



ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025
12:00 p.m.**

**CVAG Conference Room
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104
Palm Desert, CA 92260**

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

**Blythe City Hall
235 N Broadway, Room A
Blythe, CA 92225**

**Imperial Irrigation District
1284 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243**

Members of the public may use the following link for listening access and ability to address the
Energy & Sustainability Committee when called upon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89091261136?pwd=pkpWv8lCFKcuQCHbrUh3m9owagQmEZ.1>

**Dial In: +1 669 900 9128
Webinar ID: 890 9126 1136
Password: 158573**

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 & Sustainability Committee prior to the meeting at cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Members of the public joining the meeting by Zoom can also provide comment by using the “raise hand” feature or hitting *9 on the phone keypad.

As a convenience to the public, CVAG provides a call-in and internet-based option for members of the public to virtually observe and provide public comments at its meetings. Please note that, in the event of a technical issue disrupting the call-in or internet-based options, the meeting will continue unless otherwise required by law.

**THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.
ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL ACTION ITEMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FINAL APPROVAL.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, Chair

2. **ROLL CALL**

A. Member Roster

P4

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the first of two opportunities for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Energy & Sustainability Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. At the discretion of the Chair, comments may be taken at the time items are presented. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

A. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez’s Advocacy on Dust Issues at the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s Leadership Meeting in Palm Desert

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025, meeting

P5

6.1 **ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

7. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

A. Update on Proposed Amendments to South Coast Air Quality Management District’s Rules 1111 & 1121 Phasing Out Gas Water Heaters & Furnaces and

P10

\$21M Go Zero Pilot Program Supports Residents & Small Businesses Transitioning to Zero-NOx Appliances – Heather Farr, SCAQMD's Planning and Rules Manager

Recommendation: Provide direction on taking a position on the South Coast Air Quality Management District's proposed amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121 to facilitate substantial nitrogen oxide emission reductions within its territory and shift the financial responsibility of this mandate from households to manufacturers

B. I-REN Energy Fellowship Program – Jacob Alvarez

P13

Recommendation: Information

8. INFORMATION

A. Attendance Record

P15

B. I-REN Business Plan Update

P16

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

This is the second opportunity for public comment. Any person wishing to address the Energy & Sustainability Committee on items of general interest within the purview of this Committee may do so at this time. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at noon at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

11. ADJOURN

ITEM 2A

**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Member Roster
2024 – 2025**



VOTING MEMBERS	
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
City of Blythe	Mayor Joseph DeConinck
City of Cathedral City	Mayor Nancy Ross
City of Coachella	Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Coachella Valley Water District	Director Anthony Bianco
City of Desert Hot Springs	Councilmember Dirk Voss
Imperial Irrigation District	Director JB Hamby
City of Indian Wells	Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed
City of Indio	Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, <i>Chair</i>
City of La Quinta	Mayor Linda Evans, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Mission Springs Water District	Director Amber Duff
City of Palm Desert	Councilmember Gina Nestande
City of Palm Springs	Mayor Ron deHarte
City of Rancho Mirage	Mayor Ted Weill
Riverside County – District 4	Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians	Tribal Chairman Joseph Mirelez
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members	
Riverside County – District 5	Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

ITEM 6A

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025



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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Oscar Ortiz, City of Indio, at 12:03 p.m. at the CVAG Conference Room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, in the City of Palm Desert. Zoom videoconferencing was available from the City of Blythe and Imperial Irrigation District's office in El Centro.
2. **ROLL CALL** – Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Mayor Nancy Ross*
Councilmember Stephanie Virgen
Director Anthony Bianco
Councilmember Dirk Voss
Director JB Hamby
Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed**
Councilmember Oscar Ortiz, *Chair*
Mayor Linda Evans, *Vice Chair*
Director Amber Duff
Councilmember Gina Nestande
Mayor Ron deHarte
Mayor Ted Weill
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez*
Tribal Chair Joseph Mirelez

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
Coachella Valley Water District
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District (*via Zoom*)
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
Mission Springs Water District
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage
Riverside County – District 4
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Members/ Ex-Officios Not Present

Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson
Mayor Joseph DeConinck
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
City of Blythe
Riverside County – District 5

**arrived at Item 5*

***left after Item 7C vote*

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Dana Reed led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive Director Tom Kirk introduced CVAG's new Director of Sustainability, Lisa McNeilly, to the Committee members.

Mr. Kirk noted the uncertainty with respect to federal funding, including a halt on funding for a tree planning program, and added that CVAG will continue to monitor it closely and provide any updates.

At the request of Chair Ortiz, Imperial Irrigation Director JB Hamby provided updates regarding IID's rates.

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez announced the opening ceremony for the Riverside County Date Festival is Thursday, February 13 at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Reed notified the committee he will need to leave the meeting at 1 p.m. to attend a city meeting.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024, meeting**
- B. Authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary action to receive \$53,765 in grant funding for the used oil recycling program, including executing the necessary agreements with California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)**

IT WAS MOVED BY VICE CHAIR EVANS AND SECONDED BY DIRECTOR BIANCO TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

6.1 ITEMS HELD OVER FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

None

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Proposed Amendments to South Coast Air Quality District’s Rules 1111 & 1121 Phasing Out Gas Water Heaters & Furnaces and \$21M Go Zero Pilot Program Supports Residents & Small Businesses Transitioning to Zero-NOx Appliances

South Coast Air Quality Management District’s Planning and Rules Manager Heather Farr joined via Zoom and presented to the committee on proposed amendments.

Lengthy member discussion ensued with members questioning the potential costs associated with the proposed rules as well as the timing of the implementation. Members encouraged additional outreach be done. Ms. Farr noted that revisions were being made and would be unveiled at a public meeting later in the day.

No action was taken as this was an informational item. Committee members requested that the item come back for additional consideration.

B. Future opportunities for the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN)

Program Manager Jacob Alvarez presented the staff report and the interest in including residential programs in the next Business Plan.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL CHAIRMAN MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR EVANS TO AUTHORIZE THE ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND CVAG’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ADVOCATE FOR EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS IN THE 2028 I-REN APPLICATION AND BUSINESS PLAN, INCLUDING THE INCLUSION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT RESIDENTIAL HOMES AS WELL AS SMALL AND MEDIUM COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

C. Cool Streets for Affordable Housing Neighborhoods Program

Program Manager Julie Mignogna presented the staff report.

Member discussion ensued, with staff noting how this program would complement other efforts.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL CHAIRMAN MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY MAYOR DEHARTE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT \$748,500 FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF LAND USE AND CLIMATE INNOVATION'S EXTREME HEAT AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM TO LAUNCH THE COOL STREETS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 13 AYES AND 2 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye
Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Aye
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

D. Appointment of Regional Representative to SCAG Policy Committee

Chief Operating Officer Erica Felci presented the staff report and announced the City of Coachella Councilmember Stephanie Virgen's interest in remaining the representative on the SCAG Energy & Environment Committee. Ms. Felci reported no other nominations were received.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRIBAL CHAIRMAN MIRELEZ AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NESTANDE TO NOMINATE AND APPOINT COUNCILMEMBER VIRGEN TO REPRESENT CVAG ON SCAG'S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 12 AYES AND 3 MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

Tribal Vice Chair Patencio Anderson	Absent
Mayor DeConinck	Absent
Mayor Ross	Aye

Councilmember Virgen	Aye
Director Bianco	Aye
Councilmember Voss	Aye
Director Hamby	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Reed	Absent
Councilmember Ortiz	Aye
Mayor Evans	Aye
Director Duff	Aye
Councilmember Nestande	Aye
Mayor deHarte	Aye
Mayor Weill	Aye
Supervisor Perez	Aye
Tribal Chairman Mirelez	Aye

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

A. Attendance Record

B. 2024 Annual Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Report

C. Coachella Valley Power Agency Joint Powers Agreement

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Donald Zeigler, resident of Palm Desert, requested a Citizen's Advisory Committee to work with staff to define and develop policies and procedures for the Coachella Valley Energy Commission and the Coachella Valley Power Agency. Mr. Zeigler also requests that cities not in the current area covering CVEC be allowed to join and requests a plan be devised to address the increasingly hot climate.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting of the **Energy & Sustainability Committee** will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at noon at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

The next meeting of the **Executive Committee** will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at the CVAG conference room, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 104, Palm Desert, 92260.

11. ADJOURN – Chair Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elysia Regalado, Management Analyst

ITEM 7A

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee April 10, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Update on Proposed Amendments to South Coast Air Quality Management District's Rules 1111 & 1121 Phasing Out Gas Water Heaters & Furnaces and \$21M Go Zero Pilot Program Supports Residents & Small Businesses Transitioning to Zero-NOx Appliances

Contact: Jacob Alvarez, Program Manager (jalvarez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Provide direction on taking a position on the South Coast Air Quality Management District's proposed amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121 to facilitate substantial nitrogen oxide emission reductions within its territory and shift the financial responsibility of this mandate from households to manufacturers

Background: At its February meeting, the Energy & Sustainability Committee had an extensive discussion around South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) proposed amendments to Rule 1111 (Reduction of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions from Natural-Gas-Fired, Fan Type Central Furnaces) and Rule 1121 (Control of Nitrogen Oxides from Residential Type, Natural Gas Fired Water Heaters). CVAG's meeting was held on the same day that SCAQMD was unveiling amendments to the changes, which left some details unavailable. Based on the feedback received at those meetings, and in subsequent outreach, the proposed rules have been significantly revised. Heather Farr, SCAQMD's Planning and Rules Manager, will attend the Energy & Sustainability Committee's April meeting to provide an update on the proposed rule amendments and to answer any questions.

SCAQMD have proposed amending both Rules 1111 and 1121 to eliminate nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from residential gas furnaces and water heaters. These new rules would effectively phase out these gas appliances in favor of electric alternatives, such as heat pumps. Since the Committee last met, a key change is the introduction of a mandate for manufacturers to meet zero-NOx emission standards for units installed in new residential and commercial buildings by January 1, 2027, and subsequently for units installed in existing buildings by January 1, 2029. This transition places the onus on manufacturers to shift towards electrification or other non-combustion technologies for space and water heating, rather than directly mandating changes for individual households with existing appliances.

To facilitate this transition, both rules introduce a Zero-Emission Manufacturer (ZEM) Alternative Compliance Option. This allows manufacturers to meet their obligations by achieving sales targets for zero-NOx emission units, coupled with mitigation fees for any noncompliant units sold beyond the set target. This market-based approach intends to incentivize the development and adoption of cleaner technologies by setting increasing sales targets for zero-emission appliances over time. Additionally, the amendments include updated definitions, certification procedures, and labeling

Manufacturer Alternative Compliance Targets and Effective Dates



Target Dates	2027-2028	2029-2032	2033-2035	2036 and after
NOx Emitting Units (e.g. gas)	70%	50%	25%	10%
Zero-NOx Emission Units	30%	50%	75%	90%

requirements to ensure clarity and effective implementation. Notably, Rule 1111 retains a mitigation fee option for mobile home furnaces under specific conditions, while both rules incorporate detailed labeling requirements to inform consumers and installers about the upcoming zero-emission mandates and any interim restrictions on appliance installation in new and existing buildings.

When this issue came before CVAG's Energy & Sustainability Committee in February 2025, members had expressed concerns about the potential costs of this transition on households and businesses, while noting the expected health benefits. The latest amendments from SCAQMD reinforce that the costs are not borne by the homeowners. CVAG staff also acknowledges the potential benefits to indoor air quality from the proposed SCAMD rule changes (Rules 1111 and 1121). However, there remain concerns from stakeholders regarding the possibility of manufacturers passing along mitigation fees to consumers through higher appliance costs. While SCAQMD intends to review these product costs on a yearly basis to ensure the mitigation fee is not passed on, staff is unsure how this review would effectively occur or what mechanism SCAQMD would utilize to correct such a situation. Additionally, despite the longer implementation timeline, uncertainties linger about the electrical grid's capacity to handle increased demand from current residential and commercial users, as well as the potential for manufacturers to remove appliance models from the California market due to the new regulations.

As of March 11, SCAQMD staff said they had received approximately 80% support for the new rule concept based on comments letters the agency had received. On February 27, the City of Palm Desert adopted a resolution expressing concern regarding SCAQMD's proposed amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121. The resolution expressed concern that the rules would impose additional costs to consumers and that SCAQMD's water heater and furnace mandates would impose a significant increase in electricity demand on California's electric grid.

Following the presentation from SCAQMD, staff recommends the Energy & Sustainability Committee discuss and provide guidance on whether to adopt a position on the proposed amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no cost to CVAG for this informational report.

Attachment: Rule 1111 & 1121 Factsheet Myths vs Facts



Myths vs Facts

Understanding the Proposed Space and Water Heating Appliance Rules (1111/1121)

MYTH: Building appliance rules are a new concept.

FACT:

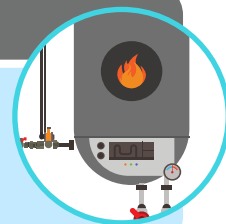
- Building appliances have been regulated since the late 1970s.
- Concepts for zero-emission technology replacements began with the 2016 AQMP.



MYTH: Proposed rules limit consumer choice to only zero-emission units.

FACT:

- Proposed rules allow consumer choice between gas units (e.g., natural gas furnace, water heater) and zero-emission units (e.g., heat pump).



MYTH: Proposed rules will eliminate all natural gas appliances.

FACT:

- Manufacturers can continue to offer consumers the choice of natural gas units even while sales of zero-emission units are expected to increase.



MYTH: These proposed rules will not significantly reduce pollution.

FACT:

- The proposed rules are expected to achieve a reduction of 6 tons per day of NOx emissions from residential building appliances.
- For context by 2037:
 - Power plants emit 3 tons/day.
 - Refineries emit 4 tons/day.
 - Passenger vehicles emit 7 tons/day.



MYTH: The new proposed rules were developed quickly without much input from stakeholders.

FACT:

- Proposed rule development has been underway for over 2 years.
- More than 100 stakeholder meetings have contributed to shaping the rules.



ITEM 7B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee April 10, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: I-REN Energy Fellowship Program

Contact: Jacob Alvarez, Program Manager (jalvarez@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Informational

Background: One of the goals of the Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is to build expertise for the future workforce. The I-REN Energy Fellowship Program, partnering with CivicSpark, selects college students/alumni (with at least an associate's degree) through an application and interview process to serve as full-time, 11-month Fellows in Riverside County and San Bernardino County public agencies. These Fellows provide energy efficiency project support for I-REN at no cost to the host agency, as I-REN covers their \$31,000 annual stipend.

The Fellowship Program launched in 2023, successfully placing 11 Fellows at 11 agencies across the three I-REN partner regions, which include CVAG, Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) and San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG). The first cohort's experience included a trip to the ESRI Campus and attendance at the 15th Annual California Climate and Energy Collaborative Forum to enhance their energy efficiency and networking skills. Responding to Fellow requests for increased educational and networking opportunities, I-REN's Workforce Education & Training (WE&T) Sector team began developing additional resources for the 2024 cohort.

The 2024 program year experienced significant growth in Fellow and agency interest, resulting in the placement of 14 Fellows across 12 agencies. Their work started in September 2024. Two of these Fellows are being hosted by the City of Palm Springs and CVAG. To enhance professional development, the WE&T team scheduled six energy efficiency excursions and invited Fellows to conferences, workshops, and other networking events, with a current WRCOG Fellow taking a lead in event management. All Fellows gained valuable experience in energy efficiency and public agency operations (including budgeting, planning, and issue management), while host agencies received free energy efficiency program support.

Fellow involvement spans 26 Public Sector Cash for Kilowatts projects across 12 agencies, including four agencies with second-year Fellows actively coordinating projects. Notably, Fellows have helped secure \$1,331,280 in incentive dollars for host agencies, a figure expected to rise as five projects are still in the initial phase. Fellow-supported projects account for nearly 46 percent of public sector incentive dollars and 45 percent of annual energy savings in the pipeline.

CVAG's I-REN Fellow, Geena Vescial, is in her seventh month of fellowship. Ms. Vescial, who holds an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and Communications from College of the Desert, has supported WE&T Outreach Events, analyzed facility energy consumption data reports, participated in facility energy audits, and researched commercial and residential energy efficiency programs. This included analyzing

Coachella, Indio, and La Quinta facility energy consumption from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to create graphs showing energy use and cost for their Energy Resilient Roadmaps. This work is notable as it provides these cities with data analysis on facility energy consumption and yearly energy costs, which I-REN typically cannot provide for cities in IID territory due to California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) funding restrictions.

Beyond providing agency support, the Fellowship Program increases energy savings and participation in I-REN's public sector projects. Host sites receive free project management and potential energy savings. Designed to offer experience to engaged individuals, the program has significantly impacted both host agencies and the regional energy efficiency landscape. This synergy between sectors drives the need for more Fellows.

CVAG staff will provide an update on the Fellowship Program at the April meeting. Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 program, and the application period closes May 15. To achieve their goal of 27 host agencies, the WE&T team is partnering with marketing consultants to enhance application interest from both Fellows and agencies, while maintaining their commitment to placing all qualified applicants.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to CVAG for these items. Staff time dedicated to I-REN and the costs of the services of consultants are covered through the I-REN budget.

ITEM 8A

**ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE RECORD
FY 2024-2025**

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

EX-OFFICIO / NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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

Absent
Vacancy

**

No Meeting
Present

-
✓

ITEM 8B

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Energy & Sustainability Committee April 10, 2025



STAFF REPORT

Subject: I-REN Business Plan Update

Contact: Jacob Alvarez, Program Manager (jalvarez@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Information

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

One of the biggest decisions that is looming is the finalization of the 2028 Business Plan, which will guide financial investments of the program. In February, at the recommendation of the Energy & Sustainability Committee, the Executive Committee authorized CVAG Executive Director and the Energy & Sustainability Chair to advocate for expansion of programs in the 2028 I-REN application and business plan, including energy efficiency programs benefiting Residential and Commercial (small and medium) building sectors. On February 18, the I-REN Executive Committee authorized staff to continue developing the 2028 Business Plan for the Public, Codes & Standards, and Workforce Education & Training Sectors and directed staff to return for a future meeting to discuss the possible inclusion of additional sectors. In its staff report, I-REN staff noted, *"The Coachella Valley Association of Governments would like to discuss the potential of adding Residential and small and medium Commercial sectors in the next Business Plan submission,"* while also noting that an SBCOG representative on the I-REN Executive Committee had expressed interest in promoting Commercial and Industrial sector programs.

This Business Plan aligns with the program's Strategic Plan, which was last updated in January 2024 to outline I-REN's mission, guiding principles, central goals, priorities, key activities, and success metrics. The plan guides internal operations and Executive Committee decisions and serves as a public document to communicate I-REN's regional role and direction to cities, tribes, and other government partners. On April 15, WRCOG staff will host I-REN's Annual Strategic Planning session to review organizational performance and update systems, processes, and operations as needed. Any identified strategies will be incorporated into the draft Strategic Plan.

Following the Annual Strategic Planning meeting, the I-REN Executive Committee will convene for a briefing on the Strategic Plan update and discuss incorporating Residential, Commercial, and Industrial sectors into the Business Plan/application to the California Public Utilities Commission for the 2028-2035 funding cycle. These discussions will guide I-REN staff's analysis for a recommendation at the May 20 I-REN Executive Committee meeting.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost to CVAG for these items. Staff time dedicated to I-REN and the costs of the services of consultants are covered through the I-REN budget.