

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



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

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021
12:00 p.m.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81390186598?pwd=dTBaS3pGYUQwMm5PK3VETfK2UHgrQT09>

Passcode: 885131

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,81390186598#

Dial In #: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 813 9018 6598

Passcode: 885131

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. **Member Roster**

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3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

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

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

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6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. **Presentation on the Southern California Energy Innovation Network (SCEIN) and OASIS programs** – Doug Kollmyer & Rosibel Ochoa, UC Riverside, Office of Technology Partnerships

B. **South Coast Air Quality Management District: Coachella Valley Ozone Plan** – Zorik Pirveysian, Planning & Rules Manager, South Coast AQMD

[P9](#)

Recommendation: Information

C. **Introduction of CivicSpark Fellow** – Katie Barrows

[P10](#)

Recommendation: Information

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

[P11](#)

Recommendation: Information

7. **INFORMATION**

A. **Attendance Record**

[P16](#)

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

[P17](#)

C. **Regional Energy Network Update**

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8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next scheduled meeting via Zoom:

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

10. ADJOURN

Item 2A

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



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

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

ITEM 5A

Energy and Environmental Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020



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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Evans, City of La Quinta, at 12:05 p.m. via Zoom, pursuant to Gov. Newsom’s executive order governing how public meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Rita Lamb
Councilmember Robert Griffith
Councilmember Ted Mertens
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz
Mayor Linda Evans
Mayor Gina Nestande
Councilmember Dennis Woods
Councilmember Charles Townsend
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Director Alex Cardenas
Vice President Randy Duncan

Agency

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

Ex-Officio Members Present

Supervisor Jeff Hewitt
Riverside County – District 5

Others Present

Tom Kirk
Katie Barrows
Benjamin Druyon
Trisha Stull
Erica Felci
Joanna Stueckle
Kathleen Brundige
Oscar Vizcarra
Gail Sevrens
Pat Cooper
Deborah McGarry
Stanley Henry
Todd Warden
TR Hay
Paul Vallandighan
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CDFW
Riverside County – District 4
Southern California Gas

Members & Ex-Officio / Non-Voting

Members Not Present

Councilmember Joey DeConinck
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto
Board Member Anthony Bianco
Board Member Patricia Oygar
City of Blythe
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District
Desert Water Agency

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS** – Katie Barrows introduced Trisha Stull, the new Program Assistant II at CVAG. Indio Councilmember Oscar Ortiz gave an update from the Southern California Association of Governments. Ms. Barrows also thanked Supervisor Perez and Riverside County District 4 staff for their assistance in securing funding for air quality programs, as outlined in Item 7C. Ms. Barrows also shared that CVAG is working on how to move forward with the used oil program.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve the May 14, 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes

- B. Approve 1.) Resolution 20-005 authorizing CVAG to act as lead applicant for funding from CalRecycle for the Used Oil Recycling Program, and 2.) the program's Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY VICE PRESIDENT DUNCAN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT.

Councilmember Joey DeConinck	Absent
Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	Absent
Councilmember Robert Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Election of Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Officers

Tom Kirk introduced the item and called for nominations for the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee's officers for this fiscal year. Councilmember Townsend nominated Mayor Evans as Chair.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER TOWNSEND AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR PEREZ TO ELECT MAYOR EVANS AS CHAIR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.

Councilmember Joey DeConinck	Absent
Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	Absent
Councilmember Robert Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

The election continued. Chair Linda Evans nominated Councilmember Ortiz to serve as vice chair.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR EVANS AND SECONDED BY VICE PRESIDENT DUNCAN TO ELECT COUNCILMEMBER ORTIZ AS VICE CHAIR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 11 AYES AND 3 ABSENT.

Councilmember Joey DeConinck	Absent
Councilmember Rita Lamb	Aye
Councilmember Megan Beaman Jacinto	Absent
Councilmember Robert Griffith	Aye
Councilmember Ted Mertens	Aye
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Linda Evans	Aye
Mayor Gina Nestande	Aye
Councilmember Dennis Woods	Aye
Councilmember Charles Townsend	Aye
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez	Aye
Board Member Anthony Bianco	Absent
Director Alex Cardenas	Aye
Vice President Randy Duncan	Aye

B. Presentation on Salton Sea Management Program

Gail Sevrens, Salton Sea Program Manager for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, gave a presentation on the progress and priorities of the Salton Sea Management Program. Member discussion ensued.

There was no action taken.

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

A. Attendance Record

B. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Report

C. Update on Air Quality Funding

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next scheduled meeting via Zoom:

- Energy & Environmental Resources Committee – November 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURN – Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull

ITEM 6B

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
January 14, 2021**



Staff Report

Subject: South Coast Air Quality Management District: Coachella Valley Ozone Plan

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

Recommendation: Information

Background: At its December 4, 2020 meeting, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board approved the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. This action included directing staff to forward the Coachella Valley Extreme Area Plan to the California Air Resources Board for approval and submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for inclusion in the region's State Implementation Plan. A representative from South Coast AQMD, Zorik Pirveysian, Planning and Rules Manager, will make a presentation at the January 14 meeting to update the Committee on the action taken by South Coast AQMD Board.

A presentation was made at the May 9, 2019 Energy & Environmental Resources Committee meeting about South Coast AQMD's plans to address the federal standard for 8-hour ozone in the Coachella Valley. Ground-level ozone is an air pollutant that can trigger health problems in humans and damages crops, trees, and other vegetation. Ozone causes difficulty breathing in healthy people and can worsen asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory problems. Ozone is a problem for anyone who spends time outdoors in hot weather when strong sunlight and high temperatures result in harmful ozone concentrations in the air we breathe. More information about ozone is available at the following link: <https://cfpub.epa.gov/airnow/index.cfm?action=gooduphigh.index>.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no fiscal impact to CVAG for this item.

ITEM 6C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
January 14, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: Introduction of CivicSpark Fellow

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

Recommendation: Information

Background: This year, CVAG and the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) are participating in CivicSpark, which is an AmeriCorps program that assists local public agencies with capacity building to address community resilience issues. It is administered by the Local Government Commission in partnership with the State of California through the Office of Planning and Research, and California Volunteers. Each year, CivicSpark hires 90 Fellows to implement targeted projects to support local governments throughout California. Fellows work on capacity building initiatives to help public agencies better respond to climate, water, resilience, housing and mobility needs.

CVAG is fortunate to have Victoria Brewster as a Fellow this year. She will be working with CVCC and CVAG for eleven months, through July 2021. Ms. Brewster is a recent graduate of the University of Redlands with a BA in environmental studies/public policy. She has some previous internship experience with the Nature Conservancy and Massachusetts Senate Counsel and is interested in a career in local government, and maybe a law degree.

There are two related projects Ms. Brewster is working on for CVAG: (1) developing tools to help cities track progress on adopted climate action plans, creating a Coachella Valley sustainability scorecard, and identifying measures to promote climate resilience; and (2) preparing an implementation guide for valleywide urban greening and a 1,000 trees initiative. A third project is being completed for the CVCC, which involves establishing a training program for volunteers to track climate change impacts and land management actions to promote survival of endangered species. The program is expected to organize and inspire citizen involvement in the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). She also will assist CVCC with land management and GIS programs.

The CivicSpark program emphasizes career training opportunities. These projects will involve extensive coordination with local cities, local non-profits, as well as other local, state and federal agencies. Ms. Brewster has already been gathering information and researching similar programs offered in other areas. She has been reaching out to staff at CVAG member agencies to get feedback on their needs related to the projects and pulling together resources they may have that can be shared. She will be working with community partners and developing outreach, especially hard to reach communities and young people.

Fiscal Analysis: A Services Agreement between CVCC, CVAG and the Local Government Commission was signed on August 27, 2020, for a total of \$26,000. CVCC will provide \$16,546 (64%) of the funding for the Fellowship under the Executive Director's signature authority. The other \$9,454 (36%) of the Fellow's time is covered by CVAG.

ITEM 6D

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
January 14, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: Semi-Annual Review of Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

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

Recommendation: Information

Background: At the May 14, 2020 meeting, the Committee adopted the 2020-2021 Goals and Objectives as part of the annual budget process. The January meeting is the time for the semi-annual evaluation of CVAG's progress toward energy and environmental goals as requested by the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee. These goals and objectives bring together the valleywide efforts to promote conservation and sustainable use of local resources. The following is a review of the Committee's goals, and a brief update on the progress toward them:

I. Water Conservation and Water Quality:

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

Objectives:

1. Collaborate with member jurisdictions and local water agencies to identify a reasonable metric for valley-wide per capita water conservation goal. Work with CV Water Counts, a collaborative of valley water agencies.
 - ✓ *A presentation with CV Water Counts will be scheduled for an upcoming Committee meeting.*
 - ✓ *Staff will request assistance from local water agencies on most efficient way to monitor valley-wide conservation efforts.*
2. Partner with member agencies and partners to implement innovative programs, policies, and best practices, including landscaper certification on water efficiency to achieve sustainable water use.
 - ✓ *Staff will discuss potential improvements to the Water Conservation Landscaper Certification course with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) staff. The course continues to be used by local landscape professionals. A reporting function was improved in 2018 so cities can verify those who have completed the water conservation certification course. The course is offered in partnership with CVWD, other local water agencies and the College of the Desert.*

II. Salton Sea Restoration:

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

Objectives:

1. Continue to support Salton Sea revitalization as opportunities and/or requests for support arise.
 - ✓ *CVAG continues to identify opportunities to support Salton Sea revitalization.*
2. Provide Committee members with updates on geothermal and other energy development in the Salton Sea region, particularly as it relates to potential funding for Salton Sea restoration.
 - ✓ *An update on geothermal and other renewable energy sources and potential Salton Sea restoration funding will be explored.*
3. Provide information to the member jurisdictions about efforts to restore and revitalize the

Salton Sea including the North Lake Concept proposed by Riverside County Supervisor Manuel Perez.

- ✓ *An update on Salton Sea restoration and revitalization efforts was provided at the September 2020 meeting by Gail Sevrens, Salton Sea Program Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

III. Energy Efficiency/Conservation:

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

Objectives:

1. Establish a Regional Energy Network to compliment the efforts of the Desert Cities Energy Partnership. Collaborate with member jurisdictions, local utilities and other partners.
 - ✓ *CVAG is participating in formation of a Regional Energy Network (REN) with Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino COG. A REN could provide another funding source for energy efficiency in local jurisdictions.*
 - ✓ *A consultant team is developing a business plan for the Regional Energy Network to be submitted to the CPUC (see Item 7C on this agenda).*
2. Continue regional PACE programs with various PACE providers, monitor program effectiveness and provide quarterly updates to Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.
 - ✓ *There are now seven active residential and two commercial PACE program vendors in CVAG's jurisdiction. Combined, more than 4,400 projects have been completed for energy and water conservation and renewable energy, amounting to almost \$106 million in funding in our communities.*
3. Continue with Community Choice Aggregation program in the region through Desert Community Energy.
 - ✓ *Desert Community Energy (DCE) started serving customers in the City of Palm Springs in April 2020. Approximately 83% of customers are using 100% Carbon Free electricity.*
 - ✓ *DCE Carbon Free customers have reduced their carbon footprint by 72,381 metric tons, the equivalent of taking more than 15,000 cars off the road.*
 - ✓ *DCE's Desert Saver plan, the lowest cost choice compared to SCE, has collectively saved Palm Springs residents almost \$200,000.*
 - ✓ *Other cities are considering their options.*
4. Explore and provide information on opportunities that could benefit energy consumers in the CVAG region (e.g., community solar, battery storage).
 - ✓ *Staff is exploring presentations for the committee on micro-grids, community solar, and battery storage.*
 - ✓ *CVAG continues efforts to coordinate with Imperial Irrigation District and Southern California Gas Company to support cities served by them*
5. Promote implementation of green building, energy efficiency, and zero net energy buildings.
 - ✓ *In previous years, CVAG has hosted energy and green building workshops in the fall through a cooperative effort of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission, CVAG and Desert Valleys Builders Association with support from SCE, SoCalGas and other sponsors. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a workshop was not held this fiscal year. Staff is exploring opportunities to advance this objective.*
 - ✓ *The last Southern California Energy Summit was held on January 11, 2018. There are no immediate plans for another summit. Should one be pursued, CVAG staff will work in cooperation with other partners and obtain input from the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee about potential topics.*
6. Coordinate and communicate with Imperial Irrigation District with respect to Coachella Valley energy issues.

- ✓ *Regular coordination with IID will continue.*

IV. Air Quality:

The goals of the Air Quality program are to improve the air quality in the Coachella Valley and to reduce the impacts of PM₁₀ through regional coordination.

Objectives:

1. Implement a study in partnership with South Coast Air Quality Management District to evaluate and improve effectiveness of the Regional Street Sweeping program.
 - ✓ *A grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District is funding a study to evaluate and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the street sweeping program. The study will start this calendar year.*
2. Evaluate the use of and impact of gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - ✓ *Staff intends to seek input from member jurisdictions about the ongoing efforts related to addressing gas-powered leaf blowers*
3. Support restoration and related activities for the Salton Sea to limit impacts to regional air quality and health.
 - ✓ *CVAG staff continues to monitor issues related to air quality and the Salton Sea*
4. Monitor air quality issues, including PM₁₀, in the eastern Coachella Valley and valley-wide; coordinate established PM₁₀ mitigation efforts with member jurisdictions and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
 - ✓ *Staff continues to monitor air quality issues and will provide updates to the Committee as they become available*
 - ✓ *CVAG continues to assist member agencies with data needed for submittal of AB 2766 annual reports to the South Coast Air Quality Management District with training to be presented in early 2021.*
 - ✓ *CVAG's street sweeping program got a significant funding boost with approval of a grant from South Coast Air Quality Management District that will make up for a past funding shortfall.*
5. Promote air quality and emissions reduction through development of the CV Link project.
 - ✓ *Construction is complete on more than 3 miles in Palm Springs and Cathedral City.*
 - ✓ *CVAG intends to have construction underway on about 20 miles this year. Construction has started in the City of Palm Desert through a cooperative agreement with the City. In October 2020, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized construction contracts for up to \$52.7 million, paving the way for work in the cities of Palm Springs, Palm Desert, La Quinta, Indio, Coachella and unincorporated Riverside County.*
6. Continue ongoing programs including collaboration with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to support air quality legislative efforts, monitoring of the Landscape Model Ordinance and other air quality programs.
 - An update on air quality issues related to the South Coast Air Quality Management District will be presented at the January meeting of the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.*

V. Sustainable Resource Use:

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

Objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for information sharing among member jurisdictions at Committee meetings so members can learn about other member agency projects on energy, resource conservation, livability, and sustainability.
 - ✓ *Staff welcomes suggestions on projects that are being led by individual cities or agencies.*
2. Identify and encourage opportunities for access to biogas and biofuels.

3. Promote and seek funding for implementation of the Regional Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan, completed in 2014.
 - ✓ *Staff will continue to explore options for EV readiness and implementation, as well as funding opportunities*

VI. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction:

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

Objectives:

1. Explore a "1,000 Trees Initiative" for the Coachella Valley to promote greenhouse gas friendly trees that are also suited for the climate. Gather information on what member agencies are doing and examples from other regions. CVAG anticipates having a CivicSpark fellow working on this topic starting fall 2020
 - ✓ *CivicSpark fellow Victoria Brewster is developing a guidebook for a 1,000 Trees Initiative and urban greening program for the region*
 - ✓ *Resources from members agencies as well as urban greening programs by other agencies are being compiled*
 - ✓ *A palette of tree species including local natives and species that help sequester carbon is being developed*
2. Promote and support local jurisdictions' efforts, as well as regional greenhouse gas reductions strategies. Track and highlight progress on local jurisdiction goals for greenhouse gas reduction.
 - ✓ *In addition to the tree initiative, Ms. Brewster is working with staff at member jurisdictions to determine their needs. A climate action/sustainability scorecard is being explored*
2. Provide a minimum of two workshop/training opportunities for member agencies on tools to implement climate action/sustainability plans and track progress.
 - ✓ *Staff is exploring opportunities for online workshop/training for member agencies.*

VII. Solid Waste:

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

Objectives:

1. Explore opportunities for waste to energy and biogas projects.
2. Identify opportunities to promote composting as a way to encourage waste reduction and recycling. The Solid Waste and Recycling Working Group will be asked to explore options for promoting composting.
3. Continue our ongoing program Used Oil Recycling Program and regional coordination on Household Hazardous Waste collection. Re-initiate a Waste Tire Recycling Program.
 - ✓ *CVAG received funding for both the Used Oil and Waste Tire Recycling programs from CalRecycle. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, neither program has been implemented.*
 - ✓ *Staff is working with the consultant teams to explore how these programs can be presented in a safe manner given the current social distancing restrictions.*
4. Work with Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Working Group on ways to encourage waste reduction, recycling and reuse.
 - ✓ *The Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Working Group held several meetings in late 2020. Online meetings increase attendance and participation.*
 - ✓ *In December 2020, the CVAG Executive Committee directed CVAG staff to transition the working group, and other staff-comprised committees, into roundtable formats that are similar to how CVAG coordinates with city and tribal managers. Future meeting dates will be coordinated among staff.*
 - ✓ *The Solid Waste and Recycling Technical Working Group has expressed interest in a public outreach campaign about organic waste recycling, consistent with SB 1383. SB 1383 sets a target to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025.*
 - ✓ *A grant request was submitted in December 2020 to the National League of Cities to*

provide funding for an outreach program. The City of Coachella was the lead on the grant.

VIII. Report Card:

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


✓ *This staff report serves as the semi-annual evaluation.*

Fiscal Analysis: This information item has no fiscal impact.

ITEM 7A

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

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

Absent/Vacant 
 No Meeting *

Scheduled Dark Month -

ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Energy & Environmental Resources Committee
January 14, 2021

**Staff Report**

Subject: Resolution of Support for UC Riverside Solar Valley Consortium

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

Recommendation: Information

Background: The University of California Riverside has been active in efforts to promote solar energy and research to advance solar and renewable energy. Through research programs, UCR has placed an emphasis on creating pathways for increased deployment of solar energy throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Overall, the purpose is to establish the region as “Solar Valley,” a model of a green energy economy. At the end of 2000, the UC Riverside Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) has asked CVAG and other Inland Empire councils of government to support their efforts in promoting the region as the most attractive for solar power in the U.S.

UC Riverside is promoting the Solar Valley Consortium through their Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE). Through the Solar Valley Consortium, they emphasize the unique advantages in the region that argue for policies and a local tax structure to advance the cause of solar energy and capitalize on its already-considerable local investment. As the region inevitably grows and California moves toward its 2030 renewable resource goals, there is an opportunity to balance development with good environmental policy, and population increases with plentiful, reliable energy. The Solar Valley Consortium proposes to accomplish those objectives with the expansion of solar power, addressing the challenges of siting, financing, transmitting, interconnecting, and operating solar installations. They highlight the potential economic and social benefits as compelling reasons for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to become Solar Valley.

For the last six years, UCR and CE-CERT (Center for Environmental Research and Technology) have hosted a solar conference. The 2020 Solar Valley Conference was held virtually on September 14. It focused on the current public policy conditions and working together on a coordinated push to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. CVAG staff and representatives of Western Riverside Council of Governments and San Bernardino Council of Governments participated in a panel discussion about efforts to promote solar energy in our region. Conference sessions included discussion of key technologies and industry trends, regulations and taxes and how they are impacting the industry and quantifying the benefits that accrue from solar.

At the December 7, 2020 meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee approved Resolution 20-009. Because of there was no meeting in November 2020, there was not an opportunity to present the item to the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee prior to adoption. Staff is providing a copy of the resolution for the Committee’s information.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no fiscal impact to CVAG for this resolution.

Attachment: Resolution 20-009

RESOLUTION 20-009

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTING AND RECOGNIZING UCR SOLAR VALLEY CONSORTIUM AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLAR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TO OUR REGION AND OUR MEMBER AGENCIES

WHEREAS, solar energy has grown in economic importance and has become the source of research, technology transfer, manufacture and renewable energy in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties (Inland Southern California); and

WHEREAS, University of California Riverside and its Center for Environmental Research & Technology (CE-CERT) within the Bourns College of Engineering has established UCR as a major academic center of significant renewable energy research and demonstration; and

WHEREAS, the Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE) has emerged as an authoritative voice in the solar energy community, a leader in the study of solar energy and, through its research is highly esteemed by industry and academic leaders as a center for ideas and information in the best tradition of CE-CERT; and

WHEREAS, UCR and CE-CERT have for the last six years hosted successful annual solar energy conferences to bring together decision-makers and stakeholders to work together on a coordinated push to boost the deployment of solar power throughout Inland Southern California, and to build a clean green economy based on sustainable local resources, and CVAG has participated in these conferences for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, the Solar Valley Consortium within SC-RISE has been created to: 1) establish a valuable source of data on solar projects and installations; 2) advocate policies and programs for increased use of solar in residential and commercial buildings, community facilities and utility-scale projects; 3) assist in the attraction to this region of companies involved in all aspects of solar energy and storage; 4) promote the creation of clean energy jobs and the best in job training; and 5) contribute to education within the region as to the value of solar energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

The Executive Committee of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments does hereby recognize the contributions of UCR, CE-CERT, SC-RISE and the Solar Valley Consortium to the achievement of the region's and the State of California's renewable energy goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coachella Valley Association of Governments supports the goal of increased use of solar energy and the activities of the Solar Valley Consortium, recognizing the economic, air quality and overall health benefits of clean, reliable, carbon-free energy.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 7th day of December 2020.

Signed: _____
Glenn A. Miller, CVAG Chair
City of Indio

ATTEST: _____
Tom Kirk, CVAG Executive Director

ITEM 7C

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Environmental Resources Committee

January 14, 2021



Staff Report

Subject: Regional Energy Network Update

Contact: Benjamin Druyon, Management Analyst (bdruyon@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: In 2018, funding sources from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for Local Government Partnerships and energy efficiency programs began to decline. Because of the loss of funding, CVAG, Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) began collaborating to discuss the possibility of creating a new joint Regional Energy Network (REN) for the Inland Empire to fill some of the gaps in funding for energy efficiency programs and to better service Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. RENs are becoming a viable model that many local governments are looking towards to replicate and implement within their service territory to continue providing energy efficiency support to their communities.

RENs are pilot programs approved in 2012 and overseen by the CPUC to supplement and enhance the energy efficiency support provided to local governments in collaboration with Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs), Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company. The CPUC's intent is for RENs to undertake programs that the IOUs either cannot do or do not intend to pursue. Existing RENs work with the utilities to ensure their programs do not overlap. RENs can target hard-to-reach areas and low-income customers, and the programs have the potential to be scaled to larger geographic areas. Additionally, the CPUC directed the RENs to address the areas of Workforce Education & Training, technology development, and Water – Energy Nexus. The REN program is funded through public goods charges collected from customers of IOUs including Southern California Edison and SoCal Gas. The public goods charge funds available for RENs are separate from other “pots of money” used to fund energy efficiency programs through the CPUC. Participating in a REN would not compete with the potential to apply for other programs funded through the public goods charge (e.g. local government partnerships, Community Choice Aggregation agencies).

To initiate formation of the Inland Empire REN (IREN), WRCOG released a request for proposals and selected a consultant to aid CVAG and its partners with the planning and development of a business plan for a Regional Energy Network. Frontier Energy, Inc. partnered with BluePoint Planning and was selected as the consultant to guide the agencies through the process of developing a business plan to submit to the CPUC for a REN program that will provide communities with the best benefits through energy efficiency programs.

Approval of a new REN program begins with the development of a business plan. The business plan explains the ideas of the new REN and describes which sectors it plans on targeting. The business plan must then be presented to the California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC) for comments before being submitted to the CPUC for consideration. The CAEECC is a venue for stakeholders to discuss energy efficiency matters transparently. WRCOG

conducted a preliminary presentation at the CAEECC meeting on May 14, 2020 to inform them of the intention of creating a new REN to service Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

A recent ruling from the CPUC known as the Scoping Ruling Addressing the Impacts of COVID-19 (see Attachment 1) would require all program administrators (including existing RENs) to submit new business plans in September 2021. If that ruling goes into effect before IREN submits a business plan for approval, it could delay the implementation of IREN until 2023. The IREN team had conversations with the CPUC staff and Administrative Law Judges to determine if the business plan would be considered for approval if it was submitted prior to the new submittal timeframe suggested in the ruling, or if CVAG and its partners would have to wait to submit it with the existing program administrators and therefore have to wait until 2023 to implement. Based on the feedback, the IREN team decided to expedite submitting the business plan before the new ruling timeframe.

As part of this push, WRCOG staff has in recent weeks been holding ex parte meetings with several of the CPUC Commissioners to discuss the submittal of the IREN business plan. Throughout this business plan development, staff from all three councils of governments have been in coordination with CPUC staff who have provided great support and have advocated on this REN initiative. In addition to these meetings, staff has been working with their member agencies to acquire remaining letters of support and to finalize any details towards IREN's business plan.

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

The IREN team anticipates the business plan will be submitted in early 2021, while continuing close collaboration with the CPUC. If the business plan is approved, the next phase involves development of an implementation plan and detailed budget, which will be submitted to the CPUC for final approval and assignment of funds. WRCOG estimates that the IREN will have an annual budget between \$5-10 million dollars, which is funded through ratepayer funds that are separate from other Energy Efficiency Public Administration funds.

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

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

Attachment:

1. CPUC Scoping Ruling Addressing the Impacts of COVID-19 to Energy Efficiency Programs Refiling



LR1/JF2/VUK/kz1 7/3/2020

FILED
07/03/20
11:22 AM

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking Concerning
Energy Efficiency Rolling Portfolios,
Policies, Programs, Evaluation, and Related
Issues.

Rulemaking 13-11-005

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES'
AMENDED SCOPING RULING ADDRESSING IMPACTS OF COVID-19**

Summary

This ruling sets forth an amended scope and schedule for this proceeding to address the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 virus pandemic on the energy efficiency industry in California. In so doing, the ruling also sets a schedule for addressing the following additional items: the April 24, 2020 motion of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) seeking comment on a California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC) proposal for improvements to the portfolio and budget approval process; updated policies on the setting of energy efficiency potential and program administrator goals; and several other issues already ongoing in the proceeding.

This ruling also requires the filing of Annual Budget Advice Letters (ABALs) for program year 2021 on September 1, 2020, utilizing best-available estimates of energy savings, cost-effectiveness, and program budgets, while acknowledging that program administrators face a significantly changed landscape compared to several months ago. Therefore, in addition to new business plan filings already expected from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Edison Company (SCE), with this ruling, we

notify all program administrators that we will require new portfolio filings by September 1, 2021. This schedule is intended to allow time to develop thoughtful portfolios based on a number of significant policy and real-world changes to the energy efficiency landscape in the next year.

1. Procedural Background

This rulemaking is the most recent in a series of ongoing proceedings conducted by the Commission, providing a venue for policy changes and regulatory oversight associated with the energy efficiency programs of the large investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities, community choice aggregators (CCAs), and regional energy networks (RENs).

The most recent scoping memo was issued March 2, 2020 addressing the scope and schedule for the adjudicatory portion of the proceeding, concerning the Order to Show Cause Against Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). The most recent scoping memo for the overall policy portion of the proceeding, previously referred to as Phase III, was issued April 26, 2018.

A great deal has happened in the intervening two years, including addressing major portions of the topics included in that previous scoping memo. Decision (D.) 19-08-009 was adopted, modifying the three-prong test related to fuel substitution. D.19-08-034 adopted energy savings goals for 2020 through 2030. And D.19-12-021 addressed policies related to market transformation and RENs.

Work remains to address policy for other outstanding topics including financing programs, workpaper process reform, energy savings performance incentives (ESPI) reform, custom projects and industrial program review processes, as well as ongoing accounting and funding issues. Work on these topics, along with the long list of ongoing policy issues in energy efficiency, is

either already underway or may still be addressed in the scope of this proceeding, as issues arise.

2. Scope

We take this opportunity to update the scope of this proceeding to address new issues arising in the past two years since the last scoping memo was issued.

2.1. Impacts of COVID-19

The most recent and unexpected new issue to arise in the course of this proceeding is the unprecedented impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on public health and the economy, which has also hampered the energy efficiency industry in California. On March 19, 2020, California issued a shelter-in-place order, which resulted in the program administrators suspending their energy efficiency programs requiring face-to-face interactions with customers. Along with the associated shelter-in-place orders, the pandemic has led to an unprecedented reduction in the ability of energy efficiency implementers and contractors to deliver certain types of energy savings projects in the homes and businesses of California electricity and natural gas consumers. In addition, the pandemic and resulting economic impact has resulted in a decline in customer demand for many of the program administrators' equipment rebate programs, causing uncertainty for the administrators and their third-party implementers about energy savings forecasts.

According to a letter from the California Efficiency and Demand Management Council sent to the Commissioners in April 2020, the energy efficiency industry in California employs approximately 300,000 people directly or indirectly, and many energy efficiency companies have been furloughing staff and shutting down their activities to comply with shelter-in-place orders at the state and local levels.

In addition, many Californians are in greater need than ever to reduce their utility bills and save energy. Residential energy consumption has increased with shelter-in-place orders due to COVID-19,¹ while at the same time the pandemic has disrupted the economy overall, resulting in job losses and reductions in individual paychecks.

In response, the Commission and energy efficiency program administrators have taken several steps to mitigate the impacts and adapt programs during the pandemic. On April 24, 2020, the Commission held a workshop on the impact of COVID-19 on customer-facing clean energy programs. This was followed by a series of meetings between Commission staff and energy efficiency program administrators' management teams. Options for adjustments to programs to better serve customers during the COVID-19 pandemic include moving towards virtual inspections and audits of projects, increased virtual workforce, education, and training, and enhancing customer programs that have high cost-effectiveness and do not require face-to-face interaction, such as home energy reports (HERs).² Program administrators are also considering offering higher incentives for projects, expanding programs in buildings that are currently unoccupied, increasing marketing and outreach, and expanding financing opportunities to help the energy efficiency industry recover.

While most program administrators resumed energy efficiency program operations in early June, the pandemic has and likely will continue to have an

¹ Early evidence suggests that as Californians are sheltering at home, residential electric usage has increased 15 to 20 percent in recent weeks, compared to the same period last year. See: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/covid/>

² In addition, program administrators who offer HERs programs plan to adjust their message to reflect changes in customer consumption patterns due to the shelter-in-place order.

impact on the amount of energy efficiency that we can expect to be delivered using current strategies. The pandemic has had such far-reaching effects that it seems prudent to step back and take another look at how we are designing and managing our energy efficiency portfolios, in light of the shifting demands from customers and reduced opportunity to deliver some types of projects using current rules and policies.

In recognition of this situation, we are taking this opportunity to notify the program administrators and the energy efficiency community that with this ruling we are triggering the requirement to file new energy efficiency portfolio filings from all program administrators, consistent with the structure adopted in D.15-10-028, which allows the Commission to call for new portfolio filings at any time.³

However, we will not require the portfolio filings immediately, in order to allow time for quality development of both policy underpinnings from the Commission that are currently underway, as well as planning adjustments by the program administrators to account for new circumstances and energy savings goals. Furthermore, in order to align all program administrator portfolio filings, with this ruling we postpone the filing deadline for PG&E and SCE to file new business plans by September 2020. Instead, PG&E and SCE should provide new portfolio filings at the same time as the other program administrators, by September 1, 2021.

The rest of this section of the scoping memo describes how we will manage this proceeding to lead up to the filing of new portfolios from the program administrators by September 1, 2021.

³ See D.15-10-028, at 57, and Ordering Paragraph 2.

2.2. NRDC Motion to Address CAEECC Proposal

The first question that arises when contemplating requiring new portfolio filings from program administrators is the form that the applications will take. Currently, we are operating under the rules of the rolling portfolio process, as originally laid out in D.15-10-028. However, on April 24, 2020, NRDC filed a motion seeking to have the Commission address a proposal from CAEECC for a four-year portfolio filing process (CAEECC proposal), in place of the ten-year rolling portfolio process. While the CAEECC proposal contemplates changing the rules for the portfolio filing process at the end of the current rolling portfolio period (program changes at the end of 2025, with a filing coming in earlier to be vetted in time for the transition), we find merit in considering the CAEECC portfolio process proposal sooner, since we see a need to consider widespread portfolio changes more immediately.

Therefore, we will consider the April 24, 2020 NRDC motion as part of the scope of this proceeding, and will issue a ruling seeking stakeholder comments on the CAEECC proposal in the near future. As part of the scope of the review of the CAEECC proposal, we will consider the following issues:

- Energy efficiency portfolio application process;
- The need for guidance decisions from the Commission ahead of portfolio filings;
- Alignment of technical inputs and portfolio planning activities;
- Annual report and other reporting requirements, including information to demonstrate compliance with

percent of portfolio that is third-party designed and implemented;

- Ongoing ABAL requirements and criteria;
- Cost-effectiveness requirements;
- Budget requirements;
- Stakeholder input and review processes for the portfolios;
- Commission review process and timing; and
- Program implementation process and timing.

Our intent is to take comments from stakeholders on the CAEECC proposal and issue a Commission decision prior to taking new portfolio applications from the program administrators, as triggered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, should a Commission decision on the CAEECC proposal be delayed, our intent now is that program administrators will still be required to file updated portfolios by September 1, 2021.

2.3. Energy Efficiency Potential and Goal Setting

As already included in an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) ruling issued March 12, 2020, we are considering comments from parties on numerous policy issues related to the identification of energy efficiency potential, as well as the setting of energy savings goals for program administrators. Included in this set of issues are a number of questions related to how to define cost-effectiveness requirements, and how they should be applied in the setting of potential and goals and budget approval. In addition, interactions between the Commission's integrated resource planning process and the energy efficiency goal-setting process are also set to be further considered by the Commission.

Besides the policy questions related to energy efficiency potential and goals, the biennial study to determine energy efficiency potential is underway currently, being conducted by consultants to the Commission. Within the scope of the study are a range of methodological updates, including assessment of COVID-19 impacts on energy efficiency potential in 2022 and beyond. The study results are expected to be published by Spring 2021, and goals will be adopted by the Commission in Summer 2021. These goals will then inform the California Energy Commission's (CEC's) Integrated Energy Policy Report, and its load forecast, in particular, which is used by the Commission and the California Independent System Operator in system planning.

These are important questions for the program administrators to consider while designing the next energy efficiency portfolio to be filed for the Commission's consideration and approval.

2.4. Annual Budget Advice Letter Filings

While all of the policy questions above are being considered and resolved by the Commission over the course of the next 18 months of this proceeding, and the program administrators are planning their next portfolio filings, we will still need energy efficiency programs to continue being implemented and we will need to determine 2021 and 2022 program year budgets for the current program administrators. At this stage, we can only accept the 2021 ABAL filings based on current rules in place, since the ABALs are due on September 1, 2020. While we recognize that the landscape for energy efficiency is changing on a policy basis and on the ground in reality, we ask the program administrators to make their best efforts to include accurate and good faith estimates of energy efficiency costs and benefits, as well as budgets, that are necessary to address the current goals and strategies.

We recognize that it was already difficult, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the administrators to show cost-effective portfolios, for a variety of reasons we have detailed earlier in the course of this proceeding, including the transformation of the lighting market, increasing costs of deeper energy efficiency measures beyond lighting, the transition of many energy efficiency measures into building codes and appliance standards, and numerous other factors. Thus, as outlined in Section 2.3 above, we will be reevaluating a number of these factors in order to make portfolio design and implementation more realistic and effective.

The COVID-19 pandemic introduces additional uncertainty to forecasted achievable savings and costs for program years 2021 and 2022, which will make objective and data-driven evaluation of the reasonableness of ABAL filing forecasts difficult.

However, since in this ruling we are requiring all program administrators to file new energy efficiency portfolio plans by September 1, 2021, the 2021 and 2022 ABALs will serve a narrower purpose, to notify the Commission and stakeholders of the budget and cost recovery requests and expenditures that each program administrator forecasts for 2021 and 2022. Consequently, program administrator budget recovery requests, energy savings forecasts, and program changes will be reviewed and approved or modified by either Commission staff disposition or resolution, whether or not they meet all of the criteria originally laid out in D.18-05-041. This is necessary to sustain energy efficiency program funding and continue program operations through 2022, with reasonable budgets, while the Commission, program administrators, and stakeholders consider new portfolio changes.

While D.18-05-041 states that approval of ABALs is contingent on a program administrator meeting specific criteria tied to energy savings goals, cost-effectiveness, and budget caps, we understand that these may be difficult criteria to meet fully in the 2021 and 2022 ABALs; Commission staff will take these challenges into consideration when reviewing the ABALs.

2.5. Energy Efficiency Portfolio Filings

In order to consider full portfolio filings from all energy efficiency program administrators in Fall 2021, the Commission may need to offer further policy guidance. So far, we contemplate addressing the CAEECC process proposal and policy questions in the portion of the proceeding related to potential and goals, and in so doing, will give any additional guidance to the program administrators in a decision. However, we recognize that the energy efficiency marketplace is even more fluid than usual during the COVID-19 pandemic, and other issues may arise during the course of this proceeding. If so, the Commission may give further guidance in advance of the filing of complete energy efficiency portfolio applications due by September 1, 2021.

2.6. Other Issues

Some other issues are already being addressed within the scope of this proceeding, with work already underway for those issues to be addressed.

Those issues include, but are not limited to:

- Reform or elimination of the ESPI mechanism that provides opportunities for electric and natural gas utility shareholders to earn financial incentives for delivering successful energy efficiency programs and energy savings (*See* ALJ ruling issued March 19, 2020 and associated comments and replies from parties);
- Issues related to the upstream lighting programs of 2017 and 2018 (*See* ALJ rulings issued January 9, 2020 and April 3, 2020 in this proceeding);

- Implementation of the market transformation framework adopted in D.19-12-021;
- Work of the “Track 2 Working Group” formed to address issues on custom projects and industrial sector programs;
- Accounting and funding issues, including budgets and revenue requirement issues, expenditures, unspent funds, commitments, allowable expenses, budgets caps and targets, and fund shifting rules;
- Evaluation, measurement, and verification issues, including normalized metered energy consumption rules;
- Modifications to the workpaper process and the Database for Energy Efficiency Resources;
- Commission oversight of CCA energy efficiency programs and budgets;
- Coordination with the CEC on the goals articulated in Senate Bill 350 (DeLeon, 2015) for doubling of energy efficiency in buildings by 2030;
- Coordination with the statewide marketing, education, and outreach efforts under the Energy Upgrade California brand;
- Financing programs, including those overseen by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority;
- Coordination with the integrated distributed energy resource rulemaking (R.14-10-003) related to cost-effectiveness and locational targeting of energy efficiency; and
- Work with the California Technical Forum.

We do not include a specific schedule for the above items at this time. We may issue additional rulings and/or decisions at a later date to clarify whether and how work on these items will proceed.

3. Schedule

The table below outlines a basic schedule that we intend to follow for the remaining issues in this proceeding for which activities are currently planned. The table is divided into areas for each of the topics covered in Section 2 above related to the scope of the proceeding. Additional dates or activities for topics for which there are no tasks currently scheduled may be added at a later date.

In addition, workshops may be scheduled later on some of the topics. Notice of such workshops will be posted on the Commission's Daily Calendar and noticed to the service list for this proceeding, to inform the public that a decision-maker or an advisor may be present at those meetings or workshops. Parties should check the Daily Calendar regularly for such notices.

Event	Date
CAEECC Rolling Portfolio Reform Proposal	
Ruling seeking comments on CAEECC proposal	August or September 2020
Party comments/replies on CAEECC proposal	October 2020
Decision addressing portfolio application process	February or March 2021
2021 ABAL filings	
Program administrators file ABALs under current rules	September 1, 2020
Commission/staff address funding and programs for 2021 program year via disposition and/or resolution process	End of 2020
Potential and Goals Issues	
Decision addressing policy issues	February or March 2021
Study on new potential and goals issued for comment	April 2021
Party comments/replies on potential and goals study	May 2021
Decision setting new potential and goals	July 2021

New energy efficiency portfolio filings from Program Administrators	
New application filings from all PAs, taking into account COVID-19 impacts, new potential and goals, and Commission process requirements emanating from disposition of the CAEECC proposal	September 2021
Decision addressing new portfolios	Mid 2022

The assigned Commissioner or assigned ALJs may modify this schedule as necessary to promote the efficient management and fair resolution of this proceeding. Additional dates may be scheduled as additional issues within the scope are raised that must be addressed or decided.

It is our intent to complete this proceeding within 18 months of the date this Scoping Memo is issued. This deadline may be extended by order of the Commission.

4. Categorization, Need for Hearing, and Presiding Officer

As in previous Phases of this proceeding, we confirm that the categorization of this rulemaking is ratesetting, except for the portion related to the Order to Show Cause Against SoCalGas, which is categorized as adjudicatory. We also confirm that hearings are not required for the main part of the proceeding.

Liane M. Randolph is the Assigned Commissioner and Julie A. Fitch and Valerie U. Kao are the assigned ALJs. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1701.3 and Rule 13.2, Julie A. Fitch and Valerie U. Kao will continue to serve as the Presiding Officers.

5. Ex Parte Communications

In a ratesetting proceeding such as this one, *ex parte* communications with the assigned Commissioner, other Commissioners, their advisors, and the ALJs

are restricted and must be reported as described in Article 8 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

6. Filing, Service, and Service List

The official service list has been created and is on the Commission's website. Parties should confirm that their information on the service list is correct, and serve notice of any errors on the Commission's Process office, the service list, and the ALJ. Persons may become a party pursuant to Rule 1.4.

When serving any document, each party must ensure that it is using the current official service list on the Commission's website.

This proceeding will follow the electronic service protocol set forth in Rule 1.10. All parties to this proceeding shall serve documents and pleadings using electronic mail, whenever possible, transmitted no later than 5:00 p.m., on the date scheduled for service to occur. Rule 1.10 requires service on the ALJ of both an electronic and a paper copy of filed or served documents; however, the ALJs in this proceeding do not require paper copies and request only electronic service. When serving documents on Commissioners or their personal advisors, whether or not they are on the official service list, parties must only provide electronic service. Parties must not send hard copies of documents to Commissioners or their personal advisors unless specifically instructed to do so.

Persons who are not parties but wish to receive electronic service of documents filed in the proceeding may contact the Process Office at process_office@cpuc.ca.gov to request addition to the "Information Only" category of the official service list pursuant to Rule 1.9(f).

7. Public Advisor

Any person interested in participating in this proceeding who is unfamiliar with the Commission's procedures or has questions about the

electronic filing procedures is encouraged to obtain more information at <http://consumers.cpuc.ca.gov/pao/> or contact the Commission's Public Advisor at 866-849-8390 or 866-836-7825 (TYT), or send an e-mail to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The remaining scope of this proceeding is as described herein in Section 2 and the proceeding remains categorized as ratesetting, except for the adjudicatory portion of this proceeding, which is separately described in the Scoping Memo issued March 2, 2020.

2. This proceeding will be completed within 18 months of the date of this amended Scoping Memo.

3. Hearings are determined not to be needed for the remainder of this proceeding, with the exception of the adjudicatory portion.

4. The schedule for this proceeding is set as described herein in Section 3.

5. Program administrators shall make their best efforts to meet the requirements of Decision 18-05-041 in the filing of their annual budget advice letters on September 1, 2020 and September 1, 2021 for the 2021 and 2022 program years. Commission staff shall take current events into consideration, including the COVID-19 pandemic, in reviewing and setting budgets for program years 2021 and 2022, while new energy efficiency portfolio filings of the program administrators are being reviewed by the Commission and stakeholders.

6. All program administrators shall file new energy efficiency portfolios by September 1, 2021. Further direction on the contents of these filings will be determined by the Commission in the course of this proceeding.

7. The assigned Commissioner and/or Administrative Law Judges may adjust this schedule as necessary for efficient management and fair resolution of this proceeding.

8. *Ex parte* communications are restricted and must be reported as described in Article 8 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Dated July 3, 2020, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ LIANE M. RANDOLPH

Liane M. Randolph
Assigned Commissioner

/s/ JULIE A. FITCH

Julie A. Fitch
Administrative Law Judge

/s/ VALERIE U. KAO

Valerie U. Kao
Administrative Law Judge