



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: MAY 18, 2021**

**FROM: PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT      WARDS: ALL**

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

## **ISSUE:**

Approve a Membership Agreement and Intellectual Property Rights and Confidentiality Agreement with the Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE)/Solar Valley Consortium of the University of California Riverside through Fiscal Year 2022/23, a two-year period.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Approve Membership Agreement and Intellectual Property Rights and Confidentiality Agreement with University of California Riverside through Fiscal Year 2022/23 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.

## **BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

This report publishes on May 6, 2021 for the City Council meeting on May 18, 2021.

On May 10, 2021, the Board of Public Utilities will consider recommendation for the City Council to approve the Public Utilities' membership in the Southern California Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE)/Solar Valley Consortium of the University of California Riverside through Fiscal Year 2022/23, a two-year period. If the recommendation is approved by the Board of Public Utilities, the City Council is asked to consider the item at the May 18, 2021 City Council meeting.

## **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 was also sought by the Board of Public Utilities supporting RPU's 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 meet 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 is the annual cost of membership which is currently \$5,000. Sufficient funds are available in account 6000000-425200 for FY 2020/21 and the proposed FY 2021/22 budget to fund the cost of membership over the requested two-year period.

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

Attachments:

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