

ATTACHMENT B

Regional Collaboration and Community Engagement Progress Summary

CONTEXT

The Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice (OSEJ) is leading community engagement and regional collaboration as part of the Energy Access, Resilience, and Capacity Study (Energy ARC) to:

- Complement technical study components and outcomes with qualitative insights and information related to energy generation, storage, and access throughout the region;
- Build an understanding of community and local/regional agency awareness, concerns, and readiness for infill solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage installations and regional energy needs;
- Create frameworks for shared language and harmonized local and regional approaches to renewable energy system processes, programs, and policies; and
- Document best practices and desired co-benefits as recommendations for community-centered infill PV and battery storage installations to optimize the renewable energy system throughout the San Diego region.

The study's approach reflects the County of San Diego's (County) Regional Decarbonization Framework, which promotes public, private, and civic interests working together to achieve zero carbon emissions throughout the region by 2045. Engagement is structured to form meaningful connections and learn alongside four key interest-holder groups:

- Regional energy providers, which include agencies that procure and transmit energy (i.e., San Diego Gas & Electric, San Diego Community Power, and Clean Energy Alliance)
- Local and tribal governments, and regional agencies
- Subject matter experts and technical practitioners
- Community-based organizations and the general public

OSEJ is facilitating interviews, focus groups, meetings and workshops, listening sessions, and an online Engage page. Below is a summary of notable engagement activities in Energy ARC's first year, organized by key interest-holder group. With the exception of public meetings or conversations with large groups, information received as part of engagement activities is anonymized to allow participants to share openly about experiences, priorities, and ideas.

REGIONAL ENERGY PROVIDERS

Collaboration with regional energy providers was established early in the Energy ARC effort to streamline engagement, evaluate study datasets, share findings, and gather insights about activities of both Community Choice Aggregators (CCA) and the Investor-Owned Utility (IOU).

- **CCA Coordination Meetings** (monthly, ongoing): 10 discussions with CCA staff representing San Diego Community Power (SDCP) and Clean Energy Alliance (CEA).
- **San Diego Gas & Electric Scoping Meeting** (November 13, 2025): An introductory conversation with 15 SDG&E staff representing several teams that created a basis for ongoing collaboration.

LOCAL AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS, AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

So far, coordination with local and tribal governments and regional agencies has included 25 interviews and meetings with representatives of 17 local governments and agencies and eight Tribal Nations. These conversations yielded a high-level compilation of energy-related strengths and opportunities based on renewable energy priorities and activities, as well as previous community outreach and shared perspectives about lived experiences across our diverse region.

- **County Interdepartmental Coordination** (Ongoing): Regular communications with staff from Planning and Development Services, Department of General Services, Public

Health Services Office of Health Equity and Climate Change, Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs, and Office of Equity and Racial Justice. Also presented to the County Sustainability Task Force in December 2025.

- **San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative (SDRCC), Energy Working Group Meeting** (September 17, 2025): A discussion with 20 SDRCC members, who coordinate and contribute to local, regional, and statewide decarbonization efforts to build energy resilience and efficiency in the San Diego Region. The Energy Working Group continues to be a forum to advance the Energy ARC study.
- **Local Government and Regional Agency Interviews** (October 8 – December 22, 2025): Standardized questions were posed to staff from 13 local governments and four regional agencies to inform a strengths-based analysis of strategies for local governments and regional agencies that support a regional renewable energy system.
- **SANDAG Tribal Working Group Presentation** (January 14, 2026): An overview of the Energy ARC study to Tribal representatives advising the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).
- **TECC Board Presentation** (February 10, 2026): An introduction and invitation to contribute to the Energy ARC study for the Tribal Energy and Climate Collaborative Board (TECC), which identifies and advances the climate, energy, and related economic and workforce development goals of the Tribes of the Southern California Chairmen's Association.
- **Tribal Energy Workshop** (February 24, 2026): The first in a series of quarterly meetings, attended by 22 participants from the County, Tribes, and regional energy interest-holders to share energy initiatives relevant to Tribal energy priorities. Energy ARC was the catalyst for this gathering, which also included three other County-led initiatives: Battery Energy Storage Systems Zoning Ordinance Update, AI Data Centers research, and the San Diego Solar Equity Program County Pilot.

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS AND TECHNICAL PRACTITIONERS

Engagement with subject matter experts (SME) representing public and private sectors and academia offered technical insights about what is needed for successful infill PV and battery storage installations in the San Diego region.

- **Subject Matter Expert and Technical Practitioner Interviews** (January 15 – March 13, 2026): Standardized questions were posed to 19 SME and technical practitioners, including workforce development and energy-focused organizations, to gather local context on regional aspirations and barriers and inform more nuanced conversations with energy-impacted communities.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

To date, OSEJ has connected with more than 200 members of the general public and community-based organizations to raise awareness about the study and learn from energy-impacted communities to ensure that Energy ARC accounts for barriers to adoption and offers recommendations that benefit residents most burdened by the regional energy system.

- **CAUSE San Diego Conference** (October 9, 2025): A break-out session and tabling at the conference, where private sector, nonprofit, and community-based organizations and communities come together to develop and implement social impact strategies.
- **Regional Decarbonization Framework, Community Climate Conversations** (November 2025): A series of five events in Oceanside, El Cajon, Linda Vista, South

Bay, and Southeastern San Diego County to co-create community-driven projects that meet local needs while contributing to regional climate goals. The Conversations helped cultivate relationships with trusted messengers in several energy-impacted communities.

- **Energy ARC Regionwide Convening** (January 8, 2026): 75 residents of San Diego County attended this meeting for the general public to discuss local energy priorities.
- **County of San Diego Environmental Justice Workgroup Meeting** (February 17, 2026): A presentation and discussion with the Environmental Justice Workgroup about regional energy challenges, the relevance of the study in Environmental Justice Communities, and recommendations for community engagement.
- **Mountain Empire Collaborative Meeting** (March 12, 2026): A presentation to learn about energy-related concerns and priorities in Mountain Empire communities.