

## MEMO

**Submitted by:** Gerald Lahr, Energy Programs Manager

**To:** ABAG Regional Planning Committee

**Subject:** Bay Area Regional Energy Network

**Date:** May 29, 2012

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### Action

Recommend that the Regional Planning Committee support ABAG Executive Board approval of a resolution ratifying the submittal of a proposal to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the creation of a Bay Area Regional Energy Network (REN).

### Background

Over the years ABAG has been very involved in a variety of energy-related programs. These have included:

- ABAG POWER. Aggregated purchasing of electricity and natural gas for local government facilities.
- ABAG Energy Watch. Technical assistance to local governments to increase the efficiency of their facilities.
- Energy Benchmarking. Assistance benchmarking energy use in municipal facilities.
- GHG Emissions Inventories. Assistance to local governments in completing local government operations (LGO) and community-wide GHG emissions inventories.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Programs.
  - EV Planning – *Ready, Set, Charge California!*
  - EV Corridor – EV charger installations in publically accessible locations.
- Retrofit Bay Area (Energy Upgrade California). An \$11 million ARRA (*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*) funded program in collaboration with eight Bay Area counties. The program provided marketing and outreach, workforce development, and homeowner incentives to increase energy efficiency retrofits in the residential sector.

In addition, ABAG has been a participant in the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) which has advocated to the CPUC that local governments be given more responsibility and authority over public funds set aside for energy efficiency programs. These funds, to dated, have been distributed through investor-owned utilities such as Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). As part of this effort, in February the LGSEC submitted a motion to the CPUC requesting that Regional Energy Networks (RENS), comprised of local government entities, be given access to public funding to implement energy efficiency programs for their constituents. In early May the CPUC formally approved a decision covering energy efficiency programs for the 2013-14 period, and included in this decision is

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ABAG

an order that allows local governments to submit proposals to the CPUC for regional energy pilots during this program cycle.<sup>1</sup> Proposals are due on July 2, 2012.

As a result of this recent CPUC decision, ABAG has convened a steering committee of local government staff representing the nine Bay Area counties. This group has tentatively agreed to submit a collaborative proposal for a Bay Area REN with ABAG as the lead agency. It is expected that this proposal may include a variety of energy efficiency program areas such as: single-family residential; multifamily residential; municipal facilities; commercial buildings; codes and standards; project financing, emerging technologies, and workforce development.

## **Recommendation**

ABAG requests that the Regional Planning Committee recommend that the ABAG Executive Board approve a resolution ratifying submittal of the REN proposal.

Attachment: Draft Resolution.

cc: Pat Jones, Assistant Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> CPUC Decision 12-05-015.