Community Working Group Meeting 4

1/15/2026, 1:30pm-3:00pm

Attendees:

Working Group Members:

- Tom Evans
- Rose Mayes
- David Hahn
- Tom Donahue
- Matt Barth

Staff:

- Ryan McManus
- Andrew Galvan
- Trisha Hobbs
- Zoe Ridgway
- Fortino Morales
- Gil Hernandez
- David Garcia
- Mayor Particia Lock Dawson
- Nina Smith
- Tracy Sato
- Kelly Murillo

Meeting Minutes:

Overview of meetings 1-3

- Review of staff proposals and funding amounts

Idea discussion of utilization of remaining $14M of PB fund reserve

- The first three proposals use $15M, other $14M uses discussed

    - $5M - Energy Storage rebate
    - $10M – Community and Emergency Center Resiliency
    - $5M - UOC/EOC resiliency
- $9M proposed for residents impacted by RTRP visibility concerns
    - Would fund batteries and/or solar installations
- $1M proposed for inverters and other components required to convert customers with solar to provide Daylight Resiliency benefits
    - Staff to research the concept of Daylight Resiliency (solar + battery, designed to run critical circuits on solar power from daylight production during outages)
    - Solar to run specific circuits
- ~$1M for education, demonstration, displays at each facility designated as a Community/Emergency Centers
- Additional dollars above the proposed $500/kW to increase the battery rebate due to additional public benefits of battery storage installations.
    - Current proposed battery rebate would cover about 50% of cost to install a typical battery
    - Staff to research additional benefits of energy storage to maintain cost-effectiveness of the program
- Additional dollars should be used to expand ESAP
    - Utilizing the SCG/RPU vendor, Synergy
    - Expressed desire for increased RPU outreach

Other topics of discussion:

PB fund utilization is 70-80% on an ongoing basis.

Fire Threat vs. Fire Severity

- Fire threat maps are low in RPU territory due to risks associated with the electrical infrastructure.
- Maps last completed in 2012 by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).
    - Unknown when the CPUC would update the fire threat maps.

Energy Efficiency Programming

Participation rates:

- Does RPU do market research on participation rates?
    - RPU measures clicks, email opens, and other digital metrics

Senior Citizen outreach:

- Comments from the members:
    - More can be done to conduct outreach to the Senior community
    - Overcoming stigma is important
    - RPU should speak to Riverside County Office on Aging
    - Members have many more potential partnership ideas, invited to reach out to members for additional contacts
    - RPU should participate in the Fair Housing Conference
- RPU conducts events at senior centers and mobile home parks (MHP)

Member question: Does RPU conduct utility inspections for homeowners?

Member comments:

- Does/Can RPU give customers ideas for home improvements?
- People often do not know what they need or how to ask for it
- RPU should reach out to United Way
- RPU should educate 211 operators

Member comment: Regarding outreach literature

- RPU should provide communications at all community centers and facilities such as the Civil Rights Institute.

Member comment: ESAP questions

- What is the capture rate?
- RPU should reach out to Ward leadership and attend Ward meetings

RPU comments:

- ESAP is still offered

- Community is canvased every 5 years

Questions/comments from Members on Program administration:

- Contact property managers about program for permission
- Go out if there is interest, go door-to-door for outreach efforts

RPU comments:

- Contractor goes out, no-cost to the customer
- There is coordination between RPU and the vendor
- RPU can follow up and request statistics from vendor on efforts

Concept idea: University grants to study EE programs

Comments from Members:

- RPU should consider spending $1M-$10M on research opportunities for EE
- Potential to increase the current grants from $200k to $3M+ encouraging better grant proposals
- A grant idea would be to study the efficacy of the Tree Shade program and the associated EE savings