

Response to Questions from the November 29, 2023 presentation to the California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC) and Other Stakeholders

GOVERNANCE

“Would SDCP bring forward any SDREN program design ideas to its Community Advisory Committee or to a similar body at the County?”

SDCP conducted a market characterization as a part of developing programs for the Business Plan. Stakeholder outreach was conducted including over 25+ presentations to stakeholders in the region. A consistent theme of feedback from stakeholders, which included CBOs, was the challenges of program outreach to hard-to-reach communities. Noted as such, in the program development, the SDCP consulted its Community Advisory Committee as well as countywide bodies and smaller groups that represent the diversity of the counties. The community will continue to play a critical role in the development and implementation of plans and programs in the future.

“Can you explain SDREN’s governance structure? Is SDREN a division within SDCP that will report to the same Board?”

SDREN is not a division of SDCP. SDREN is proposed to have a county-wide footprint and will be led by both SDCP and the County of San Diego. The staffing of SDREN will be similar to SoCalREN’s structure. SDCP personnel will primarily staff SDREN, but it is not considered a division. The County and SDCP are responsible for portfolio oversight and administration. SDCP holds the lead portfolio administrator role to take on legal, financial obligation, and associated risk.

“How will the Advisory Committee be created? Specifically the makeup, criteria qualifications, DEI, and compensation support.”

Details of the Advisory Committee will be finalized after authorization is provided by the CPUC. It will be multi-jurisdictional to represent SDREN’s full territory. SDREN acknowledges the precedence and benefits of compensation. SDCP has a Community Advisory Committee that is compensated, and so does San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). We are waiting until authorization to commit to the final makeup and structure of the Advisory Committee.

PROGRAMS

“How will SDREN ensure success in MF where so many have had challenges?”

SDREN recognizes that the multi-family sector is a challenging segment to serve and represents 40% of the residential customers so it's crucial that effective energy efficiency programs are designed and delivered to this sector. SDREN will learn from all previous and current multi-family

programs in the state that have been implemented both by RENs and IOUs to borrow what has been successful and adapt them to the unique multi-family barriers in San Diego County. SDREN is confident that we will build on the experiences of other programs to deliver energy efficiency services to this important segment.

“Who will deliver services to residential customers, their eligibility criteria if they are home improvement contractors and the draw for them to participate in the program?”

SDREN will work with local trusted partners who will conduct engagement and outreach who would determine eligibility for appropriate programs that would go beyond SDREN programs. All SDREN programs will be solicited and be implemented by third party providers. SDREN WE&T programs will also support training and recruitment for SDREN programs, such as the residential program.

“How will savings be measured in residential and multifamily programs?”

Savings will be measured in residential and multi-family by utilizing deemed measures that are currently approved and active in the ETRM (the technical reference manual database) and follow the statewide deemed work paper rule book. Projects that are more appropriate for customer meter-based approaches will be funneled to other programs as appropriate.

“What is the timeline for the direct install program?”

SDREN anticipates launching programs by 2025 pending CPUC Authorization.

“Have tribes in the region been approached about the tribal program?”

SDREN used guidance from the County of San Diego’s Tribal liaison and other regional stakeholders that suggested waiting to approach Tribes about Tribal programs specifically. The Tribal program is intended to be designed in partnership with the Tribes and/or with Tribal partners. SDREN is following this guidance and will engage with Tribes about programs once the plan is approved and a more tangible offering is available. If approved, SDREN would work together with the Tribes to develop the details of that program.

“How will SDREN work with labor representatives and unions for the Workforce, Education & Training programs?”

SDREN is talking to labor partners regularly and they intend to work with them on the development of the workforce education training programs. SDREN hopes that labor partners

will join the advisory committee, which won't be built out until SDREN is approved. In the meantime, we'll continue the relationship with labor partners into EE programs.

“How will small businesses and diverse businesses be directly engaged as contractors and subcontractors, given that they are most knowledgeable about community and energy needs?”

As SDREN is soliciting third-party vendors for program implementation, additional details such as program outreach strategy will be forthcoming. SDREN will work to incorporate strategies that are culturally sensitive, in-language, work with trusted partners, and so on. SDREN has focused on small business in its early engagement and will continue to do so moving forward.

Will SDREN use third party implementers for any of its programs?

Yes. It is anticipated that most SDREN programs will be implemented by a third party.

Will some of the equity segment programs have TSB given the use of program approaches like Direct Install?

Yes, that is correct.

What are SDREN's plans for DEI regarding small emerging and women-owned businesses as well as minority women business contract procurement in all of their third party implementor solicitations? Will procurement barriers to local small emerging BIPOC-led implementers be addressed in the solicitation process and contract?

SDREN will be following the procurement process and requirements of SDCP.

Through the statewide Supplier Diversity Program, established by General Order 156 from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the state aims to connect an increasing portion of these utility expenses with CPUC-certified minority-owned, women-owned, disabled veteran-owned, and/or LGBTQ-owned businesses.

Per California Senate Bill 255 (2019), community choice aggregators (CCAs) like SDCP are required to report to the CPUC on spending with diverse businesses, as defined by CPUC General Order 156. SDCP's Annual Reports can be found here:
<https://sdcommunitypower.org/supplier-diversity/>

To assist SDCP with its reporting obligations under Public Utilities Code Section 366.2(m) and with evaluating its supplier outreach and other activities, proposers that are awarded the contract will be asked to voluntarily disclose their certification status with the CPUC

Clearinghouse, as well as their efforts to work with diverse business enterprises, including WBEs, MBEs, DVBEs, and LGBTBEs.

To increase the diversity of contractors and services that are utilized by SDREN, SDCP plans to post SDREN solicitations to the Supplier Clearinghouse portal which is visible to certified businesses. While SDCP, as a public agency, is subject to Proposition 209 constraints that prohibit preferential contracting based on race, sex, and ethnicity, it conducts outreach at events such as the CPUC Small Business Expo and within its own community to educate suppliers on the benefits of certification.

GENERAL FEEDBACK

SDG&E notes that in alignment with D.19-12-21, SDG&E, SDCP and consultants have coordinated over several meetings all in support of the San Diego Region and that this partnership has been really informative and beneficial. SDREN will be the first REN in SDG&E territory if approved and the proposal seeks to fill existing gaps, including Tribal communities. SDG&E is committed to continued coordination to reduce duplication and confusion of programs. The proposed budget of \$125M over 4 years is incremental to SDG&E's \$310M, and that SDG&E customers will absorb the total cost of SDG&E and SDREN through the Public Purpose Program Charge, which ultimately increases rates for customers. An ongoing portfolio optimization is essential to ensure that customers are receiving the greatest value possible for their energy efficiency investment while ensuring affordability and efficacy. SDG&E hopes for continued coordination and cooperation with SDREN as their motion is considered by the CPUC.

Congratulations on the proposed SDREN proposal. Getting to this point is a success and they look forward to what SDREN can accomplish for its communities!

I-REN acknowledges and thanks SDREN for reaching out to the other RENs (including I-REN) prior to submitting the business plan and looks forward to continued collaboration.

I am from San Diego and have heard excitement from community members. Thanked the team for the presentation.

I am looking forward to seeing any SDREN progress.