

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: MAY 10, 2021

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE'S SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR SOLAR ENERGY/SOLAR VALLEY CONSORTIUM

ISSUE:

Consider recommending the City Council approve a Membership Agreement to the Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE)/Solar Valley Consortium of the University of California Riverside through Fiscal Year 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend the City Council:

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

BACKGROUND:

The SC-RISE/Solar Valley Consortium is a new organization created through the University of California Riverside Center for Environmental Research & Technology. The mission of the organization is to:

- Establish valuable source of data on solar projects and installations
- Advocate and support public policies for residential, commercial, and utility-scale solar projects
- Promote the creation of local clean energy jobs, job training programs and attraction of solar energy and storage companies to the region
- Contribute to education as to the value of solar energy as part of the region's sustainable energy future

All memberships held in the name of the City of Riverside must be approved by the City Council. Since this association is directly related to the mission of the Public Utilities department, a recommendation is sought by the Board of Public Utilities supporting our participation.

DISCUSSION:

SC-RISE/Solar Valley Consortium is in its start-up phase. The City of Riverside through the Public Utilities department was approached to join and participate in the organization. This coalition has Founding Members from the public sector (County of San Bernardino), private utility (Southern California Edison), private corporations and industry associations (Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity) who have already joined the organization. The membership provides the city one appointee position on the Leadership Council of the organization. It will provide the City a voice in the advocacy of local and regional solar energy public policy research. It also provides sponsorship to Consortium events, member publications and workshops.

In order for the utility to meets the state mandates of 100% electric generation from renewable sources by 2045 and the City Council strategic goal as part of the Riverside 2025 Plan to meet that state mandate by 2040, it is imperative that local and regional policies are developed to help support those aggressive goals in a way that does not burden our ratepayers with unnecessary costs. Leveraging the collective research and collaboration of this organization, the membership will benefit the City and its utility ratepayers by allowing us to advocate against unfunded mandates that are part of many public policies and support the most cost effective methods of generating solar energy for our customers.

Staff will return to the Board of Public Utilities and the City Council with an annual update on accomplishments and progress.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact to the Public Utilities department is the annual cost of membership, which is currently \$5,000. Sufficient funds are available in account 6000000-425200 for Fiscal Year 2020/21 and the proposed Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget to fund the cost of membership over the requested two-year period.

Prepared and	Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager
Approved by:	Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager
Approved by:	Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager
Approved as to form:	Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney
Certifies availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Attachments:

- 1) Membership Agreement with Attachments
 - a. Intellectual Property Rights and Confidentiality Agreement
 - b. Solar Valley Consortium Membership Benefits