



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Board of Directors
AGENDA**

**Thursday, May 18, 2023
10:30 a.m.**

**County of Ventura- Government Center
Hall of Administration-Lower Plaza- Anacapa Conference Room
800 S Victoria Ave
Ventura CA 93009**

REGARDING MEETING PARTICIPATION:

Members of the public may join in person or by Zoom link below.

<u>Topic</u>	Ventura County Climate Emergency Council Meeting
<u>Join Zoom Meeting</u>	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87620207580
<u>Meeting ID</u>	876 2020 7580
<u>Passcode</u>	None
<u>Telephone</u>	+16694449171,,87620207580# US +16699006833,,87620207580# US (San Jose) Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kp011QJGV

REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS: IF YOU WISH TO MAKE EITHER A GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OR COMMENT ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM BEING HEARD, YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT VIA EMAIL BY 9.00 AM THE DAY OF THE MEETING TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: VCREA.ADMIN@VENTURA.ORG. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL: (A) MEETING DATE, (B) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER, (C) SUBJECT OR TITLE OF THE ITEM, (D) YOUR FULL NAME. DURING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEM SPECIFIED IN YOUR EMAIL, YOUR EMAIL WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hernandez

2. ROLL CALL

Kelly Cattnach

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW VCREA BOARD MEMBERS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 16, 2023 VCREA BOARD MEETING

6. AGENDA REVIEW

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

See Guidelines above

8. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

At this time members of the VCREA Board of Directors may comment on matters pertaining to VCREA

9. APPROVAL OF JAVIER SAUCEDO CONTRACT AMENDMENT

10. APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FY 23.24

11. 3C-REN PROGRAM OVERVIEW

12. UPDATES FROM THE EV COACH

13. RECEIVE AND FILE THE PROGRAM UPDATE

14. GENERAL UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

15. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2023



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board of Directors

Item 5

Subject: Minutes from the February 16, 2023 Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Requested Action:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the February 16, 2023 VCREA Board Meeting

Attachments:

1. Draft Summary Minutes from the February 16, 2023 Board Meeting
-

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Action Minutes

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board Meeting February 16, 2023 10:30 a.m.

No Location- Zoom Meeting

1. WELCOME/ CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hernandez at 10:34 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Mike Judge	City of Simi Valley
Laura Hernandez	City of Port Hueneme
Christina Villaseñor	City of Fillmore
David Newman	City of Thousand Oaks
Scott Quady	Calleguas Municipal Water District
Matt LaVere (Joined at 10.58)	County of Ventura
Andy Sobel	City of Santa Paula
Sabrina Rodriguez	Ventura Unified School District
William Ulrich (Audio Issues)	Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Fred Thomas (Alternate)	City of Simi Valley
Raul Avila (Alternate)	Calleguas Municipal Water District

Directors Not Present:

Gabriela Basua	City of Oxnard
Bernardo Perez	Ventura County Community College District
Liz Campos	City of Ventura

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Sobel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW VCREA DIRECTORS

The following individuals received the Oath of Office

- Director Sobel
- Director Newman
- Director Thomas (Alternate)
- Director Rodriguez

5. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Upon motion of Vice Chair Judge, seconded by Director Quady, the Board elected Director Hernandez as Chair of the Board.

Upon motion of Director Sobel, seconded by Chair Hernandez, the Board elected Director Judge as Vice Chair of the Board.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 10, 2022, VCREA BOARD MEETING

Upon motion of Director Villaseñor, seconded by Vice Chair Judge, the Board approved the Minutes of the November 10, 2022, meeting. Directors Sobel, Newman, and Rodriguez abstained.

7. AGENDA REVIEW

No changes to the Agenda.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments were submitted.

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Quady was appreciative of the Welcome Packet and thanked staff.

10. ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF VCREA FOR A 30-DAY PERIOD PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, SUBDIVISION (E), OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT

Upon motion of Director Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Chair Judge, the Board approved the Resolution.

11. APPROVAL OF BUSINESS ITEMS

- JAVIER SAUCEDO CONTRACT
- FINANCIAL STATEMENTS- YEAR END JUNE 30, 2022
- BYLAWS- REVISED

Staff Alejandra Telléz and Kelly Cattnach provided an overview of these items.

Director Quady inquired about language in the Contract for Javier Saucedo. Staff will contact County Counsel for further clarification and report back to the Board.

Upon motion of Director Villaseñor, seconded by Director Newman, the Board approved Business Items.

12. RECEIVE AND FILE THE VCREA 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

Staff member Alejandra Telléz provided a brief update on activities that took place in 2022.

Director Sobel inquired about the potential for electric vehicle events in Santa Clara Valley and that he would reach out to Nancy Clarin, VCREA's EV Coach, to further coordinate.

Upon motion of Vice Chair Judge, seconded by Director Rodriguez, the Board Received and Filed the VCREA 2022 Year in Review.

13. RECEIVE AND FILE THE PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff member Heather Allen made a few comments regarding information provided in the Program Update including electrified transportation updates and regional collaboration. Ms. Allen offered EV outreach and support where needed.

Chair Hernandez inquired about the success of the Induction Cooktop program. Ms. Allen provided an update including demonstration events taking place as well as new library participation.

Chair Hernandez shared that the City of Port Hueneme is celebrating their 75th anniversary and proposed that as a possible event for VCREA to conduct EV outreach.

Director Villaseñor inquired about the Central Coast grant opportunities, specifically the Planning and Research (OPR) ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant. Ms. Allen shared that VCREA is working on an application with the grant partners listed in the Update and staff is reaching out to our cities' energy champions and others for input. The Scope of Work is still being drafted and we will have more information on that soon. VCREA is looking forward to partnering with our cities. Director Villaseñor offered the City of Fillmore's support.

Upon motion of Director Villaseñor, seconded by Director Newman, the Board Received and Filed the Program Update.

14. GENERAL UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joseph Cabral, External Affairs Manager for Clean Power Alliance (CPA), provided an update. Mr. Cabral's comments and shared Press Release will be distributed to the Board of Directors.

Staff Alejandra Telléz shared that future VCREA Board of Director's meetings will be held in person. The first in person meeting will be held at the County of Ventura Hall of Administration and we are open to other locations for future meetings. Staff will provide a survey to see what the best time and place for everyone is.

15. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None at this time

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 10.30 a.m. This meeting will be held in person at the following location:

County of Ventura- Hall of Administration
Anacapa Conference Room- Lower Plaza
800 S. Victoria Ave
Ventura CA 93009



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board of Directors

Item 9

Subject: Approval of Javier Saucedo Contract Amendment

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Requested Action:

1. Approval of Javier Saucedo Contract Amendment

Attachments:

1. Contract Amendment #1
-

AMENDMENT #1 TO CONTRACT BETWEEN VENTURA COUNTY
REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE AND LUIS JAVIER SAUCEDO

This Amendment No. 1 ("Amendment") to Contract entered into on January 1, 2023, by and between the VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE (VCREA), and LUIS JAVIER SAUCEDO, ("Contract") for program support, shall be modified as follows;

The parties hereby agree, effective January 1, 2023 that the Contract is amended as follows:

1. WITHNESSETH section shall be amended as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to authority granted in the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Gov. Code, 6500, et seq., "the Act"), the VCREA Board of Directors has the authority to engage independent contractors to perform services for the JPA; and

2. All other information for this contract remains the same.

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Contractor

By:_____

By:_____

Alejandra Tellez
Executive Director

Luis Javier Saucedo

Date:_____

Date:_____



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board of Directors

Item 10

Subject: Approval of the General and Administrative Budget FY 23.24

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Requested Action:

1. Approval of the General and Administrative Budget FY 23.24

Attachments:

1. General and Administrative Budget
 2. Comparative Analysis FY 23.24 & Service Rates
-

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance- FY 2023/2024 General and Administrative Budget

	Previously Approved				FY 2023/2024 ¹	
	FY 2021/2022 ¹		FY 2022/2023 ¹		REVENUE	EXPENSES
	REVENUE	EXPENSES	REVENUE	EXPENSES		
Local Govt Partnership (LGP)						
SoCal Gas	\$94,000 ²		\$94,000 ²		\$0	
VCREA Salaries		\$40,000		\$39,500		\$0
Contractor: Javier Saucedo		\$53,500		\$54,000		\$0
Printing and Graphics		\$100		\$100		\$0
Mileage/Travel		\$200		\$200		\$0
Conference Fees (staff)		\$200		\$200		\$0
Misc						
LGP Total	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$0	\$0
Ventura County Green Business Program (VCGB)						
California Green Business Network (CAGBN)	\$10,000		\$10,000		\$28,735	
Contractor: Javier Saucedo		\$10,000		\$10,000		\$28,735
VCGB Total	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$28,735	\$28,735
EV 2.0- 3 Year Grant³						
CA Energy Commision	\$1,777,450		\$365,407		\$1,173,007	
VCREA Staff		\$57,967		\$47,344		\$41,665
Contractors:						
EV Coach(es)		\$149,765		\$112,323		\$166,670
Gold Coast Transit District		\$139,000		\$0		\$422,900
County of Ventura General Service Agency		\$1,052,890		\$0		\$71,587
MV Transportation		\$161,004		\$161,004		\$199,100
City of Thousand Oaks		\$177,087		\$0		\$177,087
MICOP		\$29,988		\$34,986		\$73,285
Other (Travel, materials)		\$9,750		\$9,750		\$20,712
EV 2.0 Total	\$1,777,450	\$1,777,451	\$365,407	\$365,407	\$1,173,007	\$1,173,007
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$1,881,450	\$1,881,451	\$469,407	\$469,407	\$1,201,742	\$1,201,742

¹ FY budgets are based on the assumption that current funding levels will remain the same. Staff will continue to seek additional funding sources.

² When the Board approved FY 2021/2022 and FY 2022/2023 in May 2021, it was assumed that SoCalGas funding for Program Years 2022 and 2023 would remain the same as 2021 funding. Funding ceased in December 2021 therefore, the budget for LGP was quite different than actual.

³ Funding total is \$2,500,000 for three years, grant terms June 2024.

Comparative Analysis FY 2023/2024

Since staff previously presented the FY 2021/2022 & 2022/2023 General and Administrative Budget before the Board on May 20, 2021, the following has occurred:

- Due to discontinued funding from SoCalGas ending December 2021, the Local Government Partnerships that once consisted of both Southern California Edison and SoCalGas concluded.
- CalEPA Grant funding for the Ventura County Green Business Program (VCGB) will continue through December 2023. Continued state funding for 2024 is unknown at this time.
- Due to obstacles and delays with purchasing equipment, EV 2.0 expenses will increase dramatically from FY 2022/2023 (\$365,407) to FY 2023/2024 (\$1,173,007) resulting in an approximated increase in the overall budget for VCREA of 256 percent.
- Staff will continue efforts to pursue other funding sources that align with our mission and goals and will come back to the Board when other funding sources are secured.

Service Rates FY 2023/2024:

Management Analyst II	\$154.69
Management Assist IV-C	\$97.95
Program Admin I	\$94.05
Program Admin II	\$110.52
Program Admin III	\$132.04
Program Assistant	\$97.80
Program Management Analyst	\$187.63
Senior Program Administrator	\$127.74
Snr Deputy Executive Officer	\$245.40
Student Worker III	\$0.00
Deputy Executive Officer	\$223.04



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board of Directors

Item 11

Subject: 3C-REN Program Overview

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Requested Action:

1. None

Attachments:

1. None
-



Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board of Directors

Item 12

Subject: Updates From the EV Coach

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Requested Action:

1. None

Attachments:

1. Presentation
-

VCREA Board Meeting



Thursday, May 18, 2023

10:30am

County of Ventura Government Center
800 S Victoria Ave- Hall of Administration
Anacapa Conference Room

Electrified Transportation

Workforce development

Purchase Guidance

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant

Power Your Future Scholarship

Goal: To increase the number of EVITP-certified electricians in the tri-county central coast region (SLO County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County).



Power Your Future Scholarship

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a California State Certified General Electrician
- Must work primarily in the tri-county region (San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County)
- Must have work experience in a tri-county region AB 1550 low-income or disadvantaged community

Electricians can expect to be accepted into the program if they meet all scholarship requirements.

Eligible applicants pay for the course up front and are then reimbursed by VCREA once they provide proof of completing the course and passing the EVITP exam.

Power Your Future Scholarship

Highlights:

- 34 registrations for "Power Your Future" webinar launch.
- 10 approved applicants from 6 companies.

Challenges:

- Outreach to non-union electricians.





- One-on-one purchase guidance for income-qualified individuals.
- EV 101 education.
- In-person community outreach.



Highlights:

- 16 locals referred to EV Coach for purchase guidance.
- Event support and materials for EV outreach and education events.

Challenges:

- Limited staff time



Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant

Community program: for the deployment of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and other alternative fuel infrastructure located on public roads or in other publicly accessible locations.

Priority for projects that expand access to EV charging infrastructure within rural areas and low- and moderate-income neighborhoods

Community Program Grant

- Minimum anticipated award of \$500,000
- Maximum award of \$15M



Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant

VCREA is working closely with cities of Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, and Ventura to compose an application for charging stations at strategic sites that meet grant requirements.

Application due date: June 13, 2023

VCREA Team





Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance Board of Directors

Item 13

Subject: Receive and File the Program Update

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Requested Action:

1. Receive and File the Program Update

Attachments:

1. Program Update
-



VCREA Program Update

Electrified Transportation Updates

Drive Electric Earth Day

In April, VCREA participated in three highly attended community Earth Day celebrations: Thousand Oaks' Arbor Earth Day on April 15th; EVs at Oxnard's Earth Day Farmer's Market on April 20th; and EV's at Fillmore's Earth Day on April 22nd.

At each event, VCREA staff engaged visitors with a combination of interactive booths, static electric vehicle (EV) displays, and EV painting stations while providing comprehensive EV information, brochures, and virtual EV ride and drives. VCREA partnered with local organizations such as the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) and the County of Ventura Sustainability Division to provide outreach in multiple languages and help visitors learn about EV purchase assistance programs and rebate options. Other partner booths included Clean Power Alliance (CPA), Community Environmental Council (CEC), and Ecology Action's EVs for All program.

Attendees flocked to VCREA's booth, asking questions about EVs and eagerly learning about the many advantages of owning one, including cost savings and environmental benefits. Special highlights included an EV painting experience at the Thousand Oaks event where kids and adults got a chance to express their artistic creativity by painting a Chevy Bolt and a plug-in hybrid EV Chrysler Pacifica with washable paints and at the Oxnard Farmer's Market, verbal EV outreach was provided in English, Spanish, and Mixteco. At all three events, attendees were invited to sign up for EV purchase assistance through Ecology Action's "EV's For Everyone/EV's Para Todos" EV Purchase Guidance Program and were informed about rebate programs that could help finance the purchase of an EV.



CycleMAYia

VCREA and the County of Ventura are celebrating National Bike Month with CycleMAYnia. Both agencies are hosting a mini-expo that is open to the public on Wednesday, May 31st from 10:00 am through 2:00 pm at the Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration. The public is invited to visit bike shop and County agency booths, grab a bite to eat from local food vendors, attend a Bike Safety and Bike Tune-Up workshop, and take a test ride on an e-bike.



EV Workforce Development

On February 9th, VCREA and Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5) hosted the *Power Your Future* webinar announcing a scholarship opportunity for all state-certified general electricians in the Central Coast tri-county region. The "Power Your Future" Scholarship pays for electricians EV infrastructure training and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) certification. Thus far, three electricians have finished the course and two electricians have passed the EVITP certification exam. To learn more about EVITP and this scholarship opportunity, click [here](#).



Future EV-related Workforce Development Trainings will include a Dealership Training to increase EV sales in the region and an EV safety course titled *Implications & Considerations for Emergency Responders*. The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) EV safety course will help firefighters and other emergency responders understand how a response involving these EVs is different than those with an internal combustion engine.

Electrified Transportation Resources

To receive information on VCREA's in-person events and online resources, visit the [Transportation Electrification webpage](#). To receive information about active EV incentives and rebates, EV News, and EV events, please sign up to receive the Drive Clean newsletter [here](#).

Regional Collaboration

Energy Champion Meeting

VCREA is hosting an in-person Energy Champion Meeting on Thursday, May 25th from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the Pacific Conference Room at the County of Ventura Government Center. The meeting will be an opportunity for our partners to provide updates on their organization's initiatives and climate-related needs. VCREA staff will present on continuing regional initiatives and there will also be an opportunity to discuss the US Department of Transportation's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant program and the US Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. Both grants are described in more detail in the Central Coast Grant Opportunities section of the VCREA Program Update.

Green Business Program

VCREA staff attended the Spring 2023 California Green Business Network Statewide Conference on April 27th and 28th where they learn about new types of businesses that are being certified throughout the state. Nail salons were highlighted as one of the new businesses and there was a presenter from a nail salon in San Francisco who discussed the process of getting certified. There were also workshops on how to best utilize social media for the Green Business Program, specifically "Reels" on Instagram.

With funding provided by the Sustainable California Libraries Grant program, the Saticoy, Piru, and El Rio libraries are going through the Green Business Certification process. The grant funding is also helping VCREA staff install some energy efficiency and green upgrades at the three libraries including LED lights. Lastly, the Sustainable California Libraries Grant is paying for VCREA staff to present on EV purchase guidance, home weatherization tips, and green business certification as part of the County of Ventura Library's Sustainable Living Practice series.

Lastly, VCREA would also like to congratulate the following new Green Business Certifications:

- Soirée Photobooth Co
- BeeFlow

Resilient Central Coast Campaign



The bilingual [Resilient Central Coast Campaign](#) showcases the landing pages for twelve Central Coast cities and counties partnering to achieve measurable progress towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from four areas (home energy use, transportation, food choices, and waste). As part of the regional campaign, the Climate Resilient Ventura County (VC) page launched earlier this Spring. During

Earth Month, VCREA staff has been conducting campaign outreach and has already signed up 92 homes to participate. Please check out the [Climate Resilient VC](#) to learn more about the campaign and to sign up your household.

Since February 2023, the Campaign has hosted monthly community workshops focusing on the four areas (home energy use, transportation, food choices, and waste) to reduce GHG emissions. The last workshop, titled *Water Wise* is on June 14th from 6 pm to 7 pm via Zoom. To register, click [here](#).

Central Coast Grant Opportunities

VCREA, in partnership with Counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara, Ventura County Community Foundation, Santa Barbara Regional Climate Collaborative, Central Coast Climate Justice Network, Legacy Works Group, and Community Environmental Council, submitted a grant application for a [Governor's Office of Planning and Research \(OPR\) ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant](#) to develop a Central Coast Heat Action Plan as an overarching adaptation vision for extreme heat resilience through Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and accompanied equitable action plan evaluation tool(s). If funding is awarded, this plan will enable existing regional community stakeholders to be ready to receive resources and funding to implement projects that adapt vulnerable neighborhoods to become resilient to extreme heat events.

VCREA, in partnership with the City of Thousand Oaks, is working with our city partners to apply for the [CFI Discretionary Grant Program's](#) Community Charging and Fueling Grant (Community Program). The [CFI Grant Program](#) is a new competitive grant program created by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and other alternative fueling infrastructure projects in urban and rural communities in publicly accessible locations, including downtown areas and local neighborhoods, particularly in underserved and disadvantaged communities. VCREA and the City of Thousand Oaks are actively collecting EV-related project information and community outreach proposals

as well as priority locations for charging infrastructure from our Energy Champions to include in the grant proposal. The grant application is due on June 13th.

VCREA, in partnership with the ten cities in our region, is developing an application to the [CPRG Grant program](#). This new grant program was created as part of the Inflation Reduction Act to provide funding to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. The CPRG program is designed to provide support and funding to update existing climate, energy, or sustainability plans, or to develop new plans. This grant application is due on May 31st.

Letters of Support (attached)

VCREA submitted a letter of support to the Members of the California Senate and Assembly Budget Committees on behalf of the Ventura County Green Business Program to request a \$3 million appropriation for both fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 for the statewide California Green Business Program. The California Green Business Program, which is implemented locally by counties, cities, and other local government agencies, is currently funded by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

VCREA, along with 45 agencies and organizations working to advance climate action and resilience-building efforts across the state, submitted a letter of support to California State leaders urging them to fully restore the proposed cuts to vital climate and energy programs in the Governor's January Proposed Budget.

VCREA submitted a letter of support to the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) for Community Environmental Council's application to launch the Central Coast Heat Action Coalition resulting in the development of an overarching adaptation plan for extreme heat resilience in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties.

VCREA submitted a letter of support to the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity for Gold Coast Transit District's Scheduling and Dispatching Modernization Project.

VCREA submitted a letter of support to California Assembly Committee on Appropriations and the California Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife for AB 953 (Connolly and Hart), which will develop a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast to reduce air pollution, the risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and harmful underwater acoustic impacts.