



Membership Agreement with the UCR Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy / Solar Valley Consortium

Riverside Public Utilities

Board of Public Utilities
November 13, 2023

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BACKGROUND

SC-RISE/Solar Valley Consortium

- 1. Created by the University of California Riverside Center for Environmental Research & Technology (CE-CERT)**
- 2. Mission**
 - a. Establish a valuable source of data on solar projects and installations
 - b. Advocate and support public policies for residential, commercial, and utility-scale solar projects
 - c. Promote the creation of local clean energy jobs, job training programs and attraction of solar energy and storage companies to the region
 - d. Contribute to education as to the value of solar energy as part of the region's sustainable energy future
- 3. All memberships held in the name of the City of Riverside must be approved by the City Council**
 - a. A recommendation is also sought by the Board of Public Utilities supporting RPU's participation because the mission aligns with RPU's mission 2



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DISCUSSION

1. Riverside joined SC-RISE / Solar Valley Consortium in 2021

- a. Item extends this membership for two years

2. Membership benefits

- a. One City appointee position on the organization's Leadership Council
- b. Provides the City with a voice on important local and regional solar energy public policy research
- c. Provides access to Consortium events and member publications

3. Aligns with and supports meeting State and City goals

- a. State goals – by 2045 provide 100% zero-carbon electricity resources for electricity sold to customers and achieve economy-wide carbon neutrality
- b. City goals are the same but with a target year of 2040



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority 4 - Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.1 - Rapidly decrease Riverside's carbon footprint by acting urgently to reach a zero-carbon electric grid with the goal of reaching 100% zero-carbon electricity production by 2040 while continuing to ensure safe, reliable and affordable energy for all residents.

Goal 4.6 - Implement the requisite measures to achieve citywide carbon neutrality no later than 2040.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility

Sustainability &
Resiliency

Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend the City Council:

1. Approve the City's Membership Agreement with University of California Riverside Southern California Research Initiative for a two-year term with Solar Energy (SC-RISE)/Solar Valley Consortium in the annual amount of \$5,000 through FY 2024/25;
2. Designate Public Utilities General Manager or their designee as the designee to represent the City of Riverside at meetings of the SC-Rise/Solar Valley Consortium meetings; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or their designee, to sign and execute all necessary membership documents, including making minor and non-substantive changes.



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