

Monthly Progress Report

Riverside County Renewable Energy Planning Program



Air-cooled condenser under construction at the Genesis solar project in Riverside County, outside Blythe, California.

Commission Agreement #: REN-13-002
Monthly Progress Report #: 04
Period Covered: October 1 – 31, 2014
Attached to Invoice #: 02* (Activities covered will be invoiced in Invoice #02)
** Will be submitted under separate cover.*

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Executive Summary

The eRED Team continues to work diligently on three main efforts: Review and analysis of the proposed DRECP relative to Riverside County; analysis of the Salton Sea region for renewable energy suitability; and, selection of a subcontracting firm to perform Salton Sea GIS mapping work via the County's RFQ process. While none of these efforts reached completion in October, progress was made on each. In addition, project coordination and public outreach is now benefitting from the project's website being up and fully functional.

Work Statement

This section briefly addresses the status of the project's approved tasks in the Work Statement. Discussion is split into three sections focusing on completed activities, ongoing activities and, lastly, activities with no new progress to report. Each subtask item includes a report on its status, including discussion of any products due and whether or not the project is progressing according to schedule. Where applicable the discussion also covers any problems encountered, proposed changes contemplated and anticipated results for the upcoming quarter. Unless noted otherwise, each subtask remains on track in terms of budgeted funds and hours at this time and will continue to be produced monthly as per Work Statement and schedule.

Agreement Activities Completed This Month

No specific tasks or subtasks were completed in October 2014. See discussion under "Ongoing Activities," below. All other activities and work products produced in October were part of on-going efforts and are described in subsequent sections.

Status of Ongoing Agreement Activities

The tasks listed below are ongoing and have had activity performed as indicated. Unless noted otherwise, each of these tasks will be reported on further in subsequent progress reports. Ongoing items will remain in this section unless concluded or there has been no activity during the reporting period. In such cases, the item will be discussed in the applicable other section instead.

A. Task 1.4 – Monthly Progress Report

The third progress report was submitted to the CEC electronically on October 15, 2014, and a hardcopy was mailed the same day. An invoice was not attached; nor will one be attached to this report. Instead, it will be submitted under separate cover.

B. Task 1.7 – Obtain and Execute Subcontracts

The draft contract (Engineering Services Agreement) for the subconsultant to be selected was completed (as per Attachment E in Monthly Progress Report #02). The contract will be finalized as part of the selection process. With interviews concluded, the contracting process is being initiated now (November 2014) and will be included with the next progress report.

C. Task 2.1 – Kickoff Meeting (Internal County)

A "formal" internal County kickoff meeting has not yet been held. Although originally planned for August 7, 2014, it has been delayed to November 2014 to allow for time to identify and coordinate all County staff needing to be briefed.

D. Task 2.2 – Team Meetings

The eRED Project Manager (Cindy Thielman-Braun) met with several eRED team members either individually or in small groups in October 2014, staff and purposes similar to those outlined for the previous month. There were no formal eRED team meetings during October.

E. Task 2.3 – RFP for Consultant Services

The submittal period for the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) package was ended October 14, 2014. The County received three Statements of Qualifications (SOQs). The County selection team (Cindy Thielman-Braun, Larry Ross, Khalid Nasim and Richard Fairhurst) each individually reviewed and rated the SOQs. And, all three firms were invited to participate in the second stage interview process, which were held on November 6. The results of the interviews and final selection process will be addressed in next month's progress report.

F. Task 3.1 – Assemble Existing eRED Data

This task has been initiated in association with the research and preparation the eRED Project Manager has performed in developing the initial project presentations (for example, for internal use, etc.). The eRED team has also begun researching and studying existing eRED data and related technical information providing background on the issues the County is facing.

G. Task 3.2 – Develop eRED Opportunities and Constraints Criteria

This task was initiated in conjunction with County review of the draft DRECP EIR/EIS released by the State. Various members of the eRED team have attended State conference calls and meetings related to the DRECP; such meetings will continue into December. The research is being used to help identify the appropriate opportunities and constraints for eRED siting in Riverside County to inform the proposed General Plan Amendment. Towards this end, Cindy Thielman-Braun attended (via WebEx/conference call) a DRECP briefing held by Chris Beale and the DRECP Team for affected counties on October 2, 2014.

H. Task 3.3 – Identify Areas Suitable for Additional eRED Study

Similar to Task 3.2, this task was also initiated in conjunction with County review of the draft DRECP EIR/EIS and will be used to help identify the appropriate opportunities and constraints for eRED siting in Riverside County.

I. Task 4.1 – Assemble Information/Data for Salton Sea eRED Study Region

Work on this subtask is ongoing. Base maps being developed have been posted on the project website (see below). Work is ongoing, particularly in coordination with NREL mapping and analysis efforts.

J. Task 4.2 – Analyze Salton Sea eRED Opportunities and Constraints

Work on this subtask is ongoing on conjunction with the Task 4.1 effort described above.

K. Task 4.4 – Outreach and Coordination with Salton Sea Authority

Project manager, Cindy Thielman-Braun and Phil Rosentrater, County EDA, met with Salton Sea Authority (SSA) General Manager, Roger Shintaku, on October 28, 2014. Boykin Witherspoon, III, executive director of the Water Research Institute (WRI) for CSU also attended. The meeting was held to continue ongoing coordination efforts between the County and SSA. The role of the WRI in the collection, archiving and making available of data, reports, studies and other information relating to the Salton Sea region was discussed extensively. See **Attachment A** for meeting notes.

L. Task 4.5 – Technical Coordination with Utilities and Other Agencies in Salton Sea Region

A two-day Southern California Energy Summit was held in Palm Springs. Cindy Thielman-Braun attended the (free) 4-hour session, “The Salton Sea: Restoration for a Healthy Future,” on October 9, 2014. See **Attachment B** for conference agenda and outline of speakers for the session. The session was very useful in providing overview information on Salton Sea planning activities and also for establishing contacts among coordinating agencies working in the region.

M. Task 7.1 – Develop and Publish Project Webpage

The eRED Project website was formally launched in October. An email announcement was sent widely to all of the agencies and interested parties with which the County has been in contact. A screenshot of the new website is included in **Attachment C**. Also, it can be reached via the Riverside County Planning Department’s home page or directly at the following URL: <http://planning.rctlma.org/Home/RiversideCountyeREDProgram.aspx>. Some of the initial (base) maps prepared for the project are also available under the “Maps & Data” page of the website. Information and data will continue to be added to the site as it is developed.

N. Task 7.2 – Public Agency and Stakeholder Coordination and Other Outreach Meetings

Project staff attended a variety of meetings in October. However, all are noted under the prior tasks, above.

Tasks Not Yet Begun or With No Notable Changes

For the report period of this progress report, no new work has been undertaken on the tasks listed below. In every case, unless noted otherwise, these tasks are those for which requisite prior actions are not yet complete. None of these tasks have any specific work product anticipated in the next three months (unless noted otherwise). Agendas and notes will continue to be forwarded for any meetings that do occur.

- A. Task 1.2 – Critical Project Review (CPR) Meetings
- B. Task 1.3 – Final Meeting
- C. Task 1.5 – Final Report
- D. Task 4.3 – Develop Salton Sea eRED Study Region Policies and Plans
- E. Task 5.1 – Revise General Plan: Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan
- F. Task 5.2 – Revise General Plan: Multipurpose Open Space Element
- G. Task 5.3 – Revise General Plan: Rest of Document
- H. Task 5.4 – Prepare General Plan Documents for Processing
- I. Task 6.1 – CEQA Initial Study
- J. Task 6.2 – Prepare Environmental Review Document
- K. Task 6.3 – CEQA Consultations
- L. Task 6.4 – Prepare Final CEQA Documents for Processing
- M. Task 8.1 – General Plan Amendment Initiation Process (GPIP) Processing
- N. Task 8.2 – Planning Commission Processing
- O. Task 8.3 – Board of Supervisors Processing
- P. Task 8.4 – Final Documents (Post-Adoption Actions, if Applicable)

Completed Tasks -- No Further Changes

The tasks below have been completed and were addressed under prior progress reports, as indicated. No further actions are planned or anticipated for these tasks.

- A. **Task 1.1 – CEC Kickoff Meeting** (Completed July 22, 2014; see Progress Report #01.)
- B. **Task 1.6 – Required Permit Information** (Completed July 31, 2014; see Progress Report #01.)

Work Product / Deliverables

Products are “any tangible item specified in the Work Statement.” As per the conditions of REN-13-002 Exhibit C, item 5 (“Products”), “Unless otherwise directed, draft copies of all products identified in the Work Statement shall be submitted to the Commission Agreement Manager for review and comment. The Recipient will submit an original and two copies of the final version of all products to the Commission Agreement Manager.” Thus, in accordance with this directive, the following work products are submitted for this reporting period.

- A. **Attachment A:** Meeting notes for Salton Sea Authority meeting, October 28, 2014. (Task 4.4)
- B. **Attachment B:** Program and agenda for Southern California Energy Summit, October 9, 2014, session. (Task 4.5)
- C. **Attachment C:** Screenshot of eRED Project website homepage. (Task 7.1)

Financial Status

This section presents a brief narrative addressing costs incurred to-date in relation to the approved Budget. Also includes a discussion as to whether or not the project is progressing within the approved Budget, as well as identification of any proposed changes or adjustments being that may be considered.

The first County invoice (Invoice #01) has not yet been submitted to the CEC. It is still under preparation. Because of the delay, it is expected that the first invoice will also encompass grant expenditures posted through the end of September 2014. Due to ongoing technical difficulties, the invoice will be submitted under a separate cover. Future invoices will continue to report on a monthly basis and coincide with the progress report timeframes. In regards to the rest of the project, at present there are no issues outstanding (in either the Work Statement or the Budget) that might necessitate amendment of the Agreement. No budget changes or alterations are requested at this time. However, the County will likely be contacting the CEC to seek clarification on unresolved invoicing issues.

Additional Information

These items address any information in the Work Statement or Special Conditions not already covered in one of the above sections. Ministerial types of project information are also addressed, as well as the outlook for any significant future changes (i.e., amendments) and any issues not addressed elsewhere.

Amendments

Item 8 ("Amendments") of Exhibit C, Terms and Conditions of Non-Federally Funded Grants, of the Agreement notes that, "Changes to the Work Statement, changes to specific line items in the budget, or both, may be made under certain conditions." At present, there are no issues outstanding (neither in the Work Statement nor Budget) that would necessitate the proposal of an amendment to the Agreement other than, potentially, whatever changes may be necessary to clarify invoicing procedures, as noted above. Should any other issue arise with the potential to lead to an amendment request, the County will contact the CEC immediately.

Legal Notice

No product or report produced as a result of work funded by this program shall be represented to be endorsed by the California Energy Commission and all such products or reports shall include the following statement:

"This document was prepared as a result of work sponsored by the California Energy Commission. It does not necessarily represent the views of the Energy Commission, its employees, or the State of California. The Energy Commission, the State of California, its employees, contractors, and subcontractors make no warranty, express or implied, and assume no legal liability for the information in this document; nor does any party represent that the use of this information will not infringe upon privately owned rights."

Attachment A:

Meeting notes for Salton Sea Authority meeting, October 28, 2014

Meeting Notes

Riverside County Renewable Energy Planning Program

Meeting Name:	Meeting with Salton Sea Authority
Date / Duration:	October 28, 2014, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Location:	Riverside County Economic Development Agency (EDA) 3403 Tenth Street, Suite 525, Riverside, CA 92501
County Attendees:	Cindy A. Thielman-Braun, Riverside County Planning Dept. Phil Rosentrater, Deputy Director, EDA (County liaison to SSA)
Attendees:	Roger Shintaku, General Manager, Salton Sea Authority (SSA) Boykin Witherspoon III, Executive Director, Water Resources & Policy Initiatives (WRI), California State University
Purpose:	Discuss studies underway in Salton Sea & coordinate data consolidation
Topics Covered:	(1) Roger Shintaku addressed the need for coordination among agencies and for centralized data repository; steps to consolidate data at WRI. (2) Cindy Thielman-Braun outlined Salton Sea efforts proposed for CEC grant, including latest coordination efforts amongst agencies (CVWD, Imp. Co., IID, etc). Update on work with NREL (draft map). (3) Boykin Witherspoon addressed WRI's capacity/capabilities for data archiving, storage and making available online; MOU process for data sharing. Status of archiving SSA's data collection and CVWD "next."
Action Items / Follow-up:	1. Meet further with Boykin Witherspoon re MOU for Riverside County eRED data sharing. 2. Have County's eRED/GIS team (me, Phil Kang & Richard Fairhurst) meet w/ WRI GIS folks at CSU San Bernardino campus to review tech. needs, etc.

Meeting Summary

Meeting covered a number of topics related to the common needs between SSA, Riverside County (and eRED project, as well as others Salton Sea efforts), NREL's ongoing renewable energy research project and WRI's establishing a data repository for Salton Sea region data from across a number of agencies and sources. Further topics covered as noted above. The meeting proved extremely helpful in identifying common areas of effort and interest. Boykin Witherspoon had many helpful suggestions for use of technology and online resources to further data acquisition and sharing for Salton Sea region.

Meeting Agenda (No agenda was available for this meeting.)

Attachment B:

Program for Southern California Energy Summit, dated October 9-10, 2014

[HOME](#) | [PROGRAM](#) | [SPEAKERS](#) | [REGISTRATION](#) | [SPONSORSHIP](#) | [EXHIBITORS](#) | [PRESS](#) | [DIRECTIONS](#)

#SCES2014



PROGRAM

- [Overview of Events](#)

OCTOBER 9, 2014

- [Green Building Bus Tour](#)
- [The Salton Sea: Restoration for a Healthy Future](#)
- [Energy Summit Reception](#)

OCTOBER 10, 2014

- [Energy Summit](#)
- [Odyssey Ride & Drive](#)

[2014 Program Download \(pdf\)](#)

Overview of Events

GREEN BUILDING BUS TOUR

Date & Time: October 9th | 10:30 am to 5:00 pm

Location: Coachella Valley iHub Health & Medical Innovation Center - 2901 E. Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

FREE Event: Reservations Required**

The 2014 SoCal Energy Summit Green Building Bus Tour is hosted by the Coachella Valley Association of Government's Green for Life program and will showcase sustainable design features and clean energy solutions with tours of residential and commercial green building properties throughout the Coachella Valley. Architects, contractors, utilities, PACE financing experts, and local government staff will be on hand to help answer questions and advise interested attendees on the tools and programs available to save energy, save money and the environment.

THE SALTON SEA: RESTORATION FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

[Detailed Agenda](#)

Date & Time: October 9th | 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: Coachella Valley iHub Health & Medical Innovation Center - 2901 E. Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

FREE Event: Reservations Required**

The 2014 SoCal Energy Summit in partnership with the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, Salton Sea Authority, Salton Sea Action Committee, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, County of Riverside & Riverside Economic Development Agency, Imperial County and Imperial Irrigation District will host a public forum to discuss the health impacts, restoration efforts, and economic development opportunities of the Salton Sea.

ENERGY SUMMIT RECEPTION

Date & Time: October 9th | 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Coachella Valley iHub Health & Medical Innovation Center - 2901 E. Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Conference Attendees Only: Reservations Required**

Network with energy leaders and community stakeholders at the 2014 SoCal Energy Summit Reception hosted by The Desert Sun. Also, part of this year's reception is the GRID Green Mixer where you learn about new green job opportunities and meet with prospective employers. Complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks available funded in part by the Sierra Club.

ENERGY SUMMIT **Detailed Agenda**

Date & Time: October 10th | 7:30 am to 8:30 am (Registration), 8:30am to 3:30pm (Program)

Location: Palm Springs Convention Center - 277 N. Avenida Caballeros, Palm Springs, CA 92262

PAID Event: \$75/ticket available online and at the door

The 2014 SoCal Energy Summit is the preeminent forum bringing industry and community leaders together to discuss trends, advocate for clean energy issues and highlight the region as the epicenter of renewable energy. #SCES2014 will feature a blend of educational sessions, keynote presentations, and panel discussions from a wide array of experts. Learn about new energy opportunities, explore interactive exhibits and network with over 600 regional leaders and business stakeholders.

ODYSSEY RIDE & DRIVE

Date & Time: October 10th | 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: Palm Springs Convention Center - 277 N. Avenida Caballeros, Palm Springs, CA 92262

FREE Event: Register online or at the door for a test drive/ride-along

The SoCal Energy Summit in partnership with the Clean Cities Coachella Valley Region is a proud participant of Odyssey 2014 National Alternative Fuels Vehicle Day! Stop by and meet with local Dealerships, Cities, SunLine Transit Agency and many others as they display their alternative fuel and high technology (plug-in electric, hybrid, Hydrogen Fuel Cell) vehicles and offer test drives and ride-alongs!

The Salton Sea: Restoration for a Healthy Future

Date & Time: October 9th | 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: Coachella Valley iHub Health & Medical Innovation Center - 2901 E. Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Moderator: Tom Kirk, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Association of Governments

1:00 PM **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Tricia Gehrlein, Regional Director, Clinton Health Matters Initiative

1:05 PM **Protecting Community Health:**

What if we do nothing? The Threat to the Imperial and Coachella Valley

Michael Cohen, Senior Research Associate, Pacific Institute

1:35 PM **Federal Perspective***

Valerie E. Simon, Chief of the Resources Management Office, Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Region

1:55 PM **State Perspective***

Kealii Bright, Deputy Secretary for Legislation, California Natural Resources Agency

2:15 PM **Local Perspective Panel***

- Jason Low, Atmospheric Measurements Manager, South Coast AQMD
- John Heydt, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs, UCR School of Medicine
- Silvia Paz, Hub Manager, Building Healthy Communities Eastern Coachella Valley

3:00 PM **Break**

3:15 PM **Restoring the Environment through Economic Development***

- Paul Quill, Salton Sea Action Committee and Quill Enterprises LLC
- Phil Rosentrater, Deputy Director, County of Riverside Economic Development Agency
- Andy Horne, Deputy County Executive Director, Natural Resources Development, County of Imperial

4:00 PM **Moving Forward: Restoration of the Sea Panel***

- Bill Brownlie, Engineer, Salton Sea Authority/Tetra Tech
- Bruce Wilcox, Environmental Manager, Imperial Irrigation District

4:45 PM **Next Steps**

Tricia Gehrlein, Regional Director, Clinton Health Matters Initiative

* Followed by 10 minutes of Q & A; Energy Summit Reception will begin after closing remarks

Southern California Energy Summit: Beyond 33% and the Future of the Salton Sea

Date & Time: October 10th | 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

Location: Palm Springs Convention Center

7:30 AM **Registration & Networking** — Located in: Exhibit Hall

8:30 AM **Opening Remarks**

Tom Kirk, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Association of Government

8:35 AM **Welcome to Riverside County**

Hon. John J. Benoit, Supervisor, County of Riverside

8:45 AM **Keynote: The Future of Clean Energy & the State of the Industry**

What is the health of the renewable industry today & future for clean energy?

Presented by:

Jonathan Weisgall, Vice President of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, Berkshire Hathaway Energy

9:05 AM **Keynote: An Update on California Energy Initiatives**

Various topics may include: California Renewables Portfolio Standard, Rooftop Solar, Energy Storage Mandate, California's Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan

Presented by:

President Michael R. Peevey, California Public Utilities Commission

9:20AM **Panel Discussion: Beyond 33% — The Great Debate**

Should California's Renewables Portfolio Standard go beyond 33%?

If so, what does it look like? How do we get there?

Speakers:

- Governor Angelina Galiteva, California Independent System Operator
- Bret Lane, Chief Operating Officer, Southern California Gas Company
- Kevin Kelley, General Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- President Michael R. Peevey, California Public Utilities Commission
- Stuart R. Hemphill, Senior Vice President, Power Supply & Operational Services, Southern California Edison

Moderator:

Jonathan Weisgall, Vice President of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, Berkshire Hathaway Energy

10:20 AM **Networking Break** Located in: Exhibit Hall

10:30 AM **Panel Discussion:**

A 'Landscape' Perspective on the Future of Renewable Energy Development in the Desert

A State & Federal perspective on upcoming opportunities for renewable energy development in Southern California.

Topics include: *The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan – how will it protect our environment and further renewable energy development, especially with enough projects in the pipeline to meet California's RPS 2020 goal? How will President Obama's Climate Action Plan and expanded solar on public lands affects BLM lands in California? How might the DRECP help facilitate Salton Sea restoration? What about the Riverside/Imperial County Renewable Development Focus Areas & Zone?*

Speakers:

- Jim Kenna, State Director, California Bureau of Land Management
- Commissioner Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission
- Kim DelFino, California Program Director, Defenders of Wildlife

Moderator:

V. John White, Executive Director, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies

11:05 AM Keynote: How Microsoft Built the Smart City of the Future

Presented by:

Darrell Smith, Director of Worldwide Energy and Building Technology, Microsoft

11:30 AM Panel Discussion: Building Green and Sustainable Communities

What drives the shift to energy efficiency, green building and sustainability? What can cities, businesses, and residents do to drive a green building future with reductions in energy consumption and water usage? How do we bridge the gap between the theory of policy and regulation and the real world practice in terms of the market and achieving sustainability? What is the role of the media? And, is our workforce ready?

Speakers:

- Bernie Kotler, Co-Chair, Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program
- Ian James, Environmental Reporter, The Desert Sun
- Samara Larson, Architect, LEED AP, Director of Sustainability, LINC Housing and SEED Partners
- Speaker to be announced

Moderator:

Reuel A. Young, AIA, CNU AP, Architect & President, Interactive Design Corporation

12:15 PM Keynote Speech

Senate President pro Tempore-elect Kevin de León, CA District 22

12:40 PM Luncheon & Networking Located in: Exhibit Hall

1:25 PM Keynote Speech

Presented by:

Hon. Raul Ruiz M.D., U.S. Representative, California, 36th Congressional District

1:45 PM Keynote Presentation

Presented by:

JB Straubel, Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer, Tesla Motors

2:30 PM Breakout Session 1: Advancing Local Rooftop Solar & Energy Storage

How can the region support the advancement of local rooftop solar and energy storage? How do we engage property owners to participate? How do we make it happen with utilities (municipal vs. investor) considering interconnection costs, upgrades, etc.? What does the DER future look like especially with microgrids and nanogrids? How do we enable high penetrations of local solar and energy storage? What current and planned policies on the state and local level could be enacted to further solar? What are the impacts of the new Net Energy Metering guidelines? What does DG look like post 2017? Do we need more incentives with the federal tax incentives & CSI program ending soon? What opportunities are on the horizon for solar companies and consumers?

Sponsored by: Riverside Public Utilities

Located in: Primrose Main Hall

Speakers:

- Michael J. Bacich, Assistant General Manager of Customer Relations & Marketing, Riverside Public Utilities
- John R. Bryan, Vice President, Product & Marketing, CODA Energy
- Jon Fortune, Director of Regulatory & Energy Analysis, Sunverge Energy, Inc.

- Fred Bell, Managing Partner, Nobell Energy Solutions, LLC
- Craig Lewis, Executive Director, Clean Coalition

Moderator:

Sophie Akins, Partner, Best Best & Krieger

2:30 PM Breakout Session 2: Renewable Energy Opportunities at the Salton Sea

What current efforts are underway to facilitate renewable energy opportunities and restoration? What renewable energy opportunities are on horizon?

Sponsored by: Best Best & Krieger

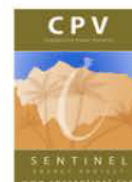
Located in: Primrose A

Speakers:

- Scott Haase, Manager of DOI Energy Programs, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Sarah Friedman, Senior Campaign Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign, Sierra Club
- Carl Stills, Energy Manager, Imperial Irrigation District
- Tracy Sizemore, Vice President of Business Development, Simbol Materials

Moderator:

Robert Hargreaves, Partner, Best Best & Krieger

3:30 PM Conference Close**PAST PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**
[2013 Bus Tour Schedule](#)
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Attachment C:

Screenshot of Riverside County eRED Project page, dated November 10, 2014

Home Page: <http://planning.rctlma.org/Home/RiversideCountyeREDProgram.aspx>



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Zoning Information Development Process Project Information Specific Plans General Information Contact Us

General Plan & Zoning Forms & Applications Public Hearings Parcel Information

Home > Riverside County eRED Program

Riverside County eRED Program

County eRED Useful Links

- MEETINGS
- DOCUMENTS
- PROJECT SCHEDULE
- [PROGRESS REPORTS](#)
- [DATA & MAPS](#)
- CONTACT COUNTY

What is eRED?

"eRED" stands for "[eligible renewable energy resource development](#)." As defined by the State of California (Public Resources Code section 25741) eligible renewable energy resources include:

- Photovoltaic
- Solar thermal
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Fuel cells (using renewable fuels)
- Biomass
- Small hydroelectric generators (30 megaWatts or smaller)
- Digester gas
- Municipal solid waste conversion [methane capture]
- Ocean thermal
- Ocean waves and tidal currents

Links

Links to some of the agencies coordinating with the County on this project.

- [Salton Sea Authority](#)
- [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)
- [California Energy Commission](#)
- [DRECP Team \(Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan\)](#)
- [U.S. Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)

About eRED... (eligible) Renewable Energy Development

In July 2014, the County of Riverside initiated the eRED Planning program funded by a grant from the California Energy Commission. The purpose of the eRED program is to coordinate and encourage eligible renewable energy resource development (eRED) in the county at the General Plan level.

The two-year grant program will support the County in proposing a General Plan Amendment designed to provide a robust framework of policies and data addressing renewable energy resources throughout the county, particularly supporting the development and expansion of geothermal resources in the Salton Sea region, where feasible, and the coordination of solar resources in the far eastern desert portion of the county in conjunction with the State of California's ongoing Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) development.



Riverside County eRED Team

Meeting with the California Energy Commission in Sacramento, July 2014

Left to Right:
Cory Irish (CEC), Phil Rosentrater, Tiffany North, Ed Cooper, Pablo Gutiérrez Santana (CEC), Larry Ross, Cindy Thielman-Braun and Juan C. Perez



What is the purpose of the eRED project?

With its varied terrain and 200-mile stretch of communities spanning from the Los Angeles metropolis in the west to the Arizona border in the east, the County of Riverside boasts commercially viable renewable energy resources in virtually all categories: wind, solar, geothermal and biomass. Utilizing this broad spectrum of renewable resources, the County is already home to over 4,000 wind turbines generating electricity at 21 commercial wind farms in the San Geronio Pass area, four large-scale commercial solar facilities in the eastern desert region, six hydroelectric facilities, three biogas/fuel cell facilities associated with wastewater treatment plants and six biomass facilities utilizing landfill methane capture and operated by the County directly. The Riverside County General Plan encourages the development and siting of renewable energy facilities and transmission lines in appropriate locations, and the development of solar, wind, biomass and geothermal resources in an environmentally responsible and sensitive manner. However, as renewable energy development trends and technologies advance, the County's General Plan must evolve as well to ensure it remains a suitable instrument for guiding county growth throughout the 21st Century. A balanced approach to energy production in Riverside County will ensure that growth and economic prosperity in the region is achieved in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner that benefits both local communities and the greater good of our state and our natural world.

How will the eRED program benefit Riverside County?

The County eRED project will contribute to a number of County energy policy goals:

- Facilitate renewable energy development in Riverside County.
- Contribute to California's long-term renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Streamline the permitting process for eligible renewable energy projects in the county.
- Coordinate the Riverside County General Plan with the policies and plans of the State's DRECP.
- Ensure protection of desert ecosystems and further Salton Sea restoration plans through the addition of appropriate conservation policies and plans in the County General Plan.

What maps and data are available for this project?

A major component of this project is the preparation of maps and data addressing the potential for development of eligible renewable energy projects in Riverside County. To accommodate this purpose, the link below leads to a variety of maps and plans, sorted according to region. Some are from State, federal or other sources, some are from the Riverside County General Plan and others have been prepared specifically for this project. Additional maps and analyses will be added as they are pre-pared. Click [HERE](#) to go to the **Maps and Data** page to view a variety of maps and eRED project data, including the Far Eastern Desert and Salton Sea regions, as well as countywide planning information.



Salton Sea



Countywide Planning



Far Eastern Desert

Key Partners

The [Salton Sea Authority](#) (SSA) was formed to work with California state agencies, federal agencies and the Republic of Mexico to develop programs that would continue beneficial use of the Salton Sea. A joint powers agency chartered by the State of California by a Joint Powers Agreement on June 2, 1993, the SSA was created to ensure beneficial uses of the Salton Sea and is comprised of the following cooperating agencies: Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Riverside County, Imperial County and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. A number of federal, state and tribal agencies are ex-officio members of the SSA.

Key planning and coordination efforts to chart out county policies and plans for renewable energy development within the Salton Sea region will be conducted by the County in close coordination with the Salton Sea Authority. The SSA will provide technical expertise related to planning, engineering and other technical work performed or in-progress to address the Salton Sea region to ensure work efforts are directed to the most suitable and needed lines of inquiry. With its history of cooperation with a number of federal and state partners, including the Bureau of Reclamation, EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS, California Resources Agency, and many others, the SSA will also provide valuable coordination and contact opportunities between the various entities with whom the County will be seeking to coordinate its renewable energy development planning efforts for the region. In addition, the SSA has also engaged a number of independent contractors to assist in technical and engineering work needed for the region. The close coordination the SSA provides will ensure that work efforts are focused where most needed and do not duplicate others' efforts. As a separate agency, none of the SSA's work efforts will be funded by the County's CEC eRED grant.

About the DRECP

The [Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan](#) (DRECP) is a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts and will help provide effective protection and conservation of desert ecosystems while allowing for the appropriate development of renewable energy projects.

The DRECP is focused on the desert regions and adjacent lands of seven California counties – Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. It is being prepared through an unprecedented collaborative effort between the California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; these agencies collectively form the DRECP's "Renewable Energy Action Team."

The DRECP will result in an efficient and effective biological mitigation and conservation program providing renewable energy project developers with permit timing and cost certainty under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, while at the same time preserving, restoring and enhancing natural communities and related ecosystems. A total of approximately 22.5 million acres of federal and non-federal California desert lands are in the DRECP Plan Area, including a total of 2,147,000 acres within Riverside County (including 1,846,000 on federal lands).

CEC Sponsorship

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