



## VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 S Victoria Avenue · Ventura, California 93009  
(805)654-3874 [vcrea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcrea.admin@ventura.org)  
[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

*Collaborating to address good energy stewardship in the Ventura County region*

Date: May 17, 2023

TO: Board Members Agenda Distribution

From: Kelly Cattanach, VCREA Staff

Subject: **Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for May 18, 2023**

Attached are materials for:

ITEM 11- 3C-REN PROGRAM OVERVIEW- Presentation regarding the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) – a presentation has been submitted.

ITEM 13- RECEIVE AND FILE THE PROGRAM UPDATE- Support Letters have been submitted.



## VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 S Victoria Avenue · Ventura, California 93009  
(805)654-3874 [vcrea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcrea.admin@ventura.org)  
[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

*Collaborating to address good energy stewardship in the Ventura County region*

### Memo

May 17, 2023

RE: ITEM 11- 3C-REN PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Presentation regarding the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) has been submitted.

# Advancing Energy Efficiency by Supporting Building Professionals and Households in the Tri-County Region



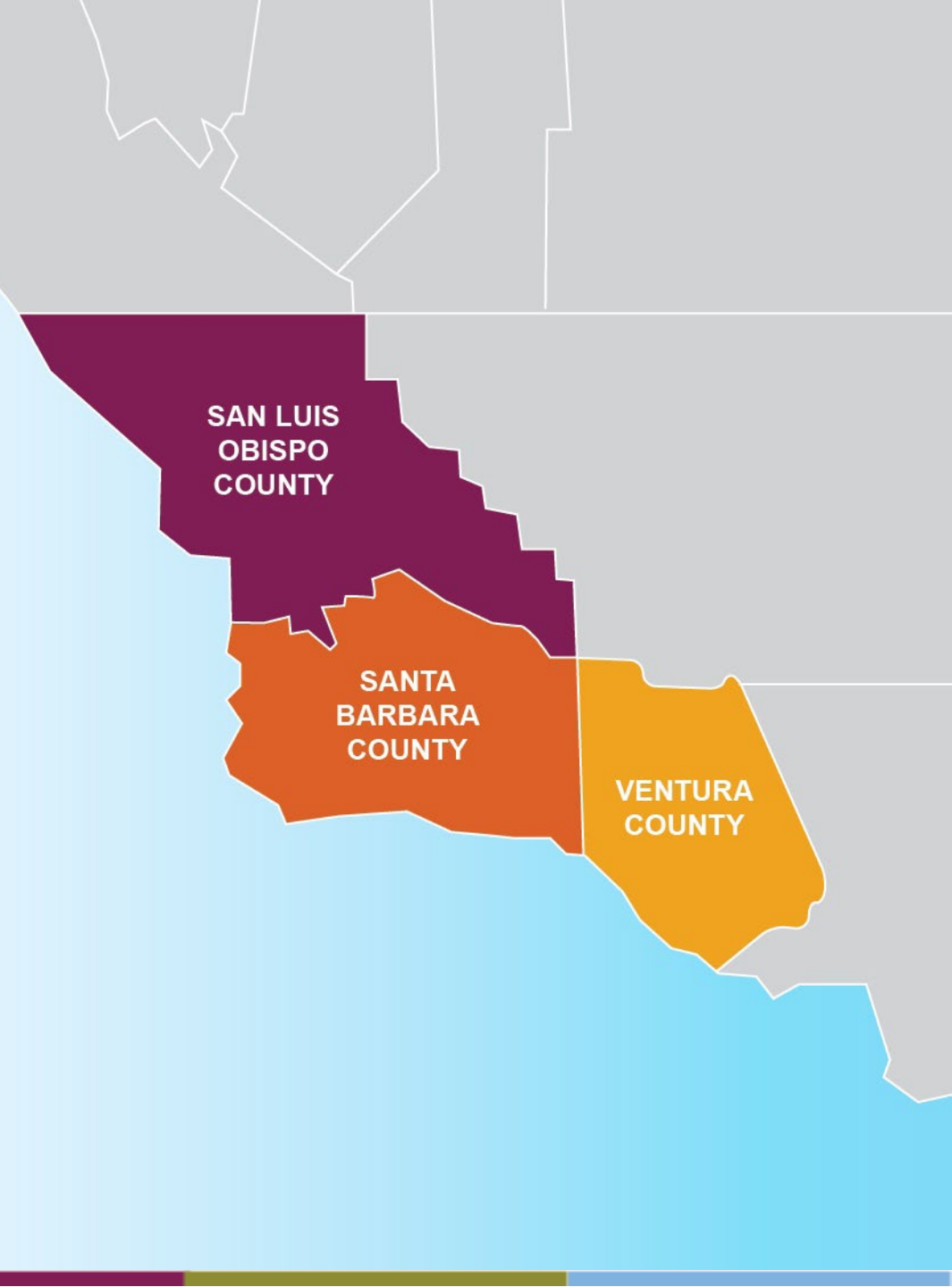
May 18, 2023

Ian Logan, 3C-REN & County of Ventura Sustainability Division



# 3C-REN: Tri-County Regional Energy Network

- Three counties working together to improve energy efficiency in the region
- Services for –
  - **Building Professionals:** industry events, training, and energy code compliance support
  - **Households:** free and discounted home upgrades





ENERGY  
CODE  
CONNECT

---



BUILDING  
PERFORMANCE  
TRAINING

---



HOME  
ENERGY  
SAVINGS

---





# Home Energy Savings Programs Overview

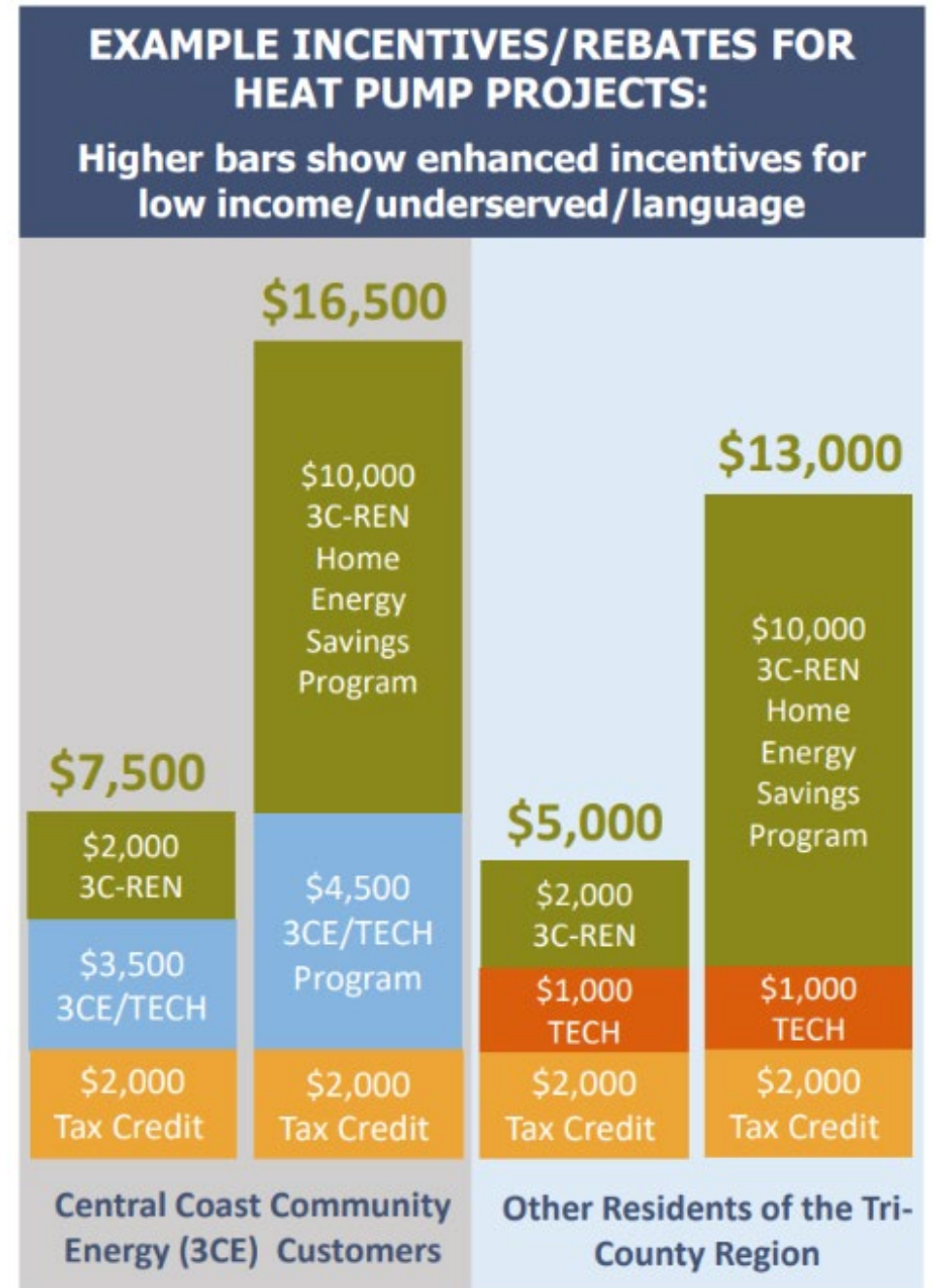




## Single Family Program (1-4 Units)

- **Competitive/discounted pricing** available from enrolled contractors
- Especially discounted pricing for **"Hard to Reach"** customers
- Quality work because contractor payments are **tied to performance**
- **Stackable** with CCCE and TECH Clean California incentive programs

Learn More: <https://www.3c-ren.org/for-residents#!directory>



# Eligibility Criteria

- Single-family residential customer (includes mobile/manufactured homes)
- Live within the 3C-REN territory and receive IOU or CCA service
- No added solar within 12 months
- Lived at the home for at least 12 months



# How to Participate: Connect with a Contractor



1. Visit **3C-REN.org/for-residents**

2. Complete the interest form

AND/OR

Search for a contractor

3. Complete your energy upgrade project

**TRICOUNTY SERVICES**  
TriCounty Services  
HVAC, Indoor Air, Fireplace & Plumbing in Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties  
[www.tri-county-aire.com](http://www.tri-county-aire.com)  
(805) 500-2944

**COMMUNITY ACTION VENTURA COUNTY**  
Community Action Ventura County  
We empower families and individuals to live self-sufficiently and with dignity.  
<https://ca-vc.org/>  
(805) 436-4000

**RR HVAC & Electrical Company**  
Quality electrical services at a competitive rate.  
<https://rrelectrichvac.com/>  
(805) 954-9000  
RR HVAC & Electrical Company

**GREEN AIR LOGIC**  
Green Air Logic  
Individualized HVAC Options For Every Situation  
[www.greenairlogic.com](http://www.greenairlogic.com)  
(805) 407-4749

**HIGHLAND AIR HEATING & COOLING**  
Highland Air  
Furnace + AC service, repair, maintenance & installation  
[www.highland-air.com](http://www.highland-air.com)  
(805) 210-9771

**PACIFIC AIRE**  
Pacific Aire  
Your premier heating, ventilation and air conditioning company.  
<https://www.pacaire.com/>  
800-869-0057

**ENERGYPOOL**  
Energy Pool  
Pool Pump and HVAC replacements for residential homeowners in the 3C-REN area.  
[www.energypool.io](http://www.energypool.io)  
(213) 379-9861

**Michael Little HERS Rating**  
Michael Little HERS Rating  
HERS Rater on the Central Coast  
N/A  
805 813 1204

**AWCI**  
Allamakee West Construction  
One stop contracting service on the Central Coast.  
<https://awci.business.site/>  
(805) 934-1508

**SOUTHLAND**  
Heating and Air Conditioning  
Southland Heating & Air Conditioning  
Heating & Air Conditioning Installation Services  
<https://southlandac.com>  
(805) 422-7754

**TEMP AIR SYSTEM**  
Temp Air System  
High-Efficiency HVAC System provider for homeowners in the Greater LA area.  
[www.tempairsystem.com](http://www.tempairsystem.com)  
(626) 333-3409

**Water Fixers**  
PLUMBING & FILTRATION  
Water Fixers  
Expert Plumbing Services & Water Filtration Services for the Central Coast  
<https://waterfixers.com/>  
(805) 928-6444



# Check out a DIY Home Energy Savings Toolkit from County Libraries!



#### 4 Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs) bulbs

Replace the standard bulbs in your high-use light fixtures with these energy-saving LEDs.



#### Weatherstripping

Apply weatherstripping around your doors and windows to help seal air gaps. Please return what you don't use.



#### Outlet Gaskets

Outlets are a hidden source of heat loss—install these gaskets to seal the gaps!



#### Low-Flow Showerhead

Save water and stay comfortable with this new showerhead.



#### Rubber bands

Wraps around the pliers to help prevent scratching the aerators or showerhead during installation.



#### 2 Low-Flow Faucet Aerators

Install one (1.0gpm) in your bathroom and one (1.5gpm) in your kitchen to help save water. Will fit most faucets (might not fit some specialty ones).



#### Water Leak Detection Dye Tablets

Drop in your toilet tank to identify leaks. (Keep out of reach of children—Do not eat!)



#### Water Flow Rate Bag

Find your true flow with this great rate bag!





# Multifamily Home Energy Savings Program Overview



HOME  
ENERGY  
SAVINGS

## Multifamily Program (5+ Units)

- **No cost energy assessment** helps you find out where you can save most
- Whole building base rebates
  - **\$500 - \$750 per apartment**
- Up to **\$1,000 back** for each high efficiency heat pump water heater or furnace replacement

Learn More: <https://www.3c-ren.org/multifamily>





# Eligibility

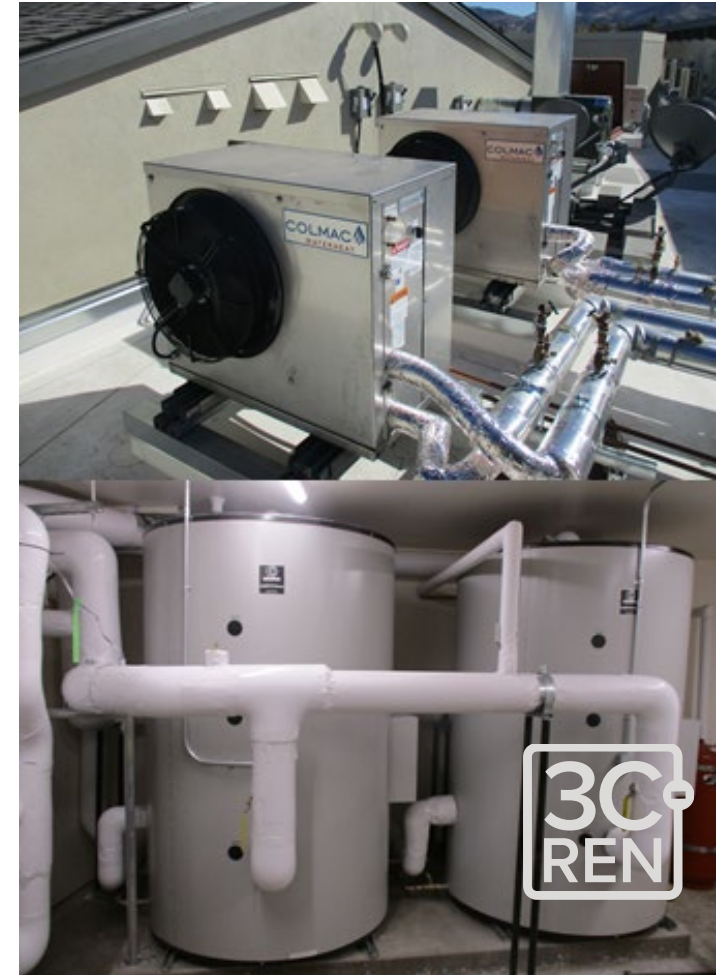
- Located in the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura
- Existing Multifamily property with 5 or more residential dwelling units
- Utility service from PG&E, SCE, or SoCalGas
- Qualified projects include 3+ measures and save over 0.25 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>e per unit



# Measure level rebates are available if the project qualifies for the base rebate

Additive Measure Rebates	Rebate
<b>In-unit Measures</b>	
In-unit Heat Pump Water Heater	\$1,000 per item
In-unit Heat Pump HVAC	\$1,000 per item
In-unit Heat Pump Clothes Dryer	\$250 per item
In-unit Induction Cooktop	\$350 per item
<b>Central System Measures</b>	
Central Heat Pump Water Heater	\$800 per apt served*
Central Heat Pump HVAC	\$800 per apt served
<b>Common Area Measures</b>	
Common Area Heat Pump HVAC	\$1,000
Laundry/Common Area HP Water Heater	\$1,000
Heat Pump Pool Heater	\$1,500

\*Project cap of \$100,000 for Central HPWH systems





# No-Cost Technical Assistance

- Energy bill analysis
- In-person site assessment
- Scope of Work Development
- Support during the contracting and implementation of measures
- One-stop-shop to connect with other program rebates







# Energy Code Connect



**ENERGY  
CODE  
CONNECT**

- Serves all building professionals
- Several services –
  - **Energy Code Coach**
  - **Training and Support**
  - **Regional Forums**
  - **Reach Code Support**
  - **Free HERS Rater Training**
- Makes the Energy Code easy to follow

Learn More: <https://www.3c-ren.org/energy-code-connect>

**20** Training Courses – **500** Attendees

**3** Regional Forums – **200** Attendees

**6** Jurisdictions Pursuing Reach Codes

**20** NEW HERS Raters in the Area

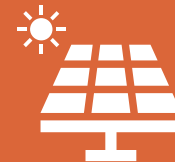
**Hot code topics:**



Compliance Documentation



ADU Requirements



PV and Storage Requirements



EV Charging, Embodied Carbon, and More!

# Energy Code Coach

- Personalized LOCAL support for all building professionals Energy Code and CalGreen needs
- Online, over the phone, in-person support
- Customizable Training Opportunities
- Response within 24 Hours!

Learn More: <https://www.3c-ren.org/energy-code-coach>



## Questions about the California Energy Code?

Get a 3C-REN Energy Code Coach! Our local experts are here to help. We'll respond within one business day so that your project meets Title 24 Part 6 requirements without slowing you down.

- Help with compliance, installation, and verification forms
- All electric pathway compliance support
- Modeling support for PV, heat pump technology, and beyond

### Who We Are

Our team of local experts are Central Coast professionals with of experience in the construction industry working as contract planning consultants, HERS raters, GreenPoint Raters, architect Certified Energy Analysts. We understand your needs.

Energy Code Coach will answer your technical questions about modeling and compliance reporting, with the references and resources to support you and your department or firm.

### How it Works

Energy Code Coach offers free, professional and friendly consulta online, over the phone, or in the field/office. Call or email us with a question and we will respond within one business day.

### How can Energy Code Coach help you?

- **Personalized Support:** Energy Code Coach answers your specific questions.
- **Plan Review:** Energy Code Coach can review plans and building department comments.
- **Department Meetings:** Energy Code Coach can present to your staff on how to take advantage of this free service.
- **Field Visits:** Energy Code Coach can meet with you for on-site inspections and questions.
- **Training:** Energy Code Coach can offer customized code trainings for your team, online or in-person.

*Energy Code Coach is a service of Energy Code Connect by 3C-REN, a partnership between the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.*



Call anytime, response within one business day  
**805-220-9991**

Or submit online:  
**[www.3c-ren.org/ecc](http://www.3c-ren.org/ecc)**

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK  
SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

# Energy Code and CalGreen Building Standards Training

- Energy Code 101
- Single Family, Multifamily, and Nonresidential
- ADU's, Existing/Additions/Alterations
- CalGreen Building Standards
- HERS Rater Training
- Certified Energy Analyst (CEA)



## 2022 Energy Code and CALGreen Series

Prepared for the Central Coast and Ventura Region International Code Council (ICC) Chapters

This six-part series provides an overview of the 2022 changes to Title 24 Energy Code and Green Building Standards. Each course will focus on a specific sector of the code and is geared towards contractors, engineers and building department staff as members in the local ICC Chapters. Kicking off with an introduction to the historic context and organization of the Energy Code, the series will then focus on the 2022 update, providing examples of implementation and highlighting key strategies for a smooth plan review and acceptance process.

### Course Schedule:

5/10	Introduction to the Energy Code	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
5/31	2022 Energy Code: Single Family	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
6/14	2022 Energy Code: Multi Family	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
6/28	2022 Energy Code: ADUs	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
7/19	2022 Energy Code: Nonresidential	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
8/2	CALGreen Overview and 2022 Changes	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

**3C-REN Events Calendar:**  
[3c-ren.org/events](http://3c-ren.org/events)

Zoom Meetings  
**Wednesdays**  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Partner



Co-Sponsors



### Speakers

**Andy Pease, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Principal**  
In Balance Green Consulting

**Jennifer Rennick, AIA, CEA, Principal**  
In Balance Green Consulting

**Grant Murphy, CEA**  
In Balance Green Consulting





# Resources

**FREE \***  
**HERS Rater Training**



**Get Certified Now!**

- HERS Residential Alterations
- HERS New Construction
- HERS Solar
- HERS Whole House
- HERS Nonresidential

**And more!**

**\$1,800+ Value**



**About The Opportunity**

3C-REN has partnered with CalCERTS, Inc. to offer HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Rater training for FREE to tri-county professionals!

Complete an interest form to get started:  
[www.3c-ren.org/hers](http://www.3c-ren.org/hers)

\*Exam fees not included (up to \$325)



CASE STUDY

## **MODEL ENERGY CODE COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUs)**

In 2021, 3C-REN's Energy Code Coaches worked with Ventura County Building Department engineers to create pre-approved ADU construction documents for three sample floor plans for farmworker housing units. The County's goal was to develop Title 24-compliant plans that could help reduce design and construction costs for ADUs. 3C-REN Energy Code Coach used the performance method and included specifications to meet 2019 Title 24, Part 6 requirements across multiple climate zones and orientations.





# Building Performance Training





## BUILDING PERFORMANCE TRAINING

- BPT helps workers thrive as industry evolves
- Serving current and prospective professionals with:
  - Technical skills for the existing workforce (building envelope, heat pump technology)
  - Foundational building science for emerging professionals (high schools, trade schools, and colleges)

- For designers, contractors, building & safety staff, realtors and more
- Offers learning units & certifications
- Topics: building science, energy code, decarbonizing technologies, Passive House and more

### *Highlights for 2022:*



**50+** free events held



**1,100+** individuals trained



**3,100+** total event attendees since 2019!



# Guest Speaker Series

- High Schools
- Community College
- Career Technical



3C-REN instructor, Andy Pease from In Balance Green Consulting, with Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Charter High School students and faculty after a Green Building 101 presentation.



## Teach Your Students about Green Buildings and Careers

SCHEDULE A FREE GUEST SPEAKER FOR YOUR CLASS

*3C-REN (Tri-County Regional Energy Network) is a free program brought to you by your local County government. 3C-REN speakers are professionals with backgrounds in green building. This speaker series helps younger generations explore the built environment and opportunities in sustainable design and construction.*



### Contact us to schedule

Email [info@3c-ren.org](mailto:info@3c-ren.org) or call  
3C-REN Guest Speaker Liaison  
Lisa Eklund at (805) 290-0691

### Topics Offered

#### GREEN BUILDING 101

Through examples of historic and contemporary projects, we will discuss how buildings impact the environment and provide an overview of green building strategies to help mitigate those impacts. We will touch on site, materials, healthy interiors and water, then focus on energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

#### GREEN BUILDING CAREERS 101

We will identify a wide variety of careers from developers and designers to builders and inspectors and discuss their potential roles in green building. We will highlight 'green careers' such as energy performance modeling, HVAC technician and renewable energy contractor, as well as discuss how any career can be practiced sustainably.

#### HEATING, COOLING, AND VENTILATION

We will introduce building mechanical systems, developing student awareness of space conditioning and how it relates to energy efficiency and healthy interiors. Depending on class experience, we will discuss heat pumps for space conditioning, the role of the building envelope in comfort and efficiency, and options for ventilation.

#### WATER EFFICIENCY

We will review the primary uses and quantities of water for buildings, interior and exterior, and review the energy-water nexus to illustrate how saving water saves energy. We will discuss hot water systems and, depending on class experience, highlight all-electric heat pump water heaters as an emerging field.

#### ENERGY PERFORMANCE AND ZERO NET CARBON

California building codes are moving toward Zero Net Carbon—energy efficient buildings that are all-electric with zero net carbon emissions. We'll discuss an integrated approach to ZNC with a focus on energy efficiency, on-site renewable energy systems, and battery storage. Depending on class experience, we will discuss how to size and locate photovoltaic (PV) panels and how renewable energy connects with the wider power grid. May be presented as one class or two, depending on level of detail desired.

Each presentation can be adapted to fit your program's needs.

# High Performance Fundamentals Series and Certificate

1. High Performance Buildings & Careers
2. Using Building Science to Design and Build High Performance Homes
3. Crafting High Performance Enclosures: Roofs, Walls, and Floors
4. Water Heating Distribution Best Practices
5. Heat Pump Fundamentals: Space Conditioning and Water Heating
6. Home Assessments for Decarbonization



## High Performance Fundamentals

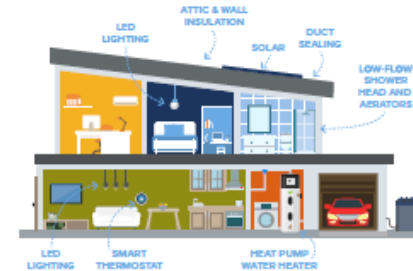
*Class Series and Certificate*



Are you interested in a career in construction or design?  
Do you want to add to your skills and stand out on the job site?  
Are you a tradesperson, contractor or designer working to build the best buildings for your clients?

3C-REN's High-Performance Fundamentals Series will instruct students, new professionals, and current building-industry professionals on the basics of building science and the value of high-performing buildings.

High-performance buildings are more than just "green building." These buildings improve the health, safety and comfort of occupants while reducing energy costs and carbon footprints. This leads to happier customers and increased value for your career or business.



In each training, expert instructors will focus on best industry practices and new building technologies that will elevate your career or business in construction and design.



Earn a 3C-REN certificate of completion after finishing the series and passing short quizzes at the end of each class.

**Register now for the free series offered this April to June.  
See next page for a full class list and sign-up.**

# Zero Net Carbon Design

- In-person trainings recently offered in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara
- 5-part online series for AIA Ventura begins May 23rd
  - Course topics:
    - Targeting ZNCD
    - Energy Performance
    - Energy-Water Nexus
    - Reducing Embodied Carbon
    - Regenerative Design in Practice

Learn More: <https://www.3c-ren.org/calendar-of-events-and-trainings/>



Presented with AIA California Central Coast

## Zero Net Carbon Design

Thursday, February 9 & Thursday, March 9, 2023

8:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
*Doors open at 8:00 AM for coffee, snacks and networking*

**RRM Design Group**  
3765 S Higuera St # 102  
San Luis Obispo, CA

**Attendance is Free**  
*Provided through 3C-REN funded by rate payer dollars*

**Registration:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zero-net-carbon-design-part-1-tickets-489957555237>



This course is centered around Zero Net Carbon Design (ZNCD), beginning with background and an overview of carbon in the building industry, then focused content on energy performance and renewable energy, water-savings as energy-savings, embodied carbon and finally regenerative design.

Spread over two morning sessions, 2 ½ hours each, the course has been developed to fulfill the new California requirement for architects to have five hours of ZNCD education as part of their license renewal. Although created with architects in mind, the content is broadly applicable across the building industry.

Learning objectives (over the 5 hours of learning)

- Understand zero net carbon, the fuel mix of the power grid and other factors that influence California's energy code
- Differentiate between operational and embodied carbon, and identify key metrics and mitigations
- Be able to describe the energy-water nexus and compare water saving strategies
- Review Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and tools for evaluating embodied carbon
- Be able to differentiate between regenerative and sustainable design strategies and available standards and certifications

Presenters Include

Jennifer Rennick  
AIA, Certified Energy Analyst

Andy Pease  
AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Michelle Zimney  
LEED AP BD+C, LFA, CPHC

5 AIA HSW/CA ZNCD Learning Units

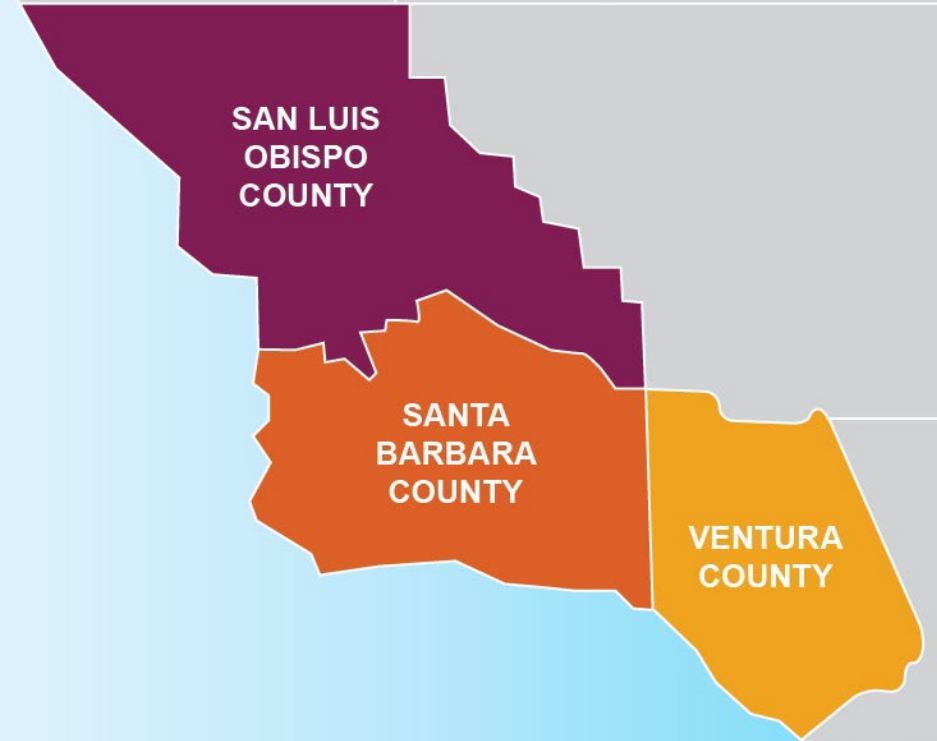


# New Business Plan



# New Programs Coming to the Region via 3C-REN

- New Business Plan for Programs Starting in 2024
  - Public Sector
  - Commercial Sector, and
  - Agriculture Sector
- \$155,367,654 of Rate Payer Funding Coming to the Region if approved by the CPUC



# Learn More

## Events and Training

[3c-ren.org/events](https://3c-ren.org/events)

## Energy Code Coach

[3c-ren.org/codes](https://3c-ren.org/codes)  
805.220.9991

## Home Energy Savings

[3c-ren.org/home](https://3c-ren.org/home)







**Get Involved!**

Visit [3C-REN.org](https://3C-REN.org)

For questions:

[info@3C-REN.org](mailto:info@3C-REN.org) or  
[Ian.logan@ventura.org](mailto:Ian.logan@ventura.org)



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK  
SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA





**Questions?**





## VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 S Victoria Avenue · Ventura, California 93009  
(805)654-3874 [vcrea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcrea.admin@ventura.org)  
[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

*Collaborating to address good energy stewardship in the Ventura County region*

### Memo

May 17, 2023

RE: ITEM 13- RECEIVE AND FILE THE PROGARM UPDATE

Support Letters have been submitted.



## VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 S Victoria Avenue · Ventura, California 93009  
(805)654-3874 [vcrea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcrea.admin@ventura.org)  
[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

*Collaborating to address good energy stewardship in the Ventura County region*



April 26, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
1020 O Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Continued Funding Request: California Green Business Program**

Dear Chair Skinner and Chair Ting:

I write to you today on behalf of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) to request the Legislature maintain investments in critically important funding for the California Green Business Program (Program), currently funded by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). The Program, managed by the non-profit California Green Business Network (CAGBN), has received \$7 million in state funding over the last five fiscal years. This state funding has allowed the Program to be implemented locally by counties, cities, and other local government agencies. In our region, the Ventura County Green Business Program (VCGB) is implemented by VCREA and state funding covers staff time, business rebates, and language translation support. Additionally, because of state funding, CAGBN has expanded into new jurisdictions and new business sectors including nail salons and agriculture. Unfortunately, state funding has always been one-time, and the most recent appropriation (appropriated in FY 2021-22) is set to run out in Fall 2023. Due to the growth of the Program and the continued role it will play in ensuring the “greening” of California’s small and medium businesses, **the Program is requesting a \$3 million appropriation for both FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, for a total of \$6 million.**

Green Business certification programs certify small and medium businesses that voluntarily adopt environmentally preferable business practices, including, but not limited to, increased energy efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, water conservation, pollution prevention, and waste reduction. If done correctly, all of these environmentally friendly changes can help small and medium businesses save money by reducing operating costs, while helping California achieve its environmental policy goals. The Program delivers technical assistance to these businesses and validates sustainable business activities, strengthens the green marketplace, and tracks measurable outcomes. CAGBN works closely with CalEPA, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and CalRecycle to develop satisfactory certification practices.

As noted, the Program targets a critical sector of California’s business community, which contributes positively to the economy but may lack expertise, time, knowledge, and funding to implement important environmentally preferable business practices, even if it would benefit their bottom line. The Program also helps many small and medium sized businesses take advantage

of available rebates and resources that the businesses may not be familiar with.

Collectively, as of early 2023, businesses in the VCGB jurisdiction annually save an estimated:

- 1,590,22 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>e
- 7,613,527 gallons of water
- 1,891,251, lbs. of waste diverted from landfills
- 2,316,495, kWhs
- 69,315 therms

The Program is a proven, cost-effective investment and California should maintain funding in the Program to ensure its continued success. The additional investment made as part of this budget request will help the state accomplish its air quality, waste diversion, water conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, and environmental policy goals, while helping small to medium businesses' bottom line and resiliency.

Looking ahead, the VCGB aims to certify 140 businesses by 2030, contributing to the overall goals of the statewide California Green Business Network for greenhouse gas emissions reductions, water conservation, and solid waste diversion, to name a few metrics. Continued investment in the Program will allow it to grow and work towards achieving these long-term program goals. Continued investment is also an investment in small and medium sized businesses, our community, and in the environment.

For these reasons, we strongly support CAGBN's request for \$3 million in funding annually for the next two fiscal years. I greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure investment in this valuable program.

Sincerely,



Alejandra Tellez  
VCREA Executive Director

Cc: Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins Senator.Atkins@senate.ca.gov  
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Members of the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees  
Senator Monique Limon  
Assembly Member Steve Bennett  
CAGBN info@greenbusinessca.org



April 3, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
 Governor, State of California  
 State Capitol, First Floor  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
 Senate President pro Tempore  
 State Capitol, Room 8518  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
 Speaker of the Assembly  
 State Capitol, Room 219  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
 Chair, Senate Committee on Budget  
 State Capitol, Room 8630  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting  
 Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
 State Capitol, Room 8230  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Josh Becker  
 Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2  
 State Capitol, Room 7250  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett  
 Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3  
 State Capitol, Room 4710  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Proposed Climate Program Cuts in the Governor's January Proposed Budget**

Dear State Leadership:

On behalf of the 45 undersigned agencies and organizations, representing a diverse coalition of dedicated organizations working to advance climate action and resilience-building efforts across the state, we urge you to fully restore the proposed cuts to vital climate and energy programs in the Governor's January Proposed Budget.

We commend State leaders for elevating California as a climate leader on the global stage through your ongoing commitments and actions to address the rapidly worsening impacts of climate change and by targeting investments to support our state's most under-resourced and vulnerable communities. Through your leadership, the State has adopted ambitious policies, piloted effective programs, and created innovative financing models, many of which are now being replicated across our nation and beyond.

**While State investments and commitments to-date have established California as a global climate leader, California remains on the frontlines of climate-induced disasters.**

In addition to the deadly wildfires, droughts, extreme heat events, and floods that have devastated communities in recent years, this winter brought a series of atmospheric river storms that our most vulnerable communities are still grappling with. These record-breaking storms have taken the lives of dozens of Californians, forced tens of thousands to evacuate, and left hundreds of thousands stranded. Communities across the state – coastal and inland, urban and rural – are still experiencing multiple and shifting isolated areas due to flooding, fallen trees, downed power lines, compromised transportation infrastructure, and mudslides making critical roadways impassable. Collapsed roofs, flooded buildings, damaged levees, and contaminated agricultural fields are just some of the initial storm impacts that require immediate attention. Rebuilding from the full aftermath of these storms will come at a hefty price for the State and impacted local jurisdictions, businesses, and homeowners; costs that could have been avoided with earlier investments in climate-resilient infrastructure.

**These recent storms serve as wakeup call for the urgent need to invest in climate resilience and a somber reminder that the worst of climate change has yet to arrive.**

We recognize that the magnitude, pace, and catastrophic impacts of climate change in California have been extraordinary and devastating, putting our families and neighbors in harm's way today and into the future. The combined effects of extreme heat, wildfires, drought, flooding, and sea level rise are rapidly accelerating, threatening the lives, public health, and safety of millions of Californians and nearly every industry that drives our economy – both locally and as a state. As climate impacts accelerate, State investments must also accelerate to protect and prepare California communities and businesses to not only survive, but thrive in the face of a changing climate. Fully restoring State climate investments to match prior commitments is one important step towards sustaining and growing the level of investments needed to address the existential crisis of climate change.

We also recognize that climate impacts will not be felt uniformly. Historically marginalized and under-resourced communities that have shouldered the largest health burdens and face the greatest economic barriers, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)



communities, unhoused populations, people with disabilities, and low-income households, will continue to be disproportionately impacted by climate change. The State has made tremendous progress towards centering policy and investment decisions in equity; however, the proposed cuts to climate programs will hinder this important progress and directly impact our most vulnerable communities.

**Restoring the proposed climate program cuts will demonstrate your leadership, not only during budget surplus years but especially when faced with budget challenges.**

While the climate crisis may seem insurmountable, it is important to recognize that the widespread and interconnected nature of climate impacts also extends to the benefits that will be realized through early and coordinated action to build resilience. Enhancing the resilience of any one system (e.g., energy) will enhance the resilience of others (e.g., transportation), and the scale of climate impacts that we face in California requires immediate investments across all sectors to set this positive cycle in motion. On the other hand, cutting funds for climate programs will have major implications for the state, particularly the health and wellbeing of Californians, community livability, and economic vitality. We fully acknowledge that difficult budget decisions lie ahead, and believe that climate investments could be the key to addressing this year's budget deficit by leveraging these investments to advance multi-benefit solutions and support other State priorities, such as workforce development and affordable housing.

With federal funding on the horizon and growing momentum for climate action in local communities, now is the time for the State to increase climate investments. Communities across California have made tremendous progress in assessing climate risks and developing adaptation strategies and plans informed by best-available science, cutting-edge models, and robust public input. We cannot afford to waste the resources invested into developing these plans, including the collective time donated by stakeholders and community members to engage in plan development, by allowing the implementation of these plans to remain unfunded. Fully funding the State's climate budget package will help put these plans into action, catalyze planning efforts in communities where comprehensive adaptation plans are absent, and build community and organizational capacity to successfully pursue federal funds.

Cutting or delaying climate funding will only increase costs in the future. [According to the Global Commission on Adaptation](#), "the overall rate of return on investments in improved resilience is very high, with benefit-cost ratios ranging from 2:1 to 10:1, and in some cases even higher." Numerous additional studies have found that early action to build climate resilience will generate high returns on investments resulting from a combination of avoided losses, economic benefits, and social and environmental benefits. As the world's fourth largest economy, California stands to gain (or lose) tremendously, depending on the level of State investments in climate resilience.

**We thank you for your ongoing leadership and respectfully urge the State to fully restore budget allocations for climate programs to match the level of prior State commitments.**

Thank you for your time in considering our comments. We greatly appreciate your ongoing leadership and commitment to creating an equitable, climate-resilient California, and remain committed to partnering with state agencies to achieve our shared goals. Please do not hesitate



to contact Julia Kim at [jkim@civicwell.org](mailto:jkim@civicwell.org) if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of our comments further.

Respectfully,

Roger Dickinson, *Policy Director*  
**CivicWell**

Kimberley White, *Councilmember*  
**City of Arcata**

Salvador Solorio-Ruiz, *Councilmember*  
**City of Delano**

Max Perrey, *Councilmember*  
**City of Mill Valley**

Soheila Bana, *Councilmember*  
**City of Richmond**

Fred Keeley, *Mayor*  
**City of Santa Cruz**

John Haschak, *3rd District Supervisor*  
**Mendocino County**

Suzanne Smith, *Executive Director*  
**Sonoma County Regional Climate  
Protection Authority**

Michael McCormick, *BayCAN Director*  
**Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network**

Daniel Gluesenkamp, *Executive Director*  
**California Institute for Biodiversity**

Heather Allen, *Chair*  
**Central Coast Climate Collaborative**

Em Johnson, *Director of Climate Resilience*  
**Community Environmental Council**

Leslie Alden, *Executive Director*  
**Drawdown Bay Area**

Kirsten Liske, *VP Community Programs*  
**Ecology Action**

Alex Stillman, *Councilmember*  
**City of Arcata**

José Trinidad Castañeda, *Councilmember*  
**City of Buena Park**

Joy Lyndes, *Deputy Mayor*  
**City of Encinitas**

Peggy Flynn, *City Manager*  
**City of Petaluma**

Sudhanshu Jain, *Councilmember*  
**City of Santa Clara**

Anne Cottrell, *Supervisor, District 3*  
**Napa County**

Das Williams, *Supervisor*  
**Santa Barbara County**

Sascha Petersen, *Founder and Director*  
**Adaptation International**

Emilie Mazzacurati, *Managing Director*  
**Caeli Strategy LLC**

Victoria Vasquez, *Grants & Public Policy  
Manager*  
**California ReLeaf**

Ben Schwart, *Policy Manager*  
**Clean Coalition**

Ann Edminster, *Founder/Principal*  
**Design AVEnues LLC**

Jacqueline Zipkin, *General Manager*  
**East Bay Dischargers Authority**

Michael McCormick, *President*  
**Farallon Strategies**

Tonya Graham, *Executive Director*  
**Geos Institute**

Zoe Siegel, *Senior Director of Climate Resilience*  
**Greenbelt Alliance**

Lisa Baker, *Owner*  
**Lisa A Baker Consulting**

Nancy Black, *Cofounder*  
**Mercury Press International**

Matthew Baker, *Policy Director*  
**Planning and Conservation League**

Angie Hacker, *CEO*  
**Prosper Sustainably**

Jessica Sanders, *Executive Director*  
**Sacramento Tree Foundation**

Darbi Berry, *Director*  
**San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative**

Heather Allen, *Program Administrator*  
**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance**

Carol DiBenedetto, *Strategic Fund Development*  
**Go for the Green Strategies**

Jonathan Hammond, *Principal*  
**Indigo Hammond + Playle Architects, LLP**

Erin Coutts, *Executive Director*  
**Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC)**

Mark Northcross, *Principal*  
**NHA Advisors**

Winifred Creason, *Principal*  
**Plant Stars**

Gopal Shanker, *President*  
**Récolte Energy**

Pamela Gray Payton, *VP/Chief Impact and Partnerships Officer*  
**San Diego Foundation**

Ben Stapleton, *Executive Director*  
**USGBC-LA**

*CC: Christy Bouma, Kip Lipper, Marie Liu, Shy Forbes, Christian Griffith, Nicole Vazquez, Elise Wynne, and Joanne Roy.*



# VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 S Victoria Avenue · Ventura, California 93009

(805)654-3874 [vcrea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcrea.admin@ventura.org)

[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

*Collaborating to address good energy stewardship in the Ventura County region*

## Board of Directors

*City of Fillmore*  
Christina Villaseñor  
*City of Port Hueneme*  
Laura Hernandez  
*City of Oxnard*  
Gabriela Basua  
*City of Santa Paula*  
Andy Sobel  
*City of Simi Valley*  
Mike Judge  
*City of Thousand Oaks*  
David Newman  
*City of Ventura*  
Liz Campos  
*County of Ventura*  
Matt LaVere  
*Calleguas Municipal Water District*  
Scott Quady  
*Ventura County Community College District*  
Bernardo Perez  
*Ventura Regional Sanitation District*  
William Ulrich  
*Ventura Unified School District*  
Sabrena Rodriguez

## Participating Cities

City of Camarillo  
City of Moorpark  
City of Ojai

March 20, 2023

Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone: (916) 758-0597  
E-mail: [abby.edwards@opr.ca.gov](mailto:abby.edwards@opr.ca.gov)

### **Re: Letter in support of the Community Environmental Council's Grant Application to the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program for the Central Coast Heat Action Plan**

Dear ICARP Grant Review Committee,

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) is pleased to offer our support for Community Environmental Council's application to implement a collaborative planning process to address extreme heat impacts throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. We are proud to partner on this project alongside County of Santa Barbara, County of Ventura, Central Coast Climate Justice Network, and Ventura County Community Foundation. Together we are seeking \$650,000 from the ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant program to launch the Central Coast Heat Action Coalition resulting in the development of an overarching adaptation plan for extreme heat resilience in the three counties.

The Central Coast Extreme Heat Coalition will engage those most impacted by extreme heat to identify and prioritize community led solutions that reduce its impacts, with particular emphasis on the economic and health disparities related thereto. To ensure this process leads to action, the core grant partners will align our findings with existing regional and state adaptation priorities in a regional Heat Action Plan. The plan will be crafted to ensure that local and regional agencies and community partners will be resource-ready to apply for funding and implement its priority solutions to make vulnerable neighborhoods resilient to extreme heat.

VCREA is a Joint Powers Authority representing the County of Ventura, ten incorporated cities, and four special districts working in collaboration to develop and implement sustainable initiatives that support sensible growth, healthy environment and economy, enhanced quality of life, inclusion and equity, and greater self-reliance for the region. We stand ready to partner to build a more resilient Central Coast for and with our vulnerable communities.

VCREA supports Community Environmental Council's request on behalf of our

extreme heat action partners. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather Allen, VCREA Program Administrator, at (805) 654-2871 or [heather.allen@ventura.org](mailto:heather.allen@ventura.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Allen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heather Allen  
VCREA Program Administrator



# VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 S Victoria Avenue · Ventura, California 93009

(805)654-3874 [vcrea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcrea.admin@ventura.org)

[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

*Collaborating to address good energy stewardship in the Ventura County region*

## Board of Directors

*City of Fillmore*  
Christina Villaseñor  
*City of Port Hueneme*  
Laura Hernandez  
*City of Oxnard*  
Gabriela Basua  
*City of Santa Paula*  
Andy Sobel  
*City of Simi Valley*  
Mike Judge  
*City of Thousand Oaks*  
David Newman  
*City of Ventura*  
Liz Campos  
*County of Ventura*  
Matt LaVere  
*Calleguas Municipal Water District*  
Scott Quady  
*Ventura County Community College District*  
Bernardo Perez  
*Ventura Regional Sanitation District*  
William Ulrich  
*Ventura Unified School District*  
Sabrena Rodriguez

## Participating Cities

City of Camarillo  
City of Moorpark  
City of Ojai

February 28, 2023

Mr. Colby McFarland  
Office of Planning & Environment  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

### **Subject: Support for Gold Coast Transit District's Submission to FTA's FY 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Program**

Dear Mr. McFarland:

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) is pleased to offer this letter of support for Gold Coast Transit District's (GCTD) Scheduling and Dispatching Modernization Project submitted in response to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Fiscal Year 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. VCREA is a Joint Powers Authority representing the County of Ventura, ten incorporated cities, and four special districts working in collaboration to address good energy stewardship and achieve climate goals. VCREA is the administrator of the Ventura County Regional EV Ready Blueprint, which is intended to accelerate and support equitable electric vehicle and charging infrastructure deployment throughout Ventura County.

Many of the communities that VCREA and GCTD serve have a median household income below the regional average and include multiple census tracts highlighted in federal and state environmental justice screening tools as facing environmental and socioeconomic disadvantages. GCTD's project will hasten their service planning process allowing the agency to be more responsive to the evolving needs within these communities. Specifically, the project will allow staff to explore offering innovative transportation options in areas of persistent poverty that would increase access to jobs and advance educational opportunities for residents. GCTD also leads the effort in western Ventura County to transition public transit to zero-emissions vehicles. The proposed advanced planning software is critical to the successful incorporation of new technology that will reduce emissions and improve air quality throughout the community, protecting public health and the environment.

This project will significantly enhance GCTD's efforts to support underserved and environmental justice populations by removing existing barriers within the communities it serves. Improving GCTD's service planning process will result in a more responsive, environmentally responsible, and higher quality transit service delivered to the citizens and transit riders of Ventura County.

For these reasons, VCREA is pleased to support this project, which will improve the existing transportation network to facilitate greater mobility options and increased connectivity for communities in need. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather Allen, VCREA Program Administrator, at (805) 654-2871 or [heather.allen@ventura.org](mailto:heather.allen@ventura.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Allen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Heather Allen  
VCREA Program Administrator





## VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 S Victoria Avenue · Ventura, California 93009

(805)654-3874 [vcrea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcrea.admin@ventura.org)

[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

*Collaborating to address good energy stewardship in the Ventura County region*

### Board of Directors

*City of Fillmore*

Christina Villaseñor

*City of Port Hueneme*

Laura Hernandez

*City of Oxnard*

Gabriela Basua

*City of Santa Paula*

Andy Sobel

*City of Simi Valley*

Mike Judge

*City of Thousand Oaks*

David Newman

*City of Ventura*

Liz Campos

*County of Ventura*

Matt LaVere

*Calleguas Municipal  
Water District*

Scott Quady

*Ventura County  
Community College  
District*

Bernardo Perez

*Ventura Regional  
Sanitation District*

William Ulrich

*Ventura Unified  
School District*

Sabrena Rodriguez

### Participating Cities

City of Camarillo

City of Moorpark

City of Ojai

April 28, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden

Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations

1021 O Street, Suite 8220

Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Subject: AB 953 (Connolly and Hart) – Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction & Sustainable Shipping Program**

Dear Chair Holden:

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) is pleased to offer our support for AB 953 (Connolly and Hart), which will develop a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction (VSR) and sustainable shipping program for the California coast to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts. Specifically, the statewide program will provide publicity to participants, collect data on program benefits, and will provide financial incentives to participants to the extent funding is available. This program would build upon the existing *Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies VSR* program for coastal areas of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and the Bay Area, expanding to include Monterey, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and the North Coast, which would yield additional public health and ecosystem benefits. This bill would task the Ocean Protection Council, in coordination with California air districts along the coast and in consultation with the United States Coast Guard, the federal Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Navy, the State Air Resources Board, and other stakeholders, to create a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast.

Since the *Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies* program's inception in 2014 through 2021, it has achieved 526,211 slow speed miles, a reduction of more than 2,300 tons of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), a reduction of over 76,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and an estimated 50 percent decreased risk of fatal whale strikes during prime migration season in the targeted coastal areas. This program has encouraged ocean-going container vessels and other ships to voluntarily travel 10 knots or less in the designated areas to reduce air pollution and harmful whale strikes by providing small incentives and publicity to program participants.

Every year, the world's largest container ships and auto carriers make thousands of transits along the California coast, with an estimated 120 tons per day of NOx, a major contributor to smog and acid rain, being emitted within 100 nautical miles of the coast. These emissions negatively affect the public health of coastal communities and cause some areas of the coast to exceed national and state ambient air quality standards.

However, ocean-going vessels are not subject to any state or federal engine requirements that can guarantee emission reductions.

VCREA is a Joint Powers Authority representing the County of Ventura, ten incorporated cities, and four special districts working in collaboration to develop and implement sustainable initiatives that support a healthy environment and economy. VCREA assists in regional planning to mitigate and address impacts from climate change. Accordingly, we support AB 953 because expanding the VSR and sustainable shipping program for the entire California coast would improve air quality and community health, reduce fuel use and regional greenhouse gas emissions, and protect whales. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our comments on this important piece of legislation and urge you to support AB 953 when it comes before you for consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather Allen, VCREA Program Administrator, at (805) 654-2871 or [heather.allen@ventura.org](mailto:heather.allen@ventura.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Allen".

Heather Allen  
VCREA Program Administrator

cc: The Honorable Damon Connolly, Assemblymember, 12th District  
The Honorable Gregg Hart, Assemblymember, 37th District  
Members of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Aeron Arlin Genet, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District