



**Western Riverside Council of Governments
Technical Advisory Committee**

AGENDA

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

**WRCOG HAS MOVED
PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION:**

**1955 CHICAGO AVENUE
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507**

Remote Meeting Locations:

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

**City of Calimesa
City Hall
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
Menifee Conference Room
29844 Haun Street
Menifee, CA 92586

City of Moreno Valley
City Hall
City Manager's Conference Room
14177 Frederick Street
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

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 110
Wildomar, CA 92595

March Inland Port Airport Authority
17405 Heacock Street
Riverside, CA 92551

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) 405-6702. 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 1955 Chicago Avenue, Riverside, CA, 92507.

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 (Craig Miller, 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 September 18, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Requested Action(s): 1. Approve the Action Minutes from the September 18, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. TUMF Construction Cost Index Adjustment for 2025

Requested Action(s): 1. Recommend that the Executive Committee approve the implementation of an automatic Construction Cost Index adjustment for all TUMF land uses tied to the September 2025 indices of the National Association of Realtors and Engineering News Record (ENR) with a cap at 5% on any annual adjustments.

B. I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan Application

Requested Action(s): 1. Receive and file.

7. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chris Gray

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, January 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., in **WRCOG's new office at 1955 Chicago Avenue, Riverside.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

Technical Advisory Committee

Action Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the WRCOG Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Craig Miller at 9:30 a.m. on September 18, 2025, in WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

- City of Beaumont - Elizabeth Gibbs
- City of Calimesa - Will Kolbow
- City of Canyon Lake - Aaron Brown
- City of Corona - Brett Channing
- City of Hemet - Mark Prestwich
- 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 Norco - Lisette Free
- City of Perris - Clara Miramontes
- City of Riverside - Ruby Castillo
- City of San Jacinto - Travis Randel
- City of Temecula - Betsy Lowrey
- Eastern Municipal Water District - Jolene Walsh
- Western Water - Craig Miller (Chair)
- March JPA - Dr. Grace Martin

*Arrived after Roll Call

Absent:

- City of Banning
- City of Eastvale
- City of Wildomar
- County of Riverside
- Riverside County Office of Education

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Jurupa Valley
SECONDER:	Lake Elsinore
AYES:	Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Corona, Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Norco, Perris, Riverside, San Jacinto, Temecula, EMWD, Western Water, March JPA

A. Action Minutes from the August 21, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Action Minutes from the August 21, 2025, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. I-REN Programmatic Activities Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. Western Riverside County Clean Cities Coalition Update

Action:

1. Received and filed.

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WRCOG's Bonnie Woodrome reported that WRCOG will be hosting a luncheon for General Assembly Sponsors on November 6, 2025, at the March Field Air Museum. Members of the WRCOG TAC and Executive Committee are invited to attend. The luncheon will also allow for a complementary tour of the March Field Air Museum.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Miller reported that Senate Bill 72 passed unanimously and is now sitting at the Governor's desk. Western Water staff sent out a call-to-action, asking member agencies to send a letter of support to the Governor. The Bill will modify a water plan and support infrastructure development to meet economical, agricultural, and environmental needs.

Committee member Arron Brown announced that the "Battle of the Cities" golf tournament will take place

on October 3, 2025, at Canyon Lake.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at a location to be determined.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: TUMF Construction Cost Index Adjustment for 2025
Contact: Cameron Brown, Program Manager, cbrown@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6712
Date: November 20, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the Executive Committee approve the implementation of an automatic Construction Cost Index adjustment for all TUMF land uses tied to the September 2025 indices of the National Association of Realtors and Engineering News Record (ENR) with a cap at 5% on any annual adjustments.

Summary:

The TUMF Program is subject to periodic adjustment to reflect changes in construction costs to ensure the Program continues to provide sufficient funding to mitigate the regional transportation impacts of new development. The proposed adjustment is based on a blended index of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) Index and the Engineering News Record (ENR) Construction Cost Index (CCI). For 2025, the combined indices reflect an increase of 2.6%, which will be applied to the current adopted fee levels. WRCOG staff also recommends moving to an annual automatic CCI adjustment based on the combined NAR/ENR Indices with a cap at 5%.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to maintain the fiscal integrity of the TUMF Program by adopting a standard cost escalation methodology. This effort aligns with WRCOG's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal #5 (Develop projects and programs that improve infrastructure and sustainable development in our subregion).

Discussion:

Background

The TUMF Program is a regional fee program designed to fund transportation infrastructure improvements. By automatically adjusting TUMF rates based on changes in construction, labor, and land costs as measured by established indices, the CCI ensures that the fee schedule remains aligned with actual market conditions and maintains the Program's purchasing power for critical transportation projects.

The historical implementation of automatic CCI adjustments to the TUMF fee has demonstrated clear benefits for both the financial health of the TUMF Program and the ability of member agencies to deliver critical infrastructure. Past CCI adjustments have served as an essential mechanism to bridge the gap between infrequent Nexus Study updates, ensuring that fee schedules remain aligned with the actual increases in construction, labor, and land costs. Applying these indices to the TUMF schedule resulted in increases of funding, which helped maintain the purchasing power of the Program and helped member agencies with project completion. Without these adjustments, agencies face limitations in funding, potentially leading to project delays or the need to seek alternative funding sources, which could be less reliable or more burdensome.

The TUMF Administrative Plan calls for a CCI adjustment to be brought forth to the Executive Committee on an annual basis. These adjustments occur in years where there is not already a TUMF Nexus Study update. The Executive Committee most recently adopted a comprehensive Nexus Study and Fee Schedule in September 2024, which became effective April 1, 2025. This new fee schedule, which is established at every Nexus Study update, included a 50% increase in Single-family residential fees. Multi-family and Industrial rates saw smaller increases while the commercial uses of Retail and Service remain unchanged. With no CCI adjustment since 2021 and rising labor and materials costs, the recent increase was the largest increase ever done in the Program.

Present Situation

A CCI adjustment would ensure the following:

- Fee levels keeps pace with increases in cost of constructing transportation projects.
- Avoids large increases at comprehensive TUMF Nexus Study updates.

To ensure that fee levels remain consistent with actual construction costs, staff have developed a blended CCI using the National Association of Realtors - Median Sales Price of Existing Single Family Homes (NAR MAEHP) and Engineering New Record (ENR) CCI indices. This blended approach provides a balanced, industry-recognized, measure of annual cost increases in transportation and building construction. The current indices can be found in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report.

As of September 2025, the blended index reflects a 2.6% increase. Applying this adjustment results in the following updated TUMF Fee Schedule, effective July 1, 2026:

Land Use Type	2024 Nexus Study Fee Schedule	CCI Adjustment
Single-family Residential < 1800 sf (DU)	\$12,380	\$12,705
Single-family Residential 1801-2299 sf (DU)	\$13,927	\$14,292
Single-family Residential 2300-2699 sf (DU)	\$15,476	\$15,881
Single-family Residential > 2700	\$19,344	\$19,851
Multi-family Residential (DU)	\$7,816	\$8,021
Industrial (SF)	\$2.33	\$2.39
Retail (SF)	\$7.72	\$7.92
Service (SF)	\$4.89	\$5.02
Class A/B Office (SF)	\$2.45	\$2.51

This adjustment provides consistency and predictability to the Program, while ensuring that the “fair

share” principle under AB 1600 continues to be met. This increase also is consistent with the administrative framework outlined in the TUMF Administrative Plan, which directs staff to monitor construction cost trends annually and recommend adjustments to the Executive Committee to maintain the fiscal integrity of the Program.

The financial impact of CCI adjustments has been positive and relatively modest in terms of development costs, while significantly enhancing the TUMF Program’s ability to fund necessary transportation improvements. Analyses have shown that CCI-driven fee increases typically result in only a nominal rise in overall development costs—often less than 0.1% of the total cost of a new home—while generating approximately 3% - 5% additional revenue for the TUMF Program annually. This additional revenue is crucial for keeping pace with escalating project costs and avoiding larger, more disruptive fee increases during periodic Nexus Study updates. Moreover, the CCI adjustment process is objective, transparent, and based on well-established indices, which reduces political friction and provides predictability for both developers and agencies.

WRCOG recommends adjusting the CCI implementation process so that any adjustments are implemented automatically. Under this process, the CCI would be calculated based on the combined September indices of the NAR and ENR. Once the CCI has been calculated, the fee increase would be implemented on July 1 of the following year. This process ensures that fee revenues keep pace with actual costs, reduce administrative and political burdens, and support the timely and reliable delivery of critical infrastructure projects—advantages that are not consistently realized with annual, separately approved, fee increases. Since there will be a 9-month period between calculation of the CCI and the implementation, developers will have more than adequate notice of the fee increase.

Prior Action(s):

November 12, 2025: The Administration & Finance Committee recommended that the Executive Committee approve the implementation of an automatic Construction Cost Index adjustment for all TUMF land uses tied to the September 2025 indices of the National Association of Realtors and Engineering News Record (ENR) with a cap at 5% on any annual adjustments.

October 9, 2025: The Public Works Committee recommend that the Executive Committee approve the implementation of an automatic Construction Cost Index adjustment for all TUMF land uses tied to the September 2025 indices of the National Association of Realtors and Engineering News Record (ENR) with a cap at 5% on any annual adjustments.

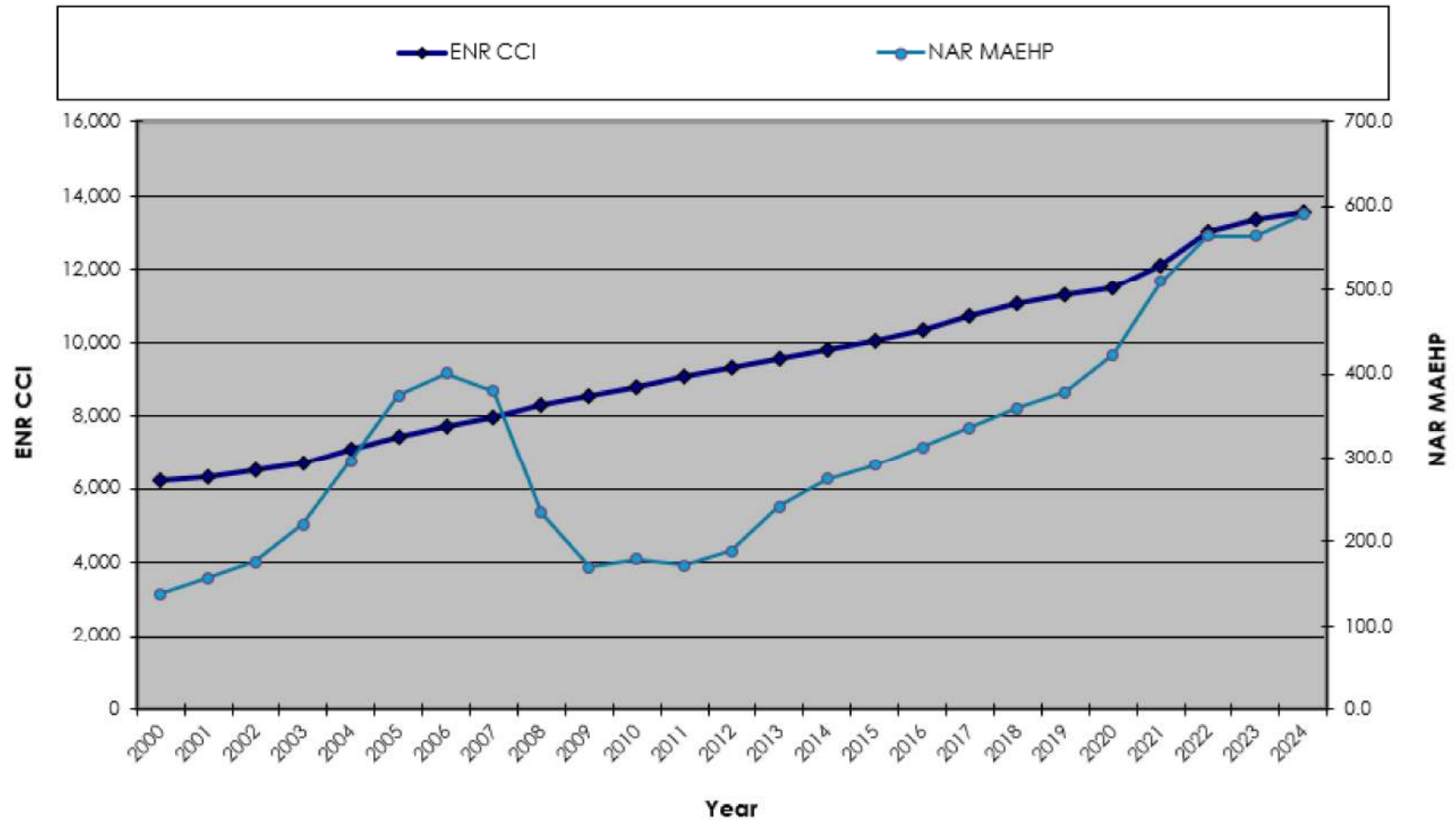
Financial Summary:

Funding for TUMF activities is included in the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget under the TUMF Program (1148) in the General Fund (110). 4% of all TUMF collections are allocated for administrative purposes.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - 2025 CCI Graph](#)

Construction Cost Index Comparison



Sources:

ENR CCI - Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index History

NAR MAEHP - National Association of Realtors Metropolitan Area

Existing Home Prices Index for San Bernardino/Riverside, CA (median price in thousands)



Western Riverside Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee

Staff Report

Subject: I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan Application

Contact: Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Resources, cdailey@wrcog.us, (951) 235-5125

Date: November 20, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.

Summary:

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is a coalition of three councils of government - WRCOG, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) - encompassing Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and all their respective jurisdictions within the region. These organizations have joined to establish locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency programs. Every four years, I-REN is required to submit a new Business Plan Application (BPA) to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for continued funding. The next BPA is due to be submitted by February 2026.

Purpose / WRCOG 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Goal:

The purpose of this item is to provide an update on the upcoming I-REN Business Plan Application and budget for program years 2028-2035. 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 Business Plan, approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for program years 2022 through 2027, is structured around three main sectors, each with specific programs designed to address the unique needs of the Inland Empire region:

Public Sector:

- **Objective:** Provide comprehensive, wrap-around, energy efficiency services to local jurisdictions, including 52 cities, 78 unincorporated county areas, and 17 tribal areas.

- **Key Programs:**

- Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning Program: Offers technical support, energy audits, and project design assistance for publicly owned facilities, aiming to increase energy efficiency and strategic investments in municipal and community buildings. Working in tandem with the Technical Assistance Program is the Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC), a digital and person-to-person technical assistance tool to guide agencies through the visualization of energy use of publicly-owned facilities being considered for energy efficiency improvements. Public Sector Financing Services are also included, assisting agencies in accessing innovative financing options for energy efficiency upgrades.
- Public Buildings Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) Program: Known as Cash for Kilowatts, this Program provides incentives for meter-based energy savings achieved over three to five years, with a focus on supporting under-resourced local governments that lack capacity for building upgrades.

Codes & Standards (C&S) Sector:

- **Objective:** Support improved compliance and enforcement of energy codes and standards, particularly in smaller jurisdictions facing resource constraints.
- **Key Programs:**
 - Training and Education Program: Delivers targeted training and outreach to local building department staff and industry actors, empowering them to be energy efficiency leaders.
 - Technical Support Program: Provides technical assistance, improved communications, and systems to increase efficiency and compliance with codes and standards.

Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) Sector:

- **Objective:** Build a skilled, local, clean energy workforce by providing equitable and targeted training opportunities, especially for underserved and hard-to-reach communities.
- **Key Programs:**
 - Training and Education Program: Coordinates with local providers, community colleges, and California State Universities to deliver workforce training locally.
 - Workforce Development Program: Enhances connections between job seekers, training providers, and employers, supporting the growth of a clean energy workforce and economy. Working within the Workforce Development Program is the I-REN Fellowship, which places interns, or “Fellows,” in public agencies to build capacity and support engagement with all I-REN programs.

Organizational and Programmatic Growth:

- **Strategic Plan Development:** I-REN developed a 5-year Strategic Plan (2023–2027) to guide program evolution, ensure effective use of CPUC funding, and align activities across member agencies. The Plan was shaped by extensive stakeholder input, including surveys, workshops, and committee feedback.

- **Program Launch and Expansion:** After initial delays, I-REN rapidly onboarded consultants, launched orientations, and began program implementation across all sectors. Eighteen orientations were conducted, reaching 133 public agency staff from 41 jurisdictions, plus 16 other agencies.
- **Branding and Outreach:** I-REN established a cohesive brand, website, and marketing materials to increase visibility and engagement. Outreach campaigns, job fairs, and various sponsorships have significantly increased awareness and participation.
- **Workforce Initiatives:** With an annual goal of placing 27 Fellows, the Energy Fellowship Program began by placing 11 Fellows in local public agencies, and outreach to community colleges and universities has expanded workforce development efforts, increasing the annual number of placed Fellows to 24. I-REN anticipates surpassing its annual goal of placing 27 Fellows in 2026.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Staffing and programmatic adjustments have been made to expedite project development and initiation, with additional consultant support added as needed.

Present Situation

Business Plan Application (BPA): I-REN staff and partners are in progress across various tasks associated with the BPA filing as described below, according to broad categories of CPUC BPA requirements. The CPUC continues to issue updated guidance and resources related to the BPA filing, and I-REN is closely monitoring and adjusting its BPA process in real time to align with the Commission's expectations.

Sector Strategy: As directed by the I-REN Executive Committee earlier this year, I-REN is pursuing continued authorization for energy efficiency activities within the Public, WET, and Codes & Standards Sectors. A major focus of the portfolio will be cross-sector coordination, to illustrate the interrelated nature of I-REN's programs in supporting each other's objectives.

Another significant focus will be increasing regional awareness of other Program Administrator's (PA) program offerings for sectors not directly included in I-REN's portfolio, e.g., Residential, Commercial, and Industrial, as directed by the I-REN Executive Committee.

Budget Approach: The CPUC requires PAs to demonstrate the reasonableness of their budget requests through zero-based, bottom-up budgeting in which every cost must be justified and aligned with delivering intended program outcomes.

Given the current affordability crisis and pressure applied to energy efficiency PAs (and RENs in particular) by state agencies and utility ratepayer advocates, I-REN staff are considering a budget strategy that weighs the realities of prior years' underspending with expected increases in activity in the years to come.

While I-REN anticipates requesting similar average annual budgets to its current portfolio, planned areas of expansion and new activities may warrant adjustments within sectors or requests for modest

increases to currently authorized budgets.

Stakeholder Engagement: Guidance and insights received in the early part of the year from I-REN Executive Committee members laid a foundation for pursuing continued achievements and growth within the current sectors, while working to address stakeholders' communicated needs related to energy efficiency support for sectors outside I-REN's portfolio.

To assess current program performance and opportunities, as well as stakeholder challenges and needs related to energy efficiency, I-REN began conducting outreach in September 2025 via the following methods:

- Sector meetings with program implementers.
- Listening sessions and online surveys open to a variety of audiences and stakeholders including public sector agencies, community colleges and schools, community-based organizations, tribal entities, special districts (library, parks & recreation, community service districts, fire protection), and construction firms.
- In June 2025, I-REN launched its Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) workplan which includes several studies to assess current programs' performance and opportunities for enhanced services that could be addressed through the BPA.

CPUC Strategy Alignment: The CPUC continues to provide additional guidance on Portfolio Strategies and other required topics the PAs must address in their four-year and eight-year time horizons.

Several of these strategy and topic areas are well-aligned with I-REN's current and emerging programmatic approaches: increases in workforce education and training, emphasis on meter-based savings measurement, innovation in program delivery, advancing building decarbonization, supporting the CPUC's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan, and coordination with other PAs and programs.

I-REN's portfolio addresses these strategies across all sectors, with just a few examples, including the following:

- Local agencies provide job opportunities for I-REN Energy Fellows who in turn support Cash for Kilowatts projects that save energy for public sector customers via meter-based savings measurement—a unique program delivery model that cuts across public and workforce sectors to benefit participants in both types of programs.
- I-REN's Codes & Standards and WE&T Sectors both focus on increasing educational support to energy efficiency building professionals, through developing and hosting I-REN-branded trainings and by establishing crucial partnerships in the region to demonstrate the high-road job opportunities in energy efficiency. I-REN is laying the groundwork now for increasing innovative workforce opportunities in 2026 and beyond, into the new BPA funding period.
- I-REN has partnered with the California Energy Commission (CEC) for their Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) Program, a residential direct install program with an emphasis on serving disadvantaged communities. I-REN is a partner for CEC EBD implementation in the southern

California region. While this work is not funded via the BPA filing, the CPUC is interested in how PAs' energy efficiency programs coordinate with larger statewide efforts. Through this work I-REN will learn best practices and develop partner relationships within the residential sector, increase local and regional awareness of I-REN and EBD Program opportunities, and help inform expansion of workforce development initiatives to ensure local workers can participate in this and other regional and statewide energy efficiency opportunities.

- As stakeholder engagement results and EM&V study findings emerged in October, those insights will guide the finalization of portfolio- and sector-level strategies and programmatic activities. Budget and energy savings forecasting will also be informed by stakeholder insights to ensure the portfolio is justified according to CPUC requirements and crafted to meet local and regional needs.

Budget: Past and Future

BPAs are submitted on a four-year cycle and are required to include an eight-year plan each time they are submitted. If they are approved, they receive authorization for a four-year budget cap as well as four-year budget forecast approval for the latter four years of the eight-year plan. I-REN filed its first BPA in 2021, prior to the adoption of the four-year / eight-year framework. Because of the timing of I-REN's BPA filing, the CPUC approved I-REN for a six-year budget, instead of a four-year budget, to allow I-REN to synchronize with the other PAs for the next four-year BPA filing.

I-REN's 2022-2027 approved budget is for \$65.5M and is illustrated in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report. Every two years, PAs are required to file a Mid-Cycle Advice Letter (MCAL) to show their program expenses and to allow them to make any needed adjustments to their current budget based on their spending trends. This includes rolling over unspent funds to remaining years of the four-year cycle. I-REN submitted its MCAL on November 4, 2025. Based on the spending trends in I-REN's MCAL, and consideration of the original CPUC approved budget, staff was able to develop a draft BPA budget for 2028-2035 which can also be seen in Attachment 1 to this Staff Report. This high-level budget will continue to be refined through the CPUC's required zero-based budgeting process and is subject to change. The resulting detailed final budget will consider staffing needs, fully burdened rates for the COG partners, planned contracts and partnerships, and other key factors.

In I-REN's 2022-2027 budget, the annual amount authorized by the CPUC was approximately \$10.5M. Using that annual amount as a baseline and based on I-REN's current spending trends, I-REN estimates an increase of the annual amount to an average of \$17.3M across the eight-year horizon, to meet the growing needs of the programs I-REN offers. The increased amount is due to the following considerations:

Public Sector offerings:

- **Support steady growth:** As the number of interested agencies grow, increased funding for technical assistance is crucial to shepherd energy retrofit projects through the design and installation process.
- **Direct response to local needs:** In response to requests from elected officials and other stakeholders, I-REN proposes investing in outreach and education to inform local agencies on EE opportunities for other market sectors, e.g., residential, small business / commercial, and industrial.

- **Address barriers through innovation:** Some projects are not a fit for a meter-based savings measurement approach; I-REN will explore alternative project pathways to overcome challenges in accessing EE retrofits.
- **New comprehensive audit services:** Starting in 2026 and anticipated to continue through the next BPA period, I-REN is now approved to offer holistic audit services for projects including both energy efficiency and other distributed energy resources such as solar and storage and electric vehicle to grid charging. These services fall under the budget category “Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSM).”

Codes & Standards offerings:

- **Local leadership:** Build on I-REN’s successful C&S training program foundation to further position I-REN as a leader and trusted source of EE education and guidance.
- **Cross-portfolio collaboration:** Serve as a technical advisor to local public sector agencies in navigating legislative requirements, e.g., Assembly Bill 39 local jurisdiction planning requirements; leverage training framework for I-REN Energy Fellows EE workforce education; coordinate with contractor outreach for increasing awareness of job opportunities in the HVAC trades.

Workforce Education & Training offerings:

- **Expand Fellowship reach:** Due to significantly increased interest from applicants and hosting agencies for I-REN’s Energy Fellowships, I-REN proposes to double the number of available fellowships from 27 to 54 in the years ahead.
- **Expand County Workforce Development Partnerships:** The current partnership between I-REN and both San Bernardino and Riverside County Workforce Development Departments represents a significant and long term investment to support existing clean energy career pipelines and pathways. This partnership allows both I-REN and each County to leverage in-kind resources and stretch ratepayer dollars through collaboration and supports other key partners for supporting EE workforce education and job pathways. I-REN is proposing to increase the investment in both Counties to support this long term investment.

Prior Action(s):

May 20, 2025: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized 1) submittal of the I-REN 2028-2035 Business Plan for programs and services related to Public, Workforce Education & Training, and Codes & Standards Sectors and 2) directed I-REN staff to establish better relationships and coordination with existing Energy Efficiency Programs offering services in the Commercial, Residential, and Industrial Sectors, to bring additional resources, programs and services to the communities of the Inland Empire.

Financial Summary:

I-REN has an existing, six-year, \$65M budget approved by the CPUC from through program years 2022 - 2027. Through October 31, 2025, I-REN has spent approximately \$19M of its \$65M, six-year budget

through the end of 2027.

The amount for the next funding period is currently being analyzed and will be submitted with the new Business Plan. Based on the latest draft, the I-REN's budget will be an eight-year, \$138M budget.

Specific sector breakdowns including staffing, incidentals, consulting, incentives, and other various expenses will be included in forthcoming iterations of the business plan.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - I-REN Current & BPA Budgets](#)

Attachment 1: I-REN Business Plan Budgets - Current (2022-2027) & Draft (2028-2035)

2022-2027 I-REN Authorized Budget from CPUC Decision (D.) 21-11-013

Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Authorized 6-yr Total
Public Sector	6,288,194	6,191,722	6,629,390	7,074,566	7,074,566	7,074,566	40,333,004
WE&T	2,253,295	2,393,426	2,437,164	2,674,650	2,674,650	2,674,650	15,107,835
C&S	1,446,107	1,503,952	1,564,110	1,626,674	1,626,674	1,626,674	9,394,191
IDSM*							
EM&V	114,441	115,604	121,810	130,349	130,349	130,349	742,902
Total	10,102,037	10,204,704	10,752,474	11,506,239	11,506,239	11,506,239	65,577,932

*NOTE: IDSM was not yet available in 2021 when I-REN's original budget was approved by CPUC (shown above) but has subsequently been added for 2025-2027 as a portion of the Public Sector budget. For the next BPA draft budget it appears as a separate line item below.

2028-2035 I-REN Business Plan Application (BPA) Draft Budget Proposal Summary

Category	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	Proposed 8-yr Total
Public Sector	7,645,486	8,262,479	8,929,264	9,649,858	10,428,605	11,270,196	12,179,705	13,162,611	81,528,202
WE&T	2,890,495	3,123,759	3,375,847	3,648,279	3,942,697	4,260,873	4,604,727	4,976,330	30,823,008
C&S	1,709,147	1,795,801	1,886,849	2,039,118	2,203,676	2,381,513	2,573,702	2,781,400	17,371,206
IDSM*	327,060	352,084	379,059	409,649	442,708	478,434	517,044	558,770	3,464,808
EM&V	510,214	549,252	591,332	639,052	690,624	746,358	806,589	871,681	5,405,101
Total	13,082,401	14,083,375	15,162,350	16,385,957	17,708,309	19,137,375	20,681,767	22,350,792	138,592,326

Acronyms

WE&T: Workforce Education and Training

C&S: Codes and Standards

IDSM: Integrated Demand Side Management

EM&V: Evaluation, Measurement and Verification