



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Action Minutes October 20, 2016

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

**Action Minutes
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board Meeting
October 20, 2016
10:15 a.m.**

Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Board Meeting Room
1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 150
Ventura, California 93003

1. Welcome/ Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Long at 10.18 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Members present:

Kathy Long, Chair	County of Ventura
Mary Haffner	Ventura Unified School District
Jon Sharkey	Ventura Regional Sanitation District
John Procter	City of Santa Paula
Carmen Ramirez	City of Oxnard
Cheryl Heitmann, Vice Chair	City of Ventura
Joel Price	City of Thousand Oaks
Larry Kennedy	Ventura County Community College District

Members not present:

Douglas Tucker	City of Fillmore
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3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approve Minutes of April 21, 2016 and July 28, 2016 Meetings

Upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, seconded by Ms. Haffner, the Board approved the Minutes of the April 21, 2016 and July 28, 2016 meeting.

5. Agenda Review

The agenda was approved as presented by consensus.

6. Public Comments



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Action Minutes October 20, 2016

Javier Saucedo, spoke on how VCREA inspired him and helped him begin his career. He thanked Supervisor Long for her championing the program. Mr. Kennedy shared that Javier was most helpful when he performed work at his house.

Dustin Reilich, HERO program, gave an update on the HERO program in Ventura County. He thanked the cities for their partnerships and city staff help.

7. Board Member Comments

Mr. Sharkey thanked Supervisor Long for her dedicated work regarding VCREA. He also shared Port Hueneme's Beacon Spotlight Awards, receiving a total of three awards at the League of Cities Annual Meeting in Long Beach. He shared that Port Hueneme was able to achieve a 60% reduction, in part, because of the work VCREA does. He shared the importance of how the little things can add up to big savings.

Mr. Price shared that Thousand Oaks received three Beacon Spotlight Awards and thanked John Brooks for all his hard work to help the city achieve the awards.

8. 2017 Board Meeting Dates

Upon motion of Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Sharkey, and duly carried, the Board received and approved the 2017 Board Meeting dates.

9. CivicSpark Contract

Ms. Tellez, VCREA staff, reminded the Board that we discussed the CivicSpark Fellowship, a program established through the Local Government Commission, at the previous meeting. Ms. Tellez stated that the Partnership funds will be covering the costs associated with the fellowship program.

Harrison Stewart was introduced as VCREA's CivicSpark fellow. Thanks was given to Ms. Allen and Ms. Walker, both VCREA staff, for their efforts in finding and selecting Harry.

Upon motion of Ms. Haffner, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and duly carried, the Board approved the CivicSpark contract.

10. California Green Business Network

John Brooks, City of Thousand Oaks, along with Courtney Lindberg, City of Ventura, were present to share a presentation about the California Green Business Network (CGBN).

Mr. Brooks thanked VCREA for their contribution in supporting the continuing work that the City of Ventura and City of Thousand Oaks currently does. These funds will assist in the Google Ad Word Grant.

Mr. Procter stated that the program reminds him of a LEED program and inquired if stickers or something are displayed to let the public know that certain businesses participate in the program. Mr. Brooks said that there is and that the program is working on collaborative branding. Mr. Procter also asked how customers are aware that certain businesses are CGBN participants.



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Action Minutes October 20, 2016

other than the website. Mr. Brooks mentioned the app that they are working on as well as additional advertising. The more businesses that participate, the more the word gets out.

Ms. Ramirez inquired about attracting professional services such as law firms. Mr. Brooks said yes, they are classified as retail so they are welcome to participate. Ms. Ramirez also inquired about grocery stores, and Ms. Lindberg stated that there is a sector for it but this area does not have it yet.

Mr. Brooks stated his vision of CGBN going regionally, a Ventura County program. With templates and other resources already in place, CGBN would help launch the program into new cities and/or region.

Mr. Kennedy inquired about how one specifically would join the program and what the minimum criteria is. Mr. Brooks explained more details regarding participation such as checklists and the certification process.

Ms. Heitmann shared how the City of Ventura gives monthly Green Business Awards. It is an opportunity to highlight the business and the good work they are doing. Not only are they receiving an award but it is a nice opportunity for the business to advertise itself.

Mr. Price shared that the local paper, The Acorn, picks up on Green Business activity.

Chair Long asked if there was interest in having something on the January agenda, perhaps the pros and cons of potentially VCREA facilitating a regional CGBN program. Ms. Tellez stated that staff would like to see a Countywide GBN program. Board would like to see an item as a future agenda item in January.

11. Energy Efficiency Month

Ms. Cattanach, VCREA staff, presented Energy Efficiency Month. VCREA staff put together a poster for each city highlighting the energy efficient activities that the cities have done in partnership with VCREA. VCREA staff delivered each poster, along with energy bars, to the city managers' offices to display to the public.

Ms. Haffner asked that the school district be included next time. Ms. Cattanach stated that she made a note to do so.

Ms. Tellez again mentioned VCREA continued efforts to push for school districts and special districts to participate in the partnership. Ms. Haffner asked when that decision would be made, and Ms. Tellez said hopefully at beginning of next year.

12. Beacon Spotlight Awards and Champion of the Year Award

Ms. Allen, VCREA staff, reported on the Beacon Spotlight Awards that were presented the previous week at the League of Cities Annual Conference in Long Beach. Twenty six awards were won amongst the County's cities. Additionally, VCREA will be presented with the Champion of Year Award at the CSAC conference. The award will be accepted by Chair Long. Ms. Allen was thanked by staff for her hard work on completing all the applications.



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Action Minutes October 20, 2016

13. Partnership Program Update

Ms. Tellez, VCREA staff, gave a brief overview of what the partnership has been working on. She discussed various events, contract updates, ICLEI Report, and others.

Upon motion of Ms. Heitmann, seconded by Mr. Sharkey, and duly carried, the Board received and filed the Partnership Program Update.

14. General Updates and Announcements

Ms. Haffner requested some assistance with the school district as they begin to look at some potential solar projects within the district. VUSD Green Schools Committee has done a lot in terms of the energy efficiency arena and now are looking at potential solar. Ms. Tellez stated we would be happy to assist. Ms. Tellez also mentioned the concept of the CEC aggregated purchases of solar panels that was discussed at the previous partnership meeting. VCREA staff will follow up. Mr. O'Brien, independent consultant, mentioned a previous report that was done by VCREA regarding potential solar projects. Staff will look into that report.

Ms. Allen, VCREA staff, mentioned the Tri County Hydrogen Readiness Plan that was discussed at the UCSB Sustainable Summit. She shared a brief overview of what this plan entails as well as future community outreach events to take place early next year.

Ms. Tellez, VCREA staff, shared the Tri County Residential REN proposal that the Counties of Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara are compiling and submitting to the CPUC. This is in an effort to continue residential energy efficiency efforts in the Tri Counties despite SCE withdrawal of funds for the continuation of the emPower program.

15. Items for Future Agenda

- Green Business Network- Pros and Cons
- Contract update- school districts and special districts
- Annual Report

16. Supervisor Long's Farewell

17. Next Meeting- January 26, 2017

18. Adjournment

Chair Long adjourned meeting at 11.30am.