



Inland Regional Energy Network I-REN Executive Committee

AGENDA

**Tuesday, October 20, 2026
2:00 PM**

**WRCOG
1955 Chicago Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92507**

Remote Meeting Locations:

**Desert Hot Springs City Hall
Large Conference Room
11999 Date Palm Drive
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240**

**Town of Apple Valley
14955 Dale Evans Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307**

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: 842 8913 0749
Passcode: 699709
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 I-REN Executive 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 1955 Chicago Avenue, Suite 200, 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. To ensure distribution to Committee members prior to the meeting, please submit comments no later than two hours before the meeting is scheduled to begin. Public comments will also be accepted in person and via Zoom during the meeting.

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 (Chris Barajas, 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 July 21, 2026, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the Action Minutes from the July 21, 2026, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

B. Approval of a Second Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program for Service Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028

Requested Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to execute a Second Amendment to the Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to extend the Agreement term through Service Year 2027/2028.

C. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Schedule for 2027

Requested Action(s):

1. Approve the schedule of Executive Committee meetings for 2027.

6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the time the item is called for discussion.

A. Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification Studies for Program Years 2025-2027

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

B. Development of the Inland Empire Energy Careers Scholarship Pilot Program

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

C. New Outdoor Lighting Incentive Pathway

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

D. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with California Green Building Council (dba USGBC California)

Requested Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee award a contract to California Green Building Council to serve as Coordinator for the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative.
2. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with California Green Building Council in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per fiscal year.

E. Update on the I-REN 2023–2027 Strategic Plan and Recommended Steps for Strategic Plan Refresh

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

7. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chris Barajas, City of Jurupa Valley

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 I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2027, at 2:00 p.m., in WRCOG's office at 1955 Chicago Avenue, Riverside.

11. ADJOURNMENT

12. AGENCY ACRONYMS

Inland Regional Energy Network Acronym Guide

3C-REN – Tri-County Regional Energy Network (Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura)
 ABAL – Annual Budget Advice Letter
 AHJ – Authority Having Jurisdiction
 AVCE – Apple Valley Choice Energy
 BayREN – Bay Area Regional Energy Network (nine-County REN in northern California)
 BUC – Building Upgrade Concierge
 C&S – Codes & Standards
 CAEECC – California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee
 CalChoice – California Choice Energy Authority
 CAISO – California Independent System Operator
 CARB – California Air Resources Board
 CCA – Community Choice Aggregator
 CCEC – California Climate & Energy Collaborative
 CEC – California Energy Commission
 COG – Council of Governments
 CPA – Clean Power Alliance
 CPUC – California Public Utilities Commission
 CVAG – Coachella Valley Association of Governments
 DAC – Disadvantaged Communities
 DACAG – Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group
 DCE – Desert Community Energy
 DER – Distributed Energy Resources
 DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
 EE – Energy Efficiency
 EM&V – Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification
 EV – Electric Vehicle
 GHG – Greenhouse gas
 HTR – Hard To Reach communities
 IID – Imperial Irrigation District
 IOU – Investor-Owned Utility
 I-REN – Inland Regional Energy Network
 JCM – Joint Cooperation Memorandum
 LGSEC – Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
 LGP – Local Government Partnership
 MOA – Memorandum of Agreement
 NEBs – Non-energy Benefits
 NMEC – Normalized Metered Energy Consumption
 NREL – U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory
 PG&E – Pacific Gas & Electric
 PA – Program Administrator
 POU – Publicly-Owned Utility
 REN – Regional Energy Network
 RMEA – Rancho Mirage Energy Authority
 RPU – Riverside Public Utilities
 SBCOG – San Bernardino Council of Governments
 SCE – Southern California Edison
 SoCalGas – Southern California Gas Company
 SDG&E – San Diego Gas & Electric
 SJP – San Jacinto Power
 SoCalREN – Southern California Regional Energy Network (all of southern California, administered by Los Angeles County)
 TA – Technical Assistance
 TOU – Time of use

TRC – Total Resources Cost
V2G – Vehicle to Grid
WE&T – Workforce Education & Training
WRCOG – Western Riverside Council of Governments

I-REN Executive Committee

Action Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the I-REN Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Art Bishop at 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2026, at WRCOG's office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

CVAG

- City of Indio - Tom Kirk

SBCOG

- City of Grand Terrace - Bill Hussey
- County of San Bernardino - Curt Hagman*
- Town of Apple Valley - Art Bishop (Chair)

WRCOG

- City of Eastvale - Christian Dinco
- City of Jurupa Valley - Chris Barajas

*Arrived after Roll Call

Absent

- City of San Jacinto

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. SELECTION OF I-REN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, AND 2ND VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027

Action:

1. Selected Chris Barajas, City of Jurupa Valley, as Chair, Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, as Vice-Chair, and Bill Hussey, City of Grand Terrace, as 2nd Vice-Chair.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
----------------	--------------------------------

MOVER:	Bishop
SECONDER:	Dinco
AYES:	Ortiz, Hussey, Bishop, Dinco, Barajas

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
MOVER:	Dinco
SECONDER:	Hussey
AYES:	Ortiz, Hussey, Bishop, Dinco, Barajas

A. Action Minutes from the April 21, 2026, I-REN Executive Committee Meeting

Action:

1. Approved the Action Minutes from the April 21, 2026, I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

B. First Amendment to a Memorandum of Understanding between WRCOG and University Enterprise Corporation at California State University of San Bernardino for Evaluation, Measurement & Verification Studies

Action:

1. Recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between WRCOG and the University Enterprise Corporation at California State University San Bernardino for additional I-REN Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification Studies, increasing the total not-to-exceed amount to \$160,096.

7. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. 2025 Annual Report

Action:

1. Received and filed.

B. Termination of Memorandums of Understanding with Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire Community Foundation for the Administration of the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program in the Inland Empire Region.

Action:

1. Terminated the Memorandum of Understanding with Los Angeles County for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program and continue involvement with the Program as an unfunded community partner.
2. Terminated the Memorandum of Understanding with Inland Empire Community Foundation for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED
----------------	--------------------------------

MOVER:	Hagman
SECONDER:	Bishop
AYES:	Ortiz, Hussey, Hagman, Bishop, Dinco, Barajas

C. I-REN Residential Incentive Finder Tool

Action:

1. Received and filed.

D. Inland Empire Energy Career Explorer

Action:

1. Received and filed.

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Barajas reported that he and Casey Dailey met with Senator Cervantes with regard to legislation that may impact the RENs.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Committee member Bishop asked for a legislative update. Mr. Bishop asked staff to explore a potential partnership with the Building Industry Association, who are building thousands of homes in San Bernardino County. Mr. Bishop suggested that staff devise some goals and objectives for the coming year.

9. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee member Hussey thanked Committee member Bishop for his leadership as Chair over the past year, his heart was in it and he did a great job.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next I-REN Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., at WRCOG's office, 1955 Chicago Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of a Second Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship Program for Service Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028

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

Date: October 20, 2026

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to execute a Second Amendment to the Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to extend the Agreement term through Service Year 2027/2028.
-

Summary:

The I-REN Energy Fellowship Program launched in March 2023 in partnership with CivicSpark, an AmeriCorps program. Over three service years, I-REN has placed 56 Fellows in public agencies to support energy efficiency projects across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The proposed contract amendment supports the continued implementation of the I-REN Energy Fellowship, which will place 37 full-time Fellows, and up to 1 three-quarter term Fellow, with public agencies to advance energy efficiency and workforce development objectives in the subregion.

Discussion:

Background

In November 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission approved the I-REN Business Plan with a budget of approximately \$65M for Program Years 2022-2027. The I-REN Business Plan included multiple goals across three program sectors (Public Sector, Workforce Education & Training, and Codes & Standards) that were developed based on input from stakeholders within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties since 2019.

The I-REN Energy Fellowship was launched in March 2023 as one of the first Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) initiatives, with the explicit goal of placing up to 27 Fellows annually in public agencies across the subregion to support energy efficiency projects and build local capacity. The Program was designed to leverage the CivicSpark AmeriCorps model, which had previously operated under CivicWell, but transitioned to the Public Health Institute (PHI) in 2024 to expand operational capacity and align with broader public health and climate objectives. The transition to PHI was undertaken to ensure Program continuity, compliance with federal AmeriCorps requirements, and to provide a more robust infrastructure

for Program delivery.

On March 21, 2023, the I-REN Executive Committee received an introduction to the I-REN Energy Fellowship, a strategy approved in the I-REN Business Plan, and authorized staff to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark, an AmeriCorps-funded fellowship program housed within CivicWell, to support the development and implementation of an I-REN Energy Fellowship. The Committee authorized a budget of up to \$837,000 annually to cover the fellowship stipend and administrative costs of supporting up to 27 Fellows to work on I-REN public agencies' energy initiatives. This budget was increased to \$861,240 annually to include additional professional growth opportunities that I-REN could provide to the Fellows through CivicSpark.

Participation in an existing fellowship structure is a way to keep the costs of this Program stable. CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps Program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address energy, climate change, community resilience issues, water resource management, housing, and mobility. CivicSpark deploys over 100 Fellows per year. CivicSpark will also support host agencies and I-REN by providing these Fellows with professional growth opportunities and trainings on energy and climate resources that can be utilized by the host agency and I-REN.

2023/2024 I-REN Fellowship Service Year: In its first service year, I-REN placed a total of 11 Fellows throughout all three I-REN COG partner member agencies. Participating I-REN member and host sites include the Cities of Beaumont, Canyon Lake, Chino Hills, Corona, Grand Terrace, Norco, Ontario, Palm Springs, Perris, Rancho Cucamonga, and San Bernardino.

2024/2025 I-REN Fellowship Service Year: The second program service year for the I-REN Fellowship started the week of September 23, 2024. I-REN provided outreach at over 40 local university, community college, and community fairs, resulting in nearly 50 interested job seekers applying for the I-REN and CivicSpark Fellowship. After having the opportunity to evaluate and interview applicants, I-REN public agency site hosts were able to place 13 Fellows at their sites for the next 11-months to support each agency with their energy initiatives. The participating I-REN public sector agencies for the 2024/2025 program cycle include the Cities of Corona, Chino Hills, Norco, Ontario, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, and Riverside, as well as the Town of Apple Valley, the San Bernardino Community College District, CVAG, and WRCOG.

2025/2026 I-REN Fellowship Service Year: On October 6, 2025, 24 full-time Fellows were placed at local public sector agencies, with up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows positions available starting in January 2026. The participating I-REN public sector agencies that received Fellows in October 2025 include the Cities of Adelanto, Corona, Indio, Rancho Cucamonga, and Riverside, as well as the Colton Unified School District, Cucamonga Valley Water, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Fontana Unified School District, Jurupa Community Services District, Mission Spring Water District, Riverside County Workforce Division, San Bernardino Council of Governments, San Bernardino County Workforce Division, San Bernardino Community College District, and WRCOG.

Present Situation

The I-REN Energy Fellowship is now entering its fourth program service year, with demonstrated growth in both agency participation and applicant interest.

2026/2027 I-REN Fellowship Service Year: On October 5, 2026, 37 full-time Fellows were placed at

local public sector agencies, with up to 1 three-quarter term Fellows positions available starting in January 2027. The participating I-REN public sector agencies that received Fellows in October 2025 include the Cities of Coachella, Corona, Grand Terrace, Hemet, Murrieta, Rancho Cucamonga, Riverside, and other public sector agencies including: College of the Desert, Colton Joint Unified School District, Cucamonga Valley Water, CVAG, Eastern Municipal Water District, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Fontana Unified School District, Mission Springs Water District, Riverside County Workforce Development Department, Riverside County Facilities Management Department, Riverside County Office of Education, San Bernardino Workforce Development Department, San Bernardino County Administrative Office, San Bernardino Community College District, SBCOG, Temecula Valley Unified School District, and WRCOG.

Each Fellow will provide approximately 1,700 hours of work over the 11 months with their host agency, of which 300 - 400 hours will be for professional growth and learning opportunities provided by CivicSpark, I-REN, and/or the host agency. The remaining 1,300 - 1,400 hours will be dedicated to energy projects within the host agency, furthering the host agency and I-REN energy initiatives.

Technical analysis and program evaluation to date indicate that Fellows have contributed to the successful implementation of 25+ energy efficiency projects at agencies, resulting in over \$1.1 million in agency savings through I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts Program. These outcomes underscore the Program's effectiveness in advancing both energy and workforce objectives and highlight the necessity of timely budgetary adjustments to sustain and expand these impacts.

Additionally, nearly half of the Fellows have used their experience in the Fellowship to enter into local careers in the public sector or energy industries.

In the current 2026/2027 Service Year, to support PHI's ability to support its operations infrastructure, PHI has increased the host site contribution fee from \$35,000 to \$37,000 for a full-time Fellow. I-REN will continue to provide this funding for participating I-REN public sector agencies. As the initial years of the fellowship supported funding for less than the goal of 27 fellows, this allowed unspent funds to roll-over into subsequent years to support more than the initial annual fellow goal. The attached amendment includes a not-to-exceed budget of \$1,518,240 for 2026/2027, which is within the overall fellowship budget. Additionally, as I-REN looks ahead to Service Year 2027/2028, a transitional year between two funding cycles, staff have included a conditional term-extension provision in this amendment stating that, if I-REN receives funding for the 2028 business plan cycle, the same level of support provided in previous years will be provided.

I-REN staff propose that the I-REN Executive Committee recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with CivicSpark, under PHI, to continue support and deployment of the I-REN Energy Fellowship for Services Years 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.

Prior Action(s):

November 3, 2025: The WRCOG Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director to execute a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 24 full-time Fellows, and up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows, within the I-REN service territory for program service year 2025/2026.

October 21, 2025: The I-REN Executive Committee recommended that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the WRCOG Executive Director to enter into a First Amendment to an Agreement for Services with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 24 full-time Fellows, and up to 11 three-quarter term Fellows, within the I-REN service territory for program service year 2025/2026.

December 2, 2024: The WRCOG Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 Fellows within the I-REN service territory for program services years through 2027.

October 15, 2024: The I-REN Executive Committee authorized the WRCOG Executive Director, upon review by WRCOG legal counsel, to enter into an Agreement with Public Health Institute to support the I-REN Energy Fellowship and to identify, recruit, and place up to 27 Fellows within the I-REN service territory for program services years through 2027.

Financial Summary:

All costs associated with the development of an I-REN Energy-Efficiency Fellowship Program are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Agency Budget under the I-REN (Fund 180) in the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - Second Amendment to I-REN PHI Partnership.pdf](#)



**SECOND AMENDMENT TO
AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

THIS SECOND AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT (“Amendment”) is made and entered into as of November 2, 2026 (“Effective Date”) by and between Western Riverside Council of Governments (“Partner”) and the Public Health Institute (“PHI”), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.

RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, the Partner and PHI have entered into the Agreement (as defined below); and
- B. WHEREAS, the Partner and PHI desire to modify the Agreement on the terms and conditions set forth herein to update contractual clauses.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual agreements set forth herein, Partner and PHI hereby covenant and agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

- 1. Agreement.** Refers to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor dated December 2, 2024 between the Partner and PHI.
- 2. Definitions.** Defined terms not otherwise defined in this Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.
- 3. Modifications to the Agreement.** The Agreement is hereby modified as follows:
 - a. Exhibit B - Scope of Services. Exhibit B – Scope of Services, Item 3 is hereby added:*

2026-27 Project Specific Scopes of Work

- a. California State University, San Bernardino
- b. City of Coachella
- c. City of Corona
 - a. Economic Development Department
 - b. Sustainable Infrastructure
 - c. Zero EV Charge
- d. City of Grand Terrace
- e. City of Hemet
 - a. Community Development
 - b. Public Works
- f. City of Murrieta
- g. City of Rancho Cucamonga

For PHI

PHI002561 - 8561



- h. City of Riverside
 - a. CAP
 - b. EV Charge
 - c. Grow & Green
- i. College of the Desert
- j. Colton Joint Unified School District
- k. Cucamonga Valley Municipal Water District
- l. Coachella Valley Association of Governments
 - a. I-REN/CVAG Energy Efficiency Program Support – Community Education and Outreach
- m. Eastern Municipal Water District
- n. Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
- o. Fontana Unified School District
- p. Mission Springs Water District
- q. Riverside County
 - a. Facilities Management
 - b. Workforce Development Division
- r. San Bernardino Community College District
- s. San Bernardino County
 - a. Energy Efficiency Solutions Phase II
 - b. Workforce Development Department
- t. San Bernardino Council of Governments
 - a. I-REN Workforce, Education, & Training
 - b. SBCTA Planning
- u. Science & Technology Education Partnership – STEM
- v. Temecula Valley USD
- w. Western Riverside Council of Governments
 - a. Clean Cities
 - b. I-REN Codes & Standards
 - c. I-REN Workforce, Education, & Training

b. Exhibit C – Partner Responsibilities. *Exhibit C – Partner Responsibilities, Item 1(b) is hereby added:*
 At the time of this agreement, the Partner staff member assigned as Site Supervisor for the Fellow during their term of service is:

- a. California State University, San Bernardino: Jennifer Alford, Jennifer.Alford@csusb.edu
- b. City of Coachella: Celina Jimenez, cjimenez@coachella.org
- c. City of Corona:
 - a. Economic Development Department: Elisa Laurel, elisa.laurel@coronaca.gov
 - b. Sustainable Infrastructure: Khushboo Patel, Khushboo.patel@coronaca.gov

For PHI

PHI002561 - 8561



- c. Zero EV Charge: Meagan Woodall, megan.woodall@coronaca.gov
- d. City of Grand Terrace: Jessica Lambarena, jlambarena@grandterrace-ca.gov
- e. City of Hemet
 - a. Community Development, Public Works: Eric Bunge, ebunge@hemetca.gov
- f. City of Indio: Sara Toyoda, stoyoda@indioca.gov
 - a. Water Conservation & Resilience: Roman Gonzalez, rgonzalez@indioca.gov
- g. City of Murrieta: Brian Crawford, bcrawford@murrietaca.gov
- h. City of Rancho Cucamonga: Clarence De Guzman, clarence.deguzman@cityofrc.us
- i. City of Riverside
 - a. CAP, EV Charge, and Grow & Green: Fortino Morales III, Fomorales@riversideca.gov
- j. College of the Desert: Jessica Enders, jenders@collegeofthedesert.edu
- k. Colton Joint Unified School District: Jay Kim, jay_kim@cjusd.net
- l. Cucamonga Valley Municipal Water District: Erin Morales, erinm@cvwdwater.com
- m. Coachella Valley Association of Governments: Jacob Alvarez/Eman, jalvarez@cvag.org
- n. Eastern Municipal Water District: Bryan Stewart, stewartb@emwd.org
- o. Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District: Jase Warner, jwarner@evmwd.net
- p. Fontana Unified School District: Kim Lawe, kim.lawe@fusd.net
- q. Mission Springs Water District: Marion Champion, mchampion@mswd.org
- r. Riverside County
 - a. Facilities Management: Mike Sullivan, msullivan@rivco.org
 - b. Workforce Development Division: Marco Santana, MaSantana@Rivco.org
- s. San Bernardino Community College District: Yash Patel, ypatel@sbccd.edu
- t. San Bernardino County
 - a. Energy Efficiency Solutions Phase II: Daneca Stevens, daneca.stevens@cao.sbcounty.gov
 - b. Workforce Development Department: Fabian Garcia, Fabian.garcia@wdd.sbcounty.gov
- u. San Bernardino Council of Governments
 - a. I-REN Workforce, Education, & Training: Jennifer Aguilar, jaguilar@gosbcta.com
 - b. SBCTA Planning: Jennifer Aguilar/Josh Lee, jaguilar@gosbcta.com
- v. Science & Technology Education Partnership – STEM: Debra Johnson, step.stem@gmail.com
- w. Temecula Valley USD: Greg Page, gpage@tvusd.us
- x. WRCOG
 - a. Clean Cities: Taylor York, tyork@wrcog.us
 - b. I-REN Codes & Standards: Daniel Soltero, dsoltero@wrcog.us
 - c. I-REN Workforce Education, & Training: Tyler Masters, tmasters@wrcog.us

For PHI

PHI002561 - 8561



c. Exhibit D – Compensation, Billing and Term. Exhibit D – Compensation, Paragraph 2 is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

PHI will receive no more than \$3,111,740 for 38 Fellow(s) for performing the services set forth in this Agreement. This amendment increases the total compensation by \$1,518,240 : This compensation includes reimbursable expenses as outlines in Exhibit E for performing the services set forth in this Agreement.

- \$476,240 for 14 Fellow(s) (2024-25)
- \$1,165,740 for 35 Fellow(s) (2025-26)
- \$1,518,240 for [38] Fellow(s) (2026-27)
- \$3,111,740 Cumulative Total

2026-27 Fellows

	Number of Fellows:	Cost Per Fellow	Total Costs
Full Time Fellows:	25 + 12 (returning)	\$37,500 \$44,000 (returning fellow)	1,465,500
Three-Quarter Time Fellows:	1	\$28,500	\$28,500
Total			1,494,000

2026-27 Full-Time Per Fellow Benefits	
Costs	\$37,500/Fellow Additional \$6,500/Fellow for 2 nd Year Fellows Returning to the Same Site
Project Support	11 Months, 1,360+ project hours
Additional Benefits	Up to 340 training and professional development hours and other service activities provided by CivicSpark program staff.
Timeframe	October 5, 2026 – September 3, 2027 (Orientation: October 5-7, 2026)
2026-27 Three-Quarter Time Per Fellow Benefits	
Costs	\$28,500/Fellow
Project Support	7.5 Months, 960+ project hours
Additional Benefits	Up to 240 training and professional development hours and other service activities provided by CivicSpark program staff.
Timeframe	January 11, 2027 – September 3, 2027 (Orientation: January 11-13, 2026)

PRIOR YEAR FELLOWS:

2025-26 Fellows

	Number of Fellows:	Cost Per Fellow	Total Costs
Full Time Fellows:	24 Fellows (22 first-year fellows, 2 returning fellows)	\$35,000 \$40,000 (returning fellow)	\$850,000

For PHI

PHI002561 - 8561

CS App ID 217
20323.00004\45462918.1

Page 4 of 7



Three-Quarter Time Fellows:	11	\$26,500	\$291,500
Total			\$1,141,500

2024-25 Fellows

	Number of Fellows:	Cost Per Fellow	Total Costs
Full Time Fellows:	13 Fellows (5 returning)	\$31,000 \$36,000 (returning fellow)	\$428,000
Three-Quarter Time Fellows:	1	\$24,000	24,000
Total			\$452,000

Exhibit D – Compensation, Paragraph 4 is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

Lump Sum Payment

- \$452,000 (2024-25)
- \$1,141,500 (2025-26)
- \$1,494,000 (2026-27)
- \$3,087,500 (Total)

For 2026-27, the Partner shall make a one-time, **lump sum payment** to PHI that covers the entirety of the amount due for services to be performed. Lump Sum payment is **due at contract signing**. If for some reason Fellow is unable to provide services for the full contract duration (e.g., a Fellow leaves the program for medical or personal reasons and a suitable replacement cannot be provided), Partner is responsible for the full contract amount regardless of hours of service actually provided. Partner must inform PHI prior to the project start if they need invoices to include specific format, tasks, billing codes, or other details.

d. Exhibit E – Reimbursable Expenses. Exhibit E – Reimbursable Expenses, Partner 4 is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

The total amount of project-related reimbursable expenses shall not exceed \$72,720 (which includes cost of administrative fee and indirect costs): For 2024-25: \$24,240 for 2025-26: \$24,240, and for 2026-27: \$24,240. Absent a written amendment to this Agreement, Partner shall not be responsible for reimbursement of expenses exceeding the not-to-exceed limit outlined in this Exhibit E.

e. Exhibit F – Timeline. Exhibit F – Timeline, is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

All tasks enumerated in Exhibit B – Scope of Services for 2024-25 are expected to start on September 16, 2024, with a CivicSpark program Orientation, and will begin at the host site on September 25, 2024. Fellow activities should be completed by August 30, 2025. The Scope of Services for 2025-26 are expected to start on October 6, 2025, with a CivicSpark program Orientation on October 6-8, and will begin at the host site on October 9, 2025. Fellow activities for the 2025-26 service year should be completed by September 4, 2026. The Scope of Services for 2026-27 are expected to start on October 5, 2026, with a CivicSpark program Orientation on October 5-7, and will begin at the host site on October 8, 2026. Fellow activities for the 2026-27 service year should be completed by September 4, 2027. This is a multi-year agreement and will include participation for program year 2026/2027 in future amendments that include additional scopes of work and funding amounts.

For PHI



f. Conditional Term Extension. The term of the Agreement may be extended through September 15, 2028, for the next program year, provided that: (1) AmeriCorps approves sufficient national direct funding for PHI's CivicSpark program in the FY27 funding cycle to accommodate the requested number of fellows, and (2) the California Public Utilities Commission approves funding for Partner in the applicable funding cycle and sufficient funds are made available to Partner for that purpose. Any such extension shall become effective only upon written notice from Partner confirming the availability of funding and the parties' execution of a written amendment establishing the applicable scope of services, compensation, and program schedule. If the required funding is not approved or made available, the Agreement shall expire at the end of its then-current term, and Partner shall have no obligation to fund services for the next program year.

4. Conflict or Inconsistency. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the terms of this Amendment and the Agreement, the terms and conditions of this Amendment shall prevail. Except as modified by this Amendment, all provisions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect and are reaffirmed.

5. Entire Agreement; Amendment. This Amendment, together with the Agreement, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter of the Agreement and this Amendment. No provision of this Amendment may not be amended or added except by an agreement in writing signed by the parties hereto or their respective successors in interest.

Dated as of the Effective Date set forth above.



Dated as of the Effective Date as fully executed.

PARTNER:

[Western Riverside Council of Governments, a California public agency]

By: _____

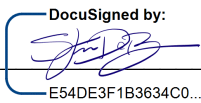
Name: Chris Gray _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Best Best & Krieger

By:  _____
E54DE3F1B3634C0...

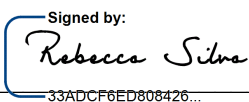
Name: Steven DeBaun _____

Title: WRCOG General Counsel _____

Date: 9/25/2026 _____

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE;

Public Health Institute, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation

By:  _____
33ADCF6ED808426...

Name: Rebecca Silva _____

Title: Vice President of Program Award Management

Date: 9/25/2026 _____



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Schedule for 2027

Contact: Casey Dailey, WRCOG Interim Deputy Executive Director, cdailey@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6720

Date: October 20, 2026

Recommended Action(s):

1. Approve the schedule of Executive Committee meetings for 2027.

Summary:

All Executive Committee meeting dates are proposed for the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

Discussion:

Background

As I-REN enters its final year of the approved Business Plan in 2027, there will be multiple areas of focus for the staff. Primarily, staff will be focused on driving participation in the various Public Sector programs, including enrolling as many eligible projects into the Cash for Kilowatts incentive program. I-REN's workforce initiatives with County workforce and community college partnerships will also continue to strengthen and expand. From an organizational perspective, the CPUC is expected to issue its decision on the Business Plan Application submittals for ongoing funding from 2028-2031, which is expected sometime in Spring or Summer 2027. Once the decision is made, I-REN staff will initiate procurements for all existing and new contracts, which will need to come to the Executive Committee in the late fall / early winter to ensure continuity in program delivery and service to the I-REN territory.

Present Situation

For 2027, staff is proposing to shift the month meetings start to February instead of January, and to maintain a quarterly cadence of meetings. Shifting the meeting month will allow staff to have multiple opportunities to bring forward the implementation contracts in August and November.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dark	16	Dark	Dark	18	Dark	Dark	17	Dark	Dark	16	Dark

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

The result of the recommended action causes no fiscal impact.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification Studies for Program Years 2025-2027
Contact: Benjamin Druyon, WRCOG Program Manager, bdruyon@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6727
Date: October 20, 2026

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Summary:

This presentation will be an overview of six Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) studies completed in 2025, and six new EM&V studies I-REN has initialized and plans to complete before the end of 2027. The CPUC provides funding which allows Program Administrators (PAs) to conduct EM&V studies to help improve current programs and inform PAs on potential new programs that would provide benefits.

Discussion:

Background

EM&V studies are designed to assess how current individual energy efficiency programs are working and to provide solutions to improve or expand. EM&V can be either CPUC-led (EM&V projects managed through the Energy Division) or PA-led. For I-REN, these are PA-led studies.

Program Administrator EM&V is procured, managed, and contracted by the PA. PA-led EM&V can inform program target setting, value metrics, and identify opportunities for enhanced data and measurement collection. It may help inform the PA on an implementer's performance towards program goals and targets, CPUC metrics, and PA-determined value metrics.

The different types of evaluations and studies that PAs can develop are Savings Measurement and Verification, Program Evaluation, Market Assessment, Policy and Planning Support, and Financial and Management Audits.

EM&V budgets are 4% of a PAs portfolio budget and are for both PA-led EM&V and CPUC-led EM&V.

In 2025, I-REN performed six studies, two studies per sector, and reported the results to the CPUC. The studies completed in 2025 are shown in Attachment 1 of this Staff Report and are summarized below.

Public Sector Studies

Study 1. Barriers to Project Pipeline: This Study aimed to identify barriers preventing agency progress through project pipeline. Study 1 consisted of a gap assessment including a qualitative interview and a short survey.

Outcome: This Study was combined with Study 3 with the goal of obtaining more survey responses. A quantitative survey analysis was combined with qualitative interview findings to complete this Study. In the survey, jurisdictions were asked how important I-REN's Public Sector programming is to their organization. Strategic energy planning support was rated as most important, with financing and affordability support and one-on-one project support being ranked the next most important factors. The survey also asked which barriers to engagement with I-REN Public Sector Programs exist, and lack of funding was ranked as the most significant barrier. Identifying these challenges for I-REN's jurisdictions gives I-REN's Public Sector the opportunity to address these barriers with strategic energy planning and connections to energy efficiency funding opportunities.

Study 2. Jurisdictions Meeting Equity Criteria: This Study assessed which jurisdictions that have engaged with I-REN's Public Sector programs met CPUC-defined equity criteria (D.23-06-055). The objective of this Study was to evaluate the number of equity jurisdictions participating in the public sector. Study 2 consisted of a market study to evaluate the number of jurisdictions that met equity criteria.

Outcome: This Study looked at various equity factors including Hard-To-Reach criteria, Equity-eligible incomes, Disadvantaged Communities, Free or Reduced-Price Meals, and Tribal Communities. The results of this Study demonstrate that jurisdictions meeting equity-criteria are prevalent in I-REN's territory; however these equity jurisdictions disproportionately show limited or no engagement with I-REN's resources. This demonstrates an opportunity for I-REN to strengthen its outreach to equity jurisdictions. This finding reinforced what I-REN Executive Committee stakeholders have communicated as an urgent need for greater awareness of Energy Efficiency benefits and opportunities throughout the inland empire, and in particular these equity communities.

Codes & Standards (C&S) Studies

Study 3. Low Engagement Jurisdictions: This Study aimed to identify characteristics of jurisdictions that have little to no participation in I-REN's program offerings. The objective of this study was to increase the number and diversity of jurisdictions participating in I-REN's C&S services. Study 3 consisted of a desk review of jurisdictions with low engagement followed by a short survey to those jurisdictions.

Outcome: This Study was combined with Study 1 with the goal of obtaining more survey responses. A quantitative survey analysis was combined with qualitative interview findings to complete this Study. In the survey, jurisdictions were asked which barrier was the most significant to participating in I-REN's energy code trainings. Limited staff time was ranked as the most significant barrier. I-REN's C&S Program has the opportunity to provide on-demand trainings to its jurisdictions to help address this barrier.

Study 4. Training Formats: This Study reviewed current training formats and surveyed I-REN's jurisdictions for preferred training methods. The objective of this survey was to learn preferred training formats and offer a variety of options to I-REN participants. Study 4 consisted of a desk review of

current formats alongside a survey to I-REN's jurisdictions.

Outcome: This Study surveyed training participants to determine which training mode is the most preferred. I-REN's current format of online live trainings was ranked as the most preferred training format and this format is planned to continue in 2026 and beyond.

Workforce Education & Training

Study 5. Fellow Retention: This Study aimed to identify and assess factors that lead to Fellow retention following I-REN's Fellowship Program under Workforce Education & Training (WE&T). The objective was to evaluate what skills or characteristics a Fellow would need to be hired by site hosts after the completion of the Fellowship Program. Study 5 consisted of a survey of site hosts alongside a demographic data review of the Fellows.

Outcome: This Study looked at a mix of past Fellows that completed their fellowship cycle, current Fellows in their fellowship cycle, and host agencies that have hosted Fellows in the past. For host agencies, barriers to hosting a Fellow were identified as lack of awareness of programs as well as not having the staff capacity to supervise a Fellow. Fellows' responses indicated the fellowship clearly supports skill-building in both soft and technical domains. Fellows indicated a self-reported increase in communication and public speaking skills due to training sessions and project responsibilities during the fellowship. Fellows reported an increase in their development of technical areas such as energy auditing, energy code compliance, and project management. Supervisor responses aligned with Fellow responses and cited the professional growth and development of Fellows.

Study 6. Performance Metrics: This Study aimed to identify metrics that track the success of the WE&T Program. The objective of this Study was to develop metrics that can be used to measure the success and performance of WE&T Programs. Study 6 consisted of data analysis of performance factors that can measure success.

Outcome: I-REN's WE&T team collaborated to discuss possible new metrics for the WE&T Program and identified common metrics and equity and market support indicators relevant to the Program. New Unique Value Metrics for this program include count of school participants for WE&T projects, and count of student participants for WE&T projects.

I-REN completed its 2025 studies to inform its Business Plan (submitted March 16, 2026). I-REN partnered with California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) to conduct these studies.

Present Situation

I-REN has developed six new studies for the remainder of its program years. A draft workplan was posted to the CPUC Public Documents Area for public comment. After the public comment period ended, I-REN posted its final workplan and has now begun these new EM&V studies. These studies are also in partnership with CSUSB.

I-REN has planned two studies per sector. Each study is summarized below:

Public Sector

Study 1: High electricity costs in the Inland Empire: This Study aims to examine the drivers of high and increasing electricity costs for public agencies in the Inland Empire and to assess the role I-REN can play in addressing affordability challenges. Understanding these cost drivers is critical for informing future program design and technical assistance. The primary objective of this Study is to identify where and why electricity costs are rising for public agencies and to evaluate how I-RENs programs, partnerships, and regional presence can support cost mitigation strategies.

Study 2: Public Sector Project Roadblocks: This Study aims to identify and analyze the most common roadblocks that prevent public sector energy projects from advancing through a typical project development and implementation process. While public agencies may express interest in energy efficiency or decarbonization projects and, in some cases, initiate early planning steps, a range of recurring challenges can impede progress before projects reach completion. The Study will also assess challenges specific to implementing Normalized Metered Energy Consumption projects, which may require additional capacity, data management, or institutional coordination. Findings from this Study will inform how I-REN can refine program design, technical assistance, and implementation support to better address common public sector project challenges.

Codes and Standards

Study 3: Continuation of Low Engagement Jurisdictions: This Study aims to identify the characteristics of jurisdictions that have little to no participation in I-RENs program offerings. By understanding these characteristics, the Study seeks to uncover the underlying reasons for low engagement and develop strategies to address them. The primary objective is to increase both the number and diversity of jurisdictions participating in I-RENs C&S services, thereby ensuring a more inclusive and widespread adoption of these programs.

Study 4: Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSM) Preparation: This Study aims to evaluate how I-RENs C&S offerings can support local jurisdictions in preparing for IDSM strategies and implementation. The primary objective of this Study is to identify pathways through which I-RENs C&S trainings, technical assistance, and resources can better enable jurisdictions to plan for and implement IDSM aligned projects. The Study will also assess how Energy Code considerations relate to microgrid development and how C&S can play a preparatory role in supporting these emerging projects.

Workforce Education & Training (WE&T)

Study 5: ESA Workforce Pipeline Success: This Study aims to define what "success" looks like for I-RENs engagement with the Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) workforce pipeline, including collaboration with ESA contractor, Synergy, and other ESA contractors, as well as with county business and workforce services. The primary objective of this Study is to develop a concise set of outcomes, such as referrals, interviews, hires, and short-term retention, that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness and scalability of ESAs connected workforce activities.

Study 6: Energy Employer "Partnership-Ready": This Study aims to identify the characteristics that make energy employers "partnership-ready" for county workforce agencies and regional workforce initiatives in the Inland Empire. By understanding what differentiates employers who move beyond passive participation, I-REN and county partners can better prioritize outreach, strengthen workforce pipelines, and replicate successful engagement models.

Next Steps

I-REN posted its Final EM&V Workplan on the CPUC [Public Document Area](#) and has launched its studies.

Staff will provide a presentation on the 2025/2026 EM&V studies as well as the upcoming 2026/2027 EM&V studies.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to this item are included in the approved WRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget under the I-REN Fund (180).

Attachment(s):

[Attachment 1 - I-REN EM&V Workplan 2026.pdf](#)



iren.gov

I-REN Evaluation, Measurement, & Verification Plan for 2022-2027 Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Introduction

The Inland Empire Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is submitting this workplan for our Evaluation, Measurement, & Verification (EM&V) research, which will launch in July 2026. The EM&V plan will be used to improve I-REN's portfolio of programs and ensure that the programs are collecting data to support evaluation needs. I-REN's three sectors are summarized below:

Public Sector:

I-REN's Public Sector Programs offer no-cost energy efficiency support to all public agencies within I-REN territory. This program provides local governments with support and resources to develop and implement their strategic energy plans and energy efficiency projects.

Codes & Standards (C&S):

I-REN's C&S program aids local building professionals and departments in gaining a deeper comprehension of and effectively enforcing energy building codes. I-REN's C&S programs encompass two core areas: Training and Education, and Technical Support.

Workforce Education & Training (WE&T):

I-REN's WE&T program supports local career opportunities through no-cost workforce and education programs, promoting a skilled workforce and developing energy efficiency training for job pathways. I-REN's WE&T program includes an Energy Fellowship program that helps job seekers find employment in energy efficiency.

EM&V Studies Overview

I-REN's EM&V Studies will include six research efforts, two for each of I-REN's sectors. These efforts are summarized below and described in more detail later in this document.

We are a network of partners, including the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the San Bernardino Council of Governments, and the Western Riverside Council of Governments, formed to serve the cities and communities of our region.



Public Sector Studies:

Study 1: High electricity costs in the Inland Empire

Summary

This study aims to examine the drivers of high and increasing electricity costs for public agencies in the Inland Empire and to assess the role I-REN can play in addressing affordability challenges. Understanding these cost drivers is critical for informing future program design and technical assistance. The primary objective of this study is to identify where and why electricity costs are rising for public agencies and to evaluate how I-REN's programs, partnerships, and regional presence can support cost mitigation strategies.

Key questions:

- What are the primary drivers of increased electricity costs for public agencies in the Inland Empire?
- What affordability challenges are most acute for public agencies serving disadvantaged and under-resourced communities?
- What role does I-REN currently play, or could play, in helping agencies understand and manage rising electricity costs?

Methodology

- Literature review: Review prior research, policy papers, and articles examining energy affordability and electricity cost trends in California, with a focus on the Inland Empire. This includes analysis from organizations such as M Cubed and other entities that have evaluated public-sector energy costs, bill components, and the role of RENs in affordability initiatives.
- Energy Data Analysis Program: Leverage insights from the California Energy Commission's Energy Data Analysis Program as it becomes available to analyze aggregated, community-level energy consumption and cost data. This analysis will help identify trends in electricity usage, peak demand, and cost drivers across different jurisdictions and customer types. Additionally, this analysis will look at the rate structure across different agency types (i.e. schools, water districts, cities, counties, etc.).
- Program analysis: Assess how current I-REN offerings intersect with identified cost drivers, including strategic energy planning, technical assistance, and workforce capacity. This analysis can include any I-REN Energy Resilience Roadmaps that have been developed for agencies to date and contain information regarding annual energy usage and costs.

Tasks

- Research and Data Collection
- Analysis of Cost Drivers and Regional Impacts

- Role of I-REN and REN Value Assessment
- Findings and Recommendations

Study 2: Public Sector Project Roadblocks

Summary:

This study aims to identify and analyze the most common roadblocks that prevent public sector energy projects from advancing through a typical project development and implementation process. While public agencies may express interest in energy efficiency or decarbonization projects and, in some cases, initiate early planning steps, a range of recurring challenges can impede progress before projects reach completion. The study will also assess challenges specific to implementing Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) projects, which may require additional capacity, data management, or institutional coordination. Findings from this study will inform how I-REN can refine program design, technical assistance, and implementation support to better address common public sector project challenges.

Key questions:

- What are the most common roadblocks to completing public sector NMEC projects? At what step of the project do roadblocks occur?
- Are there consistent barriers that prevent projects from moving through a standard project development process?
- What challenges exist when implementing NMEC projects?

Methodology:

- Desk review of project records including an analysis of any project related documents and communications to identify the roadblock or reason for the project not moving forward.
- Agency survey of public agencies engaged in I-REN's programs
- Implementer survey/interviews to understand regulatory/process barriers and roadblocks
- Detailed data collection method that tracks where in the project pipeline a project became delayed or unsuccessful.

Tasks:

- Review of Public Sector Project Pathways
- Survey Design and Deployment
- Roadblock Analysis
- Findings and Recommendations

C&S Studies:

Study 3: Continuation of Low Engagement Jurisdictions

Summary:

This study aims to identify the characteristics of jurisdictions that have little to no participation in I-REN's program offerings. By understanding these characteristics, the study seeks to uncover the underlying reasons for low engagement and develop strategies to address them. The primary objective is to increase both the number and diversity of jurisdictions participating in I-REN's C&S services, thereby ensuring a more inclusive and widespread adoption of these programs.

Key questions:

- Which jurisdictions have formal building departments?
- Which jurisdictions contract out their building departments?
- What are common characteristics of jurisdictions that I-REN has little outreach to?
- What barriers do these jurisdictions face regarding access to materials and resources?

Methods:

- Research and report on jurisdictions with which I-REN does not have a strong relationship (jurisdictions that are not utilizing I-REN's resources).
- Research and report the type of building departments within these jurisdictions.
- Survey these jurisdictions to learn how I-REN can engage with them.

Study 4: IDSM Preparation

Summary:

This study aims to evaluate how I-REN's C&S offerings can support local jurisdictions in preparing for Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSM) strategies and implementation. The primary objective of this study is to identify pathways through which I-REN's C&S trainings, technical assistance, and resources can better enable jurisdictions to plan for and implement IDSM-aligned projects. The study will also assess how Energy Code considerations relate to microgrid development and how C&S can play a preparatory role in supporting these emerging projects.

Key questions:

- How can jurisdictions leverage existing I-REN's C&S offerings to support IDSM planning and implementation?
- Are there C&S resources that I-REN does not currently offer that can be developed to support IDSM planning and implementation?

- What Energy Code considerations are most relevant to IDSM and microgrid projects at the local level?
- What knowledge or capacity gaps exist among building departments related to IDSM concepts?
- How can C&S training and technical assistance improve jurisdictional readiness for microgrids and other integrated energy strategies?

Methodology:

- Literature review of needs for IDSM
- Research ways C&S offerings can benefit IDSM efforts

Tasks:

- IDSM and Microgrid Literature Review
- Assessment of C&S Alignment with IDSM Needs
- Synthesis of Findings
- Findings and Recommendations

WE&T Studies:

Study 5: ESA Workforce Pipeline Success

Summary:

This study aims to define what “success” looks like for I-REN’s engagement with the Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) workforce pipeline, including collaboration with Synergy, other ESA contractors, and county business and workforce services. The primary objective of this study is to develop a concise set of outcomes, such as referrals, interviews, hires, and short-term retention, that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness and scalability of ESA-connected workforce activities.

Key questions:

- What near-term, measurable workforce outcomes should define success for the ESA workforce pipeline collaboration (Synergy and other ESA contractors + counties), beyond generic counts of meetings and contacts?
- Scalability of the ESA pipeline?

Methodology:

- As collaboration begins with Synergy and I-REN, determine practical metrics for ESA success.
- Convene a brief virtual focus group or 1:1 interviews with Synergy + 1–2 other ESA contractors + county business services to co-define 3–5 practical metrics (e.g., number of referrals, interviews, hires, 90-day retention) post I-REN funded training. Map the pathway for energy related careers in this region and how that connects to our funded trainings.

Tasks:

- Stakeholder Engagement Planning
- Focus Group and Interviews
- Workforce Pathway Mapping
- Findings and Recommendations

Study 6: Energy Employer “Partnership-Ready”

Summary:

This study aims to identify the characteristics that make energy employers “partnership-ready” for county workforce agencies and regional workforce initiatives in the Inland Empire. By understanding what differentiates employers who move beyond passive participation, I-REN and

county partners can better prioritize outreach, strengthen workforce pipelines, and replicate successful engagement models.

Key questions:

- Of the employers in the IE Energy Employer list and roundtable networks, what characteristics correlate with counties being able to turn them into active partners (MOUs, job orders, co-hosted roundtables, or trainee placements)?

Methodology:

- Tag the existing employer list with a few simple attributes (size, type of work, prior contact with counties, roundtable attendance).
- Quick internal survey or group discussion with county business services and I-REN staff: which employers have moved beyond “list” status into real engagement, and why.
- Produce a short “ideal employer profile” and outreach script that counties and I-REN can use when prioritizing who to invite to roundtables or engage for pipelines. Who is helping lead discussion, and why are there clear winners like Grid Alternatives.

Tasks:

- Employer List Review
- Practitioner Input on Partnership Readiness
- Analysis of Partnership-Enabling Characteristics
- Development of Employer Engagement Tools



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Development of the Inland Empire Energy Careers Scholarship Pilot Program
Contact: Jennifer Aguilar, SBCOG Program Manager, jaguilar@gosbcta.com, (909) 844-8276
Date: October 20, 2026

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Summary:

Since February 2026, I-REN has collaborated with regional workforce partners to identify challenges and opportunities in energy-sector training and employment. As a result, I-REN is developing an Energy Career Pathway Scholarship Program to reduce financial barriers for students and strengthen the region's energy workforce.

Discussion:

Background

As part of I-REN's Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) activities, staff have been working with employers, workforce development agencies, and educational partners to better understand workforce needs and strengthen pathways into energy careers throughout the Inland Empire.

Beginning in February 2026, I-REN initiated outreach to eight Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) contractors serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and has met with five contractors to date. Through these discussions, contractors identified recurring challenges related to recruiting, preparing, and retaining entry-level employees. While individual workforce needs varied among contractors, several common themes emerged, including the importance of customer service, communication, professionalism, teamwork, and other foundational workplace skills. Contractors also identified a need for training related to Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) installation requirements that may not be incorporated in traditional training pathways.

In response to these discussions, I-REN worked with the Riverside and San Bernardino County workforce development agencies to connect employers and prospective workers with existing workforce resources. These partnerships have helped identify opportunities for Incumbent Worker Training, On-the-Job Training, and other recruitment and retention resources. I-REN's partnership with Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium (IEDRC) has further supported efforts to identify relevant training pathways and opportunities for future workforce development.

Through this coordination, I-REN also identified a potential gap for students interested in pursuing energy-related training. While county workforce agencies can provide financial and employment support for individuals who meet specific Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act eligibility requirements, not all prospective students qualify for these resources. As a result, some students may be accepted into relevant community college training programs but face financial barriers such as rising tuition, fees, supplies, and other costs associated with completing their education and training.

To help address this gap, I-REN began working with IEDRC and regional community college partners to explore options for reducing financial barriers associated with energy-related education and training. Through these discussions, a scholarship program emerged as a potential mechanism for supporting students pursuing relevant certificates, courses, and training while strengthening connections between education and employment opportunities within the regional energy sector.

Present Situation

I-REN is working with the College of the Desert (COD) to develop the initial scholarship pilot, focused on "Systems Services," targeting ESA contractors and HVAC firms in the Inland Empire. To that end, COD has the most robust and applicable courses and certificate programs - as articulated by employers themselves. COD offers 10 certificate programs that may align with the proposed scholarship, ranging from Building Energy Consultant certificates to Air Conditioning and Refrigeration certificates. I-REN is also evaluating five additional noncredit certifications, as well as the potential inclusion of a utility workshop offered through SCE and SoCalGas on utility-specific requirements.

In addition to including robust energy-focused curriculum and certification opportunities, COD has an appropriate level of resources and capacity to provide informed technical assistance in building the first iteration of the program. Piloting the program with one institution will allow I-REN to establish and evaluate the operational structure before determining how the model could be adapted and scaled to other colleges and training partners throughout the region.

I-REN is currently evaluating the specific parameters of the scholarship pilot in coordination with COD, IEDRC, workforce partners, employers, and other stakeholders. Program elements under consideration include eligible certificate programs, courses, and training activities; student eligibility and prioritization criteria, including potential prioritization of hard-to-reach and disadvantaged students; scholarship award amounts and eligible expenses; application and selection processes; strategies to support student retention and program completion; employer engagement and work-based learning opportunities; and methods for connecting scholarship recipients with internships, employment opportunities, and existing workforce services.

Based on preliminary discussions with COD, I-REN is considering approximately \$50,000 in scholarship funding for the initial pilot. This funding level would allow I-REN to establish a dedicated scholarship with parameters specific to eligible energy-related courses, programs, and student eligibility criteria. A smaller funding amount may require I-REN's contribution to be incorporated into an existing scholarship fund, which could limit I-REN's ability to establish program-specific requirements. At the proposed funding level, the pilot could support approximately 15 – 20 students through eligible certificate programs, depending on the final scholarship structure, programs selected, and expenses covered. Eligible expenses may include tuition, required registration fees, supplies, and other education-related costs. Staff will continue to evaluate these assumptions as the program framework is developed.

To align with COD's scholarship cycle for the fall 2027 academic year, the program framework would need to be sufficiently developed for applications to open on December 15, 2026, with an anticipated closing date around May 1, 2027. Staff will continue working with COD and regional partners over the coming months to refine the program structure and determine appropriate eligibility, funding, retention, and implementation parameters.

The COD scholarship is intended to serve as an initial pilot for a broader I-REN Energy Career Pathway Scholarship Program. Through the pilot, I-REN will be able to evaluate participation, student retention and completion, employer alignment, administrative requirements, and other program outcomes. Lessons learned from the initial implementation will inform potential future expansion of the scholarship model to community colleges and other eligible training partners throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Staff will continue working with COD, IEDRC, and regional workforce and employer partners to further develop the proposed pilot, including program eligibility, scholarship parameters, funding, retention strategies, and implementation requirements. Staff anticipates returning to the I-REN Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting with a more fully developed program framework and funding proposal for consideration and approval prior to implementation of the scholarship pilot.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

Activities related to the Workforce Education & Training Sector are included under the approved Fiscal Year 2026/2027 I-REN Budget in Fund 180, under the Workforce Education & Training subprogram.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: New Outdoor Lighting Incentive Pathway
Contact: Karina Camacho, WRCOG Program Manager, kcamacho@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6724
Date: October 20, 2026

Recommended Action(s):

1. Receive and file.
-

Summary:

The purpose of this item is to introduce a new I-REN incentive offering for standalone outdoor lighting. Previously, I-REN could only provide incentives for outdoor lighting if it was connected to the same meter as a four walled building. Now, I-REN is able to include standalone outdoor lighting, such as stadium lighting, in the Cash for Kilowatts Program at the same rate of \$2 per kilowatt/hour.

Discussion:

Background

I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts Program provides incentive funds to agencies for holistic energy efficiency projects such as updated lighting, occupancy sensors, and air conditioning. The Program's incentives pay agencies based on how much their energy consumption is reduced (as seen on utility bills) after the energy efficiency project is completed. To date, the Program has supported public facilities such as city halls, libraries, and schools with a wide range of energy efficiency upgrades. Projects have included a combination of HVAC systems, water heaters, pool heaters, and interior and exterior lighting, replacing older equipment with more efficient technologies that reduce energy use, lower utility costs, and improve facility performance.

Historically, Cash for Kilowatts incentives have been limited to energy efficient equipment upgrades that are part of a four walled facility. Only lighting fixtures connected on the same electrical meter as a facility could be included for incentives. For this reason, various public agencies were limited in the types of energy projects that could receive support from I-REN and were asking for additional pathways. I-REN staff explored options within the regulations at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and updated I-REN's implementation plan to include a new pathway for standalone outdoor lighting.

Present Situation

I-REN is happy to announce an expanded incentive offering through its public sector Cash for Kilowatts

Program, focused on supporting standalone outdoor lighting and street lighting projects. This new pathway allows I-REN to provide incentives for certain equipment and project types that may not meet the requirements of a traditional Cash for Kilowatts project. Moving forward, outdoor lighting fixtures that are not on the same meter as a building can still be considered for incentives. This new offering also fills a gap in the support available to public agencies across the region, as other programs currently offer limited support for these types of projects.

Below is a list of lighting technologies that I-REN can now provide incentives for:

- Outdoor area / pole and decorative light fixtures
- Exterior LED light fixture replacements
- Exterior LED light retrofit kits
- Sports field lighting
- Street lighting

I-REN's new outdoor lighting pathway is incorporated into the existing Cash for Kilowatts Program and is offering the same incentive rate of \$2 per kilowatt/hour through the end of 2027. I-REN staff will provide the same level of technical assistance for outdoor lighting projects and follow all CPUC regulations to ensure projects are eligible for incentives.

As of July 2026, there are over \$6.2M remaining in uncommitted and unidentified Program incentives available for public agencies. I-REN staff are hoping the new outdoor lighting incentive pathway will ensure more incentive funds are expended through the end of the current I-REN funding cycle, which ends December 2027.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

All costs associated with the development and implementation of I-REN are included in WRCOG's adopted Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Agency Budget under the I-REN budget (Fund 180) in the Energy & Environmental Department.

Attachment(s):

None.



Inland Regional Energy Network

I-REN Executive Committee

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of Professional Services Agreement with California Green Building Council (dba USGBC California)

Contact: Daniel Soltero, WRCOG Program Manager, dsoltero@wrcog.us, (951) 405-6738

Date: October 20, 2026

Recommended Action(s):

1. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee award a contract to California Green Building Council to serve as Coordinator for the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative.
 2. Recommend that the WRCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with California Green Building Council in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per fiscal year.
-

Summary:

This staff report requests approval from the I-REN and WRCOG Executive Committees to award a contract to USGBC California to coordinate the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3), a regional climate collaborative that has been paused since mid-2025 due to funding gaps and the absence of an active coordinator. Following a competitive Request For Proposals (RFP) process in August 2026 that yielded one qualifying bid, USGBC California was selected by a review committee comprising representatives from CVAG, SBCEG, and WRCOG, with I-REN funding intended to serve as seed funding while USGBC California develops a self-sustaining funding model.

Discussion:

Background

In 2019, WRCOG and SBCTA established the ISC3 through a grant-funded Resilient IE project, forming it as a local branch of the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA). ARCCA serves as a statewide network of regional collaboratives working collectively to advance climate adaptation and strengthen local capacity for community resilience. Through this affiliation, the ISC3, I-REN, and ISC3 members are positioned to connect with peers across the region and state — exchanging knowledge, engaging in targeted problem-solving, and implementing joint campaigns for climate resiliency — with the overarching goal of breaking down silos across sectors and jurisdictions to increase local efficiency and resilience.

Following a series of exploratory meetings and regional climate collaborative convenings, WRCOG, SBCTA, and the climate collaborative organizing committee finalized the ISC3's organizational structure

and selected Climate Resolve — a Los Angeles-based nonprofit with expertise in equitable resiliency solutions — to serve as the collaborative's coordinator. While the ISC3 was originally conceived to serve Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, organizing committee members successfully advocated for the inclusion of Imperial County, citing the County's shared climate vulnerabilities with the broader inland region and eastern Riverside County in particular. As founding partners, WRCOG and SBCTA each held seats on the ISC3 Steering Committee — a volunteer body responsible for providing guidance, overseeing ISC3 activities, setting strategic direction, and advising on the collaborative's budget.

Between 2020 and 2023, Climate Resolve served as the ISC3 Coordinator, hosting several convenings and trainings for public agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs), higher education institutions, and utility companies to discuss regional activity updates, provide an opportunity for networking, and share best practices and knowledge on climate adaptation projects and initiatives. Additionally, the ISC3 developed a Regional Landscape Analysis for the inland southern California region, which provided an analysis of climate impacts, planning activities, and possible solutions and resources.

By 2023, the grant funding from which ISC3 was established was exhausted and Climate Resolve transitioned out of the coordinator role. The ISC3 released an RFP and ultimately selected the University of California, Riverside (UCR) to administer the ISC3. UCR continued the work that Climate Resolve had started, including hosting stakeholder and member convenings, providing best practices and funding sources for climate adaptation and resiliency projects in the region, and conducted outreach, marketing, and recruitment activities.

Additionally, UCR partnered with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) to include ISC3 as an outreach partner on an Adaptation Planning Grant. During its time as ISC3 Coordinator, UCR accomplished an increased social media presence, hosted several networking events, hosted monthly convenings and periodic marquee events, and increased ISC3's outreach and regional visibility. Despite their efforts, UCR was unable to establish fiscal solvency citing a lack of paying members and collection of dues and reduced activities due to funding availability, ultimately opting to not renew its agreement to administer and coordinate the ISC3 as of June 30, 2025.

Present Situation

Since 2025, the ISC3 has been in a pause due to lack of funding and not having an active Coordinator to administer the program. Staff met with the previous ISC3 Steering Committee to explore the need and desire to continue the ISC3 and it was determined that there is a lack of regional climate and sustainability-related action and coordination between public agencies, CBOs, and higher educational institutions in the Inland Empire. As such, staff coordinated with the ISC3 Steering Committee to draft a scope of work that would re-establish the ISC3 with limited activity and funding and also explored the potential for I-REN to provide funding to UCR as it was the most recent ISC3 Coordinator. Ultimately, it was determined that UCR may not be a good fit to serve as ISC3 Coordinator at this time. Thereafter, staff determined that an RFP would be required due to the funding amount and because it was no longer being paid to another public agency.

In August 2026, WRCOG released an RFP seeking a new Coordinator for the ISC3. The scope of work includes:

- Engagement, outreach, and marketing;
- Serving as regional convener for climate, energy, sustainability, and environmental issues and

interest;

- Organizing and providing a sustainability certificate course or program for organizations and the general public and students;
- Provide technical assistance; and
- Provide administrative and financial activities.

The scope of work includes various activities that are meant to re-establish the ISC3 as the Inland Empire's regional climate collaborative. The engagement, outreach, and marketing function would be to host regular supporter / member meetings to share best practices, exchange knowledge, and provide a platform to encourage regional action on climate and sustainability-related projects and initiatives. The collaborative is also requested to serve as a regional convener including participating and assisting with the Inland Empire Sustainability Summit and similar events. As an effort to increase capacity for climate action, ISC3 shall also develop and implement a sustainability certificate course / program that will cover various topics including sustainability 101, energy literacy, extreme heat and wildfire resiliency, water efficiency, and sustainable material management. To assist ISC3 members with climate and sustainability projects, ISC3 will also provide technical assistance including grant writing support, identifying funding opportunities, and identify the needs of members and facilitate partnerships for climate and sustainability initiatives and projects.

A critical function of the Coordinator will be to provide administrative and financial management for the ISC3. Since the ISC3 was historically funded by membership dues and grants, the ISC3 Coordinator is expected that it shall be a nonprofit entity. For this contract, I-REN funding is being allocated as "seed funding," and as such, the ISC3 Coordinator is expected to develop a self-sustaining funding model for the ISC3 consisting of membership dues, grants, donations, and other non-I-REN sources of funds. Acquiring non-I-REN funding is a critical component of this contract, which will enable the ISC3 to cover the additional topics in sustainability rather than just energy efficiency, and also cover the cost for activities and resources provided to members in Imperial County.

As part of the RFP process, staff organized a Proposal Review Committee consisting of participants from CVAG, SBCOG, and WRCOG. While WRCOG received interest from various consultants, ultimately they were ineligible to serve as ISC3 Coordinator due to not having nonprofit status. At the end of the procurement process, WRCOG received one bid from the California Green Building Council (dba USGBC California), a nonprofit organization that brings more than 20 years' experience in advancing sustainable, resilient, and equitable communities through the built environment. USGBC California combines sustainability education, workforce development, community engagement, technical assistance, regional collaboration, and partnership development.

Despite receiving one bid, the Proposal Review Committee determined that USGBC California submitted a strong bid and is well-suited to serve as the ISC3 Coordinator due to its highly relevant experience, proven track record in similar initiatives, and understanding the role of ISC3 and the intricacies of administering the collaborative. As such, staff are providing the recommendation and seeking approval from the I-REN Executive Committee to award a contract to USGBC California to serve as Coordinator for the ISC3.

Prior Action(s):

None.

Financial Summary:

Funding related to this agreement are included in the approved WRCOG Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget under the I-REN Fund (180).

Attachment(s):

None.