



# COUNTY of VENTURA

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**Sevet Johnson, PsyD**  
County Executive Officer

**Mike Pettit**  
Assistant County Executive Officer

**Kaye Mand**  
County Chief Financial Officer

**Shawn Atin**  
Assistant County Executive  
Officer/  
Human Resources Director  
Labor Relations

November 7, 2023

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:** Approve, and Authorize the County Executive Officer (CEO) to Sign, the Amendment to the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) Energy Efficiency Programs and Budgets Agreement with Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric; Approve, and Authorize the CEO to Sign, the Amendment to the 3C-REN Memorandum of Agreement with Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties for the Administration and Implementation of 3C-REN Programs; Authorize the CEO to Execute Minor Administrative Amendments to Both Agreements; Adoption of a Resolution Establishing Three Full-Time Positions for Provision of New Services Associated with the 3C-REN

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve, and authorize the County Executive Officer (CEO) or designee to sign, the amendment to the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) Energy Efficiency Programs and Budgets Agreement (3C-REN Programs Agreement) (Exhibit 1) with Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), Southern California Edison (SCE), and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to establish an operating budget for the implementation of California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) sanctioned 3C-REN energy efficiency programs in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties, with a total budget of up to \$71,367,489 for 2024 through 2027.
2. Approve, and authorize the CEO or designee to sign, the amendment to the 3C-REN Memorandum of Agreement ("3C-REN MOA") (Exhibit 2) with Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties for the administration and implementation of the 3C-REN programs.

3. Authorize the CEO or designee to execute minor administrative amendments to the 3C-REN Programs Agreement and the 3C-REN MOA so long as such amendments are consistent with the original purposes of the respective agreements, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are reviewed and approved by County Counsel.
4. Adopt the attached Resolution (Exhibit 3) to establish the following three (3) full-time positions for the provision of new services associated with the 3C-REN:

Job Code	Classification	Budget Unit	Dept (Unit)	FTE	Compensation Frequency	Annual Salary Range
01174	Senior Program Administrator	CEO	1021	1	Biweekly	\$88,212.70-\$123,509.92
01687	Management Analyst II	CEO	1021	2	Biweekly	\$106,650.34-\$149,325.11

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Fund G001 County Executive Office, Division 1010 – County Executive Office**

Mandatory: No  
Source of Funding: Utility Ratepayer Public Benefit Energy Efficiency Fund  
Funding Match Required: No  
Impact on Other Departments: None

Funds from a utility ratepayer-supported energy efficiency public benefit fund granted to 3C-REN by the CPUC and administered through SoCalGas will be deposited into County trust fund N722-736J and disbursed, as appropriate, to the Counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo.

**Summary of Revenues and Costs:**

	<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FY2024-25</b>
Revenues:	\$8,287,731	\$16,965,477
Costs:		
Direct	\$8,287,731	\$16,965,477
Indirect-Dept	\$	\$
Indirect-County CAP	\$	\$
Total Cost	\$8,287,731	\$16,965,477
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0



<b>FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for County Executive Office – Division 1010</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Budget</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$ 34,586,162	\$ 51,941,108	\$ 51,941,108	\$ 0
Revenue	\$ 17,457,539	\$ 22,188,061	\$ 22,188,061	\$ 0
Net Cost	\$ 17,128,623	\$ 29,753,047	\$ 29,753,047	\$ 0

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in the FY24 budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

3C-REN is a carefully coordinated regional collaboration between the Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties designed to best utilize ratepayer dollars to implement regional energy programs that to meet the goals of local climate action plans and meet the energy efficiency/reduction needs of residents, building departments, and building professionals in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties (the Tri-County Region).

On January 23, 2017, the County of Ventura, on behalf of itself and San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties (, filed with the CPUC a 3C-REN Business Plan in the Rolling Energy Efficiency Portfolio in an effort to obtain funding and allow for improved locally administered energy efficiency programs through 2025. On May 31, 2018, the CPUC issued Decision 18-05-041, designating 3C-REN as one of only three Regional Energy Network Energy Efficiency program administrators in the state and approved, in part, the 3C-REN Rolling Energy Efficiency Portfolio Business Plan. This designation allows 3C-REN to receive ratepayer funding directly from the CPUC (rather than from programs managed by investor-owned utilities (IOU) such as SCE, SoCalGas, and PG&E) and target hard-to-reach and underserved communities by providing focused services, including residential direct installation, code compliance assistance to building departments, and local workforce education and training programs regarding energy efficiency building, remodeling, and retrofitting.

On October 4, 2018, the CPUC approved 3C-REN, with the County of Ventura as the lead agency for the 3C-REN, to receive up to \$48,256,091 to administer energy efficiency programs for the Tri-County Region through 2025. On February 26, 2019, your Board approved the 3C-REN Programs Agreement with SoCalGas, SCE, PG&E, and the 3C-REN MOA with Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Together, these agreements provide for the administration and implementation of the 3C-REN energy efficiency/reduction programs.

Since 2019, 3C-REN has offered energy saving opportunities for households including single family residents and multifamily property owners, with an emphasis on underserved communities. For industry, 3C-REN offers capacity-building services including workforce training and technical code support. Serving both public and private sector professionals, 3C-REN responds to the needs of the local building industry. Together, 3C-REN's residential and industry programs support energy-efficient, resilient, and healthy buildings throughout the tri-county region.

In late 2021, CPUC asked program administrators to prepare a new business plan for an eight-year cycle. In response, 3C-REN filed a business plan application to continue already approved programs and requested approval of three new additional programs. On June 29, 2023, CPUC Decision 23-06-055 approved 3C-REN's new energy efficiency portfolio for 2024-2027 and its Business Plan for 2024-2031. This approval will allow 3C-REN to offer the following new programs:

**Agriculture Technical Assistance**

This program will take a relationship-based approach that relies on partnership-building and personalized, customized technical assistance to help improve customer education and program participation among agricultural customers in the tri-county region. Technical assistance could include but not be limited to benchmarking, energy assessments, and referrals to complementary programs wherever possible and project management assistance to shepherd customers through the participation process. The program will provide specialized support for indoor agriculture and water-energy nexus measures and focused outreach to smaller producers and socially disadvantaged agricultural customers.

**Commercial Marketplace**

This program will provide technical and financial assistance to local businesses for implementing energy saving measures. Customer participation will include being educated on local program offerings and benefits, implementing measures as part of Green Business certification, and/or making upgrades as part of a normalized metered energy consumption program offering incentives and work done by qualified contractors. Hard-to-Reach commercial customers will be targeted for participation as a priority for both 3C-REN and the Green Business Programs. In addition, by taking a hybrid approach of utilizing an existing program alongside new financial offerings, the program will optimize resources, communications, and resulting participation potential.

**Energy Assurance Services**

This program will provide public sector customers with energy management and technical support for comprehensive load management, including energy efficiency and resiliency projects. The program will also offer technical and educational regional forums on existing technologies, programs, and funding available to meet the needs of customers in the region.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive's Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel. If you have questions concerning this item, please contact Alejandra Téllez, Sustainability Officer, at (805) 654-3835.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alejandra Téllez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alejandra Téllez  
Sustainability Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sevet Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Sevet Johnson, PsyD  
County Executive Officer

- Exhibit 1 – Amendment to the Tri-County Regional Energy Network Energy Efficiency Programs and Budgets Agreement
- Exhibit 2 – Amendment to the Tri-County Regional Energy Network Memorandum of Agreement
- Exhibit 3 – Resolution Establishing Three Regular Positions