fellows were recruited and placed across 12 agencies. This cohort started in September 2024. Five agencies agreed to continue hosting a Fellow and six new agencies applied for assistance. There are also currently four, second-year Fellows within the 2024 cohort who continued to work in their prior agency. To provide additional professional growth opportunities, the WE&T team has scheduled six energy efficiency excursions for the Fellows and invited them to attend multiple conferences, workshops, and additional events in an effort to increase networking opportunities and educational growth. Each event is coordinated by a WE&T team and by a current Fellow working within WRCOG whom has taken on a lead role in managing these events. Every Fellow has been provided an opportunity to grow not only in their energy efficiency experience but also gain access to better understand how public agencies function, budget, plan, and even manage issues on a daily basis. Agencies that host a Fellow are provided support and capacity to implement energy efficiency projects at no cost to the host agency.

Present Situation

The 2025 application period for agencies will open March 20, 2025, and the WE&T team is expecting to see marked growth in the number of agencies that apply and want to participate. Multiple marketing strategies have been discussed, and outreach is expected to be far more effective based on current results of the Fellowship Program. Once applications have been completed, each host agency will have the opportunity to interview and select from highly qualified candidates whose interests and expertise align with local host agency projects.

The latest figures have shown that there are 26 projects in the Public Sector Cash for Kilowatts Incentive Program queue from 12 agencies where a Fellow has direct involvement in the project and process for completion. Four agencies that have retained a Fellow for a second year are moving forward with energy efficiency projects that their Fellow is actively coordinating. This amounts to an annual energy savings of \$272,867 across all 26 projects, an overall energy savings of 1,070,513 kWh/yr, and 5,329 therms/yr. The most impressive result of having Fellows working within the agencies is the incentive dollars they have secured for their respective site hosts.

Currently, \$1,126,104 in savings have been allocated to agencies for energy efficiency projects utilizing a Fellow, and that figure is expected to rise as seven of the projects are still in the initial measures list phase and incentive dollars have not yet been fully factored in. Currently, nearly 40% of all the incentive dollars within the Public Sector pipeline are allocated to projects utilizing an I-REN Energy Fellow. In line with that figure, 35% of the annual energy savings within the total Public Sector pipeline is tied to projects utilizing a Fellow.

The Fellowship Program is not only providing valuable support for agencies within the region, but is also providing an avenue to increase energy savings and participation in I-REN's Public Sector project pipeline. The host sites are receiving no-cost project management and potential energy savings through their involvement in the Public Sector arm of I-REN. As a whole, the Fellowship Program was designed to place highly engaged individuals into public sector positions to gain experience and an opportunity to practice energy-related work, but the end result has impacted both the site agencies and the energy efficiency landscape in a much more meaningful way. The correlation between the sectors has resulted in a synergy that allows the WE&T Sector to realize actual energy efficiency savings which further encourages the need for more Fellows to be placed within the region. The WE&T team is working with marketing consultants and various outside groups to continue to pursue higher involvement from both sides of the application process. The goal of 27 agencies hosting a Fellow is still in reach and the WE&T team will continue to pursue a spot for as many applicants as possible within the region.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to I-REN are included in the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget under the I-REN Fund (Fund 180). Regarding the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Fellowship funding, once the amounts have been determined, they will be programmed and included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget

Attachment(s):

None.