

# VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

*A Joint Powers Authority to Develop and Implement Sustainable Energy*

## Annual Report December 2003

### Member Agencies

- County of Ventura
- City of Oxnard
- City of San Buenaventura
- City of Thousand Oaks

*VCREA is Proud to Report Activities and Accomplishments of the Inaugural Year*

### **Defined the Challenge . . . .**

Following the September 2002 award of funding by the California Public Utilities Commission, the Local Government Commission worked with Ventura County's local POWER Task Force representatives, elected officials, technology based businesses and interested consumers to established the Regional Energy Working Group (REWG) for the purposes of determining the ability of the region to sustain long term support for an organization devoted to energy planning and advocacy. The REWG met for six months to create an organizational framework that addressed the goals and financial strategies necessary to meet the broad range of energy issues facing Ventura County.

### **Committed to Formation . . . .**

Formed in July 2003, the **Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA)** is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) composed of public agencies working in collaboration to approach the availability, reliability, conservation and innovative use of energy resources in the Ventura County region. Membership may be expanded at any time to include new public agency members with shared interests and powers in common. The first board is composed of elected representatives from the four public agencies who agreed by resolution to participate in the VCREA.

### 2003 VCREA Board Members

Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, Chair  
Ventura City Mayor Ray DiGuilio, Vice-Chair  
Oxnard Mayor ProTem Dean Maulhardt  
Thousand Oaks City Councilmember, Dennis Gillette

### **Adopted a Mission . . . .**

VCREA's mission is to establish Ventura County, its communities, and neighboring regions as leaders in developing and implementing durable, sustainable energy initiatives that support sensible growth, a healthy environment and economy, an enhanced quality of life, and greater self-reliance for the region, by reducing energy demand, increasing energy efficiency, and advancing the use of clean, efficient and renewable local resources.

### **Developed a Business Plan . . . .**

An 18-month plan was developed to chart the initial scope of work and advise potentially interested public agencies, businesses and individuals of the collaborative efforts underway. The plan will be refined in subsequent months to further define the course for development and implementation of a sustainable energy plan for Ventura County.

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### **Created a Collaborative . . . .**

An Advisory Committee, composed of up to 16 representatives was designated in the JPA and formed for the purpose of advising the VCREA on trends and issues facing the consumer and business community. Committee members represent the following four sectors: (1) public agencies, (2) energy business and utilities, (3) research, development and educational institutions, and (4) interested public representatives. The committee provides an extensive base for practical energy applications, evaluation of best practices, consumer education and technical communication throughout the region.

#### 2003 Advisory Committee Members

Wayne Davey, Rockwell Scientific, chair  
Rudy Gonzales, Southern California Edison  
Joe Chow, Southern California Gas  
Tom Nielsen, Energy Systems Inc.  
Nan Drake, Harrison Industries  
Craig Brown, Gold Coast Innovation Center

### **Built a Staffing Network . . . .**

The VCREA has been supported by a staff technical network composed of representatives from the member agencies. Staff support has been effective in moving the organization through the first critical steps of organization and helped to define opportunities for energy efficiencies. The staff technical network will continue to provide crucial information for VCREA member agencies as facility audits are underway and practical applications are funded through future resources. Members will benefit from lessons learned, observed gaps in service and “best practices” that will be shared. with private sector partners to build and strengthen the network.

### **Developed Fiscal Strategies . . . .**

Development of the VCREA organization began during a time of extremely limited local public funding. VCREA members developed a budget philosophy to extend unduplicated services and programs through energy efficiencies and cost savings at no cost to members. The initial fiscal strategy has been to leverage funds and minimize costs to members through use of grants, loans and partnerships. The intent of VCREA is to replicate programs that have proven track-records elsewhere but have yet to reach the hard to serve areas of the region, work with regional energy partners to avoid duplication and research methods of new funding that will enhance local efforts to reduce energy costs to all consumers.

### **Met the Challenge . . . .**

Working with elected leaders, energy consultants, public staff and business leaders, the VCREA applied for a second round of CPUC funding in September 2003, and was awarded funding as requested to pursue energy efficiencies in the 2004-05. The VCREA met its first year goals and is poised to achieve fiscal sustainability and engage other public and private leaders who share the vision and have the desire to meet the regional energy challenges facing Ventura County.

*VCREA is Committed to Expanded Energy Programs, Services and Opportunities in 2004*

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