

# **AMBAG**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 11, 2026**



# Item #1: Call To Order



# Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance



# Item #3: “Just” Cause Attendance

## Recommended Action: Information



# Item #4: Roll Call



# **Item #5: 2026 Board and Committee Appointments**

**Recommended Action: Approve**



# **Item #6: Oral Communications from the Public on Items Not on the Agenda**

**(A maximum of two minutes on any  
subject not on the agenda)**

# **Item #7: Oral Communications from the Board on Items Not on the Agenda**



# **Item #8A: Executive/Finance Committee**

**Recommended Action: Information**



# **Item #8B: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting**

**Recommended Action: Direct**

# **Item #9: Executive Director's Report**

## **Recommended Action: Information**



# **Item #10: Consent Agenda (Items #10A – 10I)**

**Recommended Action: Approve**

# **Item #11: Items Removed from Consent Calendar for Discussion and Possible Action**



# **Item #12A: Draft FY 2026-27 Monterey Bay Region Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget**

**Recommended Action: Information**



# Draft 2026-27 Monterey Bay Region Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget

Board of Directors Meeting  
March 11, 2026

**Bhupendra Patel, Ph.D. Director of Modeling**  
**Jessica Agee, Director of Finance and Administration**



# FY 2026-27 Overall Work Program Priorities

- Federally required document to receive federal funds
- Covers all AMBAG work programs and activities
- Used as a project management tool by staff
- Implements federal and AMBAG work program priorities
  1. Performance Base Planning
  2. Coordination with Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA)
  3. Coordination with Transit Operators
  4. Modeling and Research
  5. Planning and Forecasts
  6. Sustainable Development Strategies
  7. Collaborative Planning and Implementation

# FY 2026-27 OWP Highlights

- Implementation of 2050 MTP/SCS
- Application of land use model, land development monitoring tool and various GIS data collection, analysis, and provide member services for GIS/data requests
- Improvement to the AMBAG Activity Based Model(AMB)
- Closeout of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 grant program
- Continuation of the Pajaro River Bridge Resilient Design Study
- Central California Regional Energy Network energy efficiency program
- Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Framework
- Monitoring and reporting Transportation Performance Management (TPM)
- SB 1 funded Sustainable Communities Planning
- Complete Streets, highway and transit corridor planning, and management studies

# FY 2026-27 OWP and Budget Timeline

OWP Kickoff meeting	October 21, 2025
Development of Draft FY 2026-27 OWP & Budget	Dec 2025 – Feb 2026
Draft OWP review & comments by FHWA /FTA/Caltrans	March 2026
Draft OWP & Budget presentation to AMBAG Board	March 11, 2026
<b>Board Adoption of FY 2026-27 OWP &amp; Budget</b>	<b>May 13, 2026</b>
Expected State Approval Date	May 31, 2026
Expected Federal Approval Date	June 30, 2026

# **AMBAG Draft FY 2026-27 Budget**

# Draft FY 2026-27 Funding Highlights

- Balanced budget, pursuant to AMBAG By-Laws
- Member dues updated
- Revenue by source:
  - Federal – \$2,426,856
  - State – \$3,452,198
  - Local – \$1,601,200
  - Total – \$7,480,253

# Draft FY 2026-27 Expenditure Highlights

- Maintaining current year staff level
- Continuation of current grant funded projects
- General fund expenditures includes costs that are not eligible for Federal reimbursement:
  - Interest and fees
  - Cash match to meet federal/state grant requirements
- Use of toll credits to match federal funds

# Next Steps

- Incorporate comments received from AMBAG Board, Caltrans, FHWA, and FTA into final FY 2026-27 OWP and Budget
- Final FY 2026-27 OWP and Budget is scheduled for Board approval on May 13, 2026, AMBAG Board of Directors meeting
- Submit the final FY 2026-27 OWP for State and Federal approval on May 14, 2026 with all certifications.

**Questions/Comments?**

**Item #13A: Draft 2050  
Metropolitan Transportation  
Plan/Sustainable Communities  
Strategy: Summary of Public  
Comments**

**Recommended Action: Information**





# Draft 2050 MTP/SCS: Summary of Public Comments

MARCH 2026

- Long range vision for our transportation system
- Federal and state law requires that an MTP/SCS be prepared every four years
- Must provide a 20+ year planning horizon period
- 2050 MTP/SCS is scheduled to be adopted in June 2026



## Public Comment Period



- AMBAG released the Draft 2050 MTP/SCS on November 17, 2025
- Comments were due on January 30, 2026
- Held six public workshops/public hearings
- Received nearly 100 comments from nine individuals and/or organizations

- Support for/opposition to transportation modes and specific projects
- Formatting on the MTP/SCS document and figures
- Comments on the project list
- Comments on sustainability, climate change, and housing issues



## Comments Received on the DEIR

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- Comments also received on the Draft EIR
- EIR project team is preparing responses to the comments received
- Provided in the Final EIR

- March – May 2026: Finalize response to comments and prepare the Final 2050 MTP/SCS and Final EIR
- June 10, 2026: AMBAG Board of Directors considers certifying the Final EIR and adopting the Final 2050 MTP/SCS



Questions?



# **Item #13B: Regional Early Action Planning Grants 2.0 Program Update**

**Recommended Action: Information**



# Regional Early Action Planning Grants 2.0 Program Update

**Paul Hierling**

**March 11, 2026**

# Regional Early Action Planning Grants (REAP 2.0) Funding

- REAP 2.0 provides funds to accelerate affordable housing production, implement 6th Cycle of the housing elements, and advance regional sustainable communities goals
- Originally funded with \$600 million from the State General Fund
- AMBAG's revised allocation of the MPO funding is \$9,537,639.92
- Administered by HCD in collaboration with the Governors Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- Spending deadline: March 31, 2026

# REAP 2.0 Goals

Advancing affordable housing, including the following:

- Accelerating Infill Development
  - Accelerating infill development that facilitates housing supply, choice, affordability and equity
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
  - Counteracting patterns of segregation, locating lower income housing in high opportunity areas, addressing various disparities in housing opportunity
- VMT Reduction
  - Realizing multimodal communities
  - Shifting travel behavior by reducing driving
  - Increasing transit ridership

# REAP 2.0 Funding Program Areas

- Regional Competitive Grant Program (~60%): \$5,646,000
  - Predevelopment funding for affordable housing projects for up to 335 units
- Local Suballocation Grant Program (~25%): \$2,470,125
  - Cities and counties in AMBAG region awarded between \$80,000 - \$170,000
  - Majority of funding used to implement housing elements
- Sustainable Communities Strategy Implementation, Technical Assistance and Administration (~15%): \$1,421,514
  - Technical assistance, program support and implementation

# Program Deadlines

- As of January 2026, approximately 72% of allocated regional REAP 2.0 funding has been spent and 28% is unspent
- REAP 2.0 funding must be spent by March 31, 2026
- Unspent funds remaining after March 31, 2026 may be reallocated to other affordable housing projects that can utilize the funds immediately, otherwise remaining funding must be ceded back to the state

# LSGP Allocations

- \$2,470,125 to jurisdictions throughout the region
- March 31, 2026 deadline
- May need to reallocate unspent funds to other affordable housing projects after deadline

Jurisdiction	Award	Spent	Remaining
Capitola	121,153.75	90%	10%
Carmel	79,985.00	53%	47%
Del Rey Oaks	79,985.00	100%	0%
Gonzales	121,153.75	38%	62%
Greenfield	79,985.00	96%	4%
King City	79,985.00	35%	65%
Marina	79,985.00	90%	10%
Monterey, City of	169,380.00	0%	100%
Monterey, County of	169,380.00	54%	46%
Pacific Grove	121,153.75	100%	0%
Salinas	169,380.00	100%	0%
Sand City	79,985.00	93%	7%
Santa Cruz, City of	169,380.00	100%	0%
Santa Cruz, County of	169,380.00	100%	0%
Scotts Valley	121,153.75	100%	0%
Seaside	79,985.00	100%	0%
Soledad	79,985.00	65%	35%
Watsonville	169,380.00	78%	22%
San Benito County	79,985.00	100%	0%
Hollister	169,380.00	54%	46%
San Juan Bautista	79,985.00	46%	54%



# RCGP Suballocations

- \$5,646,000 allocated to four agencies to fund predevelopment for 335 affordable housing units across the region
- March 31, 2026 deadline
- Established spending plans with grantees, showing rapid spending

Jurisdiction	Award	Spent	Remaining
Monterey, City of	2,305,450.00	75%	25%
Salinas	1,293,875.00	65%	35%
Scotts Valley	164,675.00	100%	0%
METRO	1,882,000.00	53%	47%

# Next Steps

- AMBAG will continue to encourage grant recipients to spend funding as soon as possible to meet the 3/31/2026 deadline
- After deadline, AMBAG will reallocate funds to eligible affordable housing projects and tasks which can quickly absorb funds to prevent funding from going back to the state
- AMBAG will continue to work with our professional association to advocate for additional rounds of funding for this program after it expires in 2026

# Questions?

# **Item #14A: Update on the Central California Rural Regional Energy Network**

**Recommended Action: Information**





# Central California Rural Regional Energy Network Update

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AMBAG Board of Directors  
March 11, 2026

CCR REN

# 2025 CCR REN Activities





# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA RURAL REN

Central California Rural REN (CCR REN) was approved by the CPUC in September 2024, with a 2024 to 2027 budget of \$36 million.

County of San Luis Obispo is the Internal Administrator for the CCR REN and is responsible for coordinating with partners to implement programs and complete reporting requirements.

CCR REN offers energy efficiency programs, primarily designed to serve hard-to-reach customers and disadvantaged and underserved communities.

# 2025 CCR REN Summary

- ✓ Launched 5 of 6 programs by April 2025 and deployed \$7.6M of \$8.5M budget
- ✓ Distributed 2,000+ energy efficiency kits in the San Joaquin Valley
- ✓ Delivered \$535,000 in incentives to 25 commercial projects across CCR REN territory
- ✓ **Created local examples of electrification at small businesses and non-profits across Central California**
- ✓ Trained and hired 4 commercial program staff and 36 youth energy specialists
- ✓ **Provided seven online trainings and 2 in-person workshops on Energy and Building Codes**

# Public Program

- Worked with 31 public agencies
- Identified \$400,000 of potential PG&E Incentives
- Partnering with the Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG) on regionally scaled funding initiatives
- 74 potential Resiliency Center sites have been identified as a key area of interest
- AMBAG and RCPWG are positioning the region for external funding opportunities to fund improvements at those sites

# Residential Program

- Creating an online home energy assessment platform, to be launched Earth Day 2026



- Preparing for deployment of energy efficiency kits containing 6 lightbulbs, 1 power strip, 1 shower head, and 1 aerator for residents to take the first step in their energy efficiency journey

# Commercial Energy Improvement Program

## Key Outcomes

- Focused on small businesses and nonprofits with no-cost water heating measures and local staff training
- \$146,000 in incentives delivered across seven AMBAG region projects
- Seven installations completed in 2025: 2 hotels, 2 restaurants, 1 church, 1 convenience store, 1 nonprofit
- Projects were located in Watsonville, Pajaro, Las Lomas, Salinas, and Santa Cruz

## Project Highlight:

Our Lady of the Assumption Church - Pajaro



CCR REN

**2028-3035 CCR REN  
Business Plan Application**



# Business Plan Updates

## Application Process:

- Every 4 years, CPUC-funded portfolio administrators submit an 8-year business plan and a 4-year portfolio application
- Approval authorizes implementation of proposed energy efficiency programs
- CCR REN is preparing its Business Plan application for March 16, 2026 submission

## Planning Guideposts:

- Engage the community.
- Understand policy and regulatory context
- Create a matrix of desired outcomes.
- Keep and scale what is working.
- Embrace new concepts and service models.
- Re-imagine programs that do not meet the ambition of helping our communities to thrive and grow.

# BP Community Engagement

## Customer Affordability & High Energy Bills

*“People in mobile homes already have high bills and then face high up-front costs to improve efficiency.”*

What We Heard	How We Incorporated Feedback
Energy bills are too high and community members are making hard decisions on which bills to pay	Focusing the portfolio on affordability both for the ratepayer and participating customer
Lower to middle-income households don't qualify for ESA but still can't afford improvements.	Structure community residential services to fill the customer service gap
Upfront costs for EE upgrades are unaffordable.	Deliver no and low-cost EE upgrades to residential and non-residential customers

## Workforce Access and Development

*“We need something local. Our folks can't just stop working and go to Fresno or Bakersfield for a two-week course.”*

What We Heard	How We Incorporated Feedback
There aren't enough trained installers or licensed contractors in rural areas	Provide low-risk and supported points of entry to encourage increased trade participation
Training takes too long or is too far away—especially for adults who are already working	Facilitate hybrid and in-community learning opportunities
People want to enter energy careers but lack awareness and opportunity	Deliver opportunity for non-trade energy career pathways for rural participants

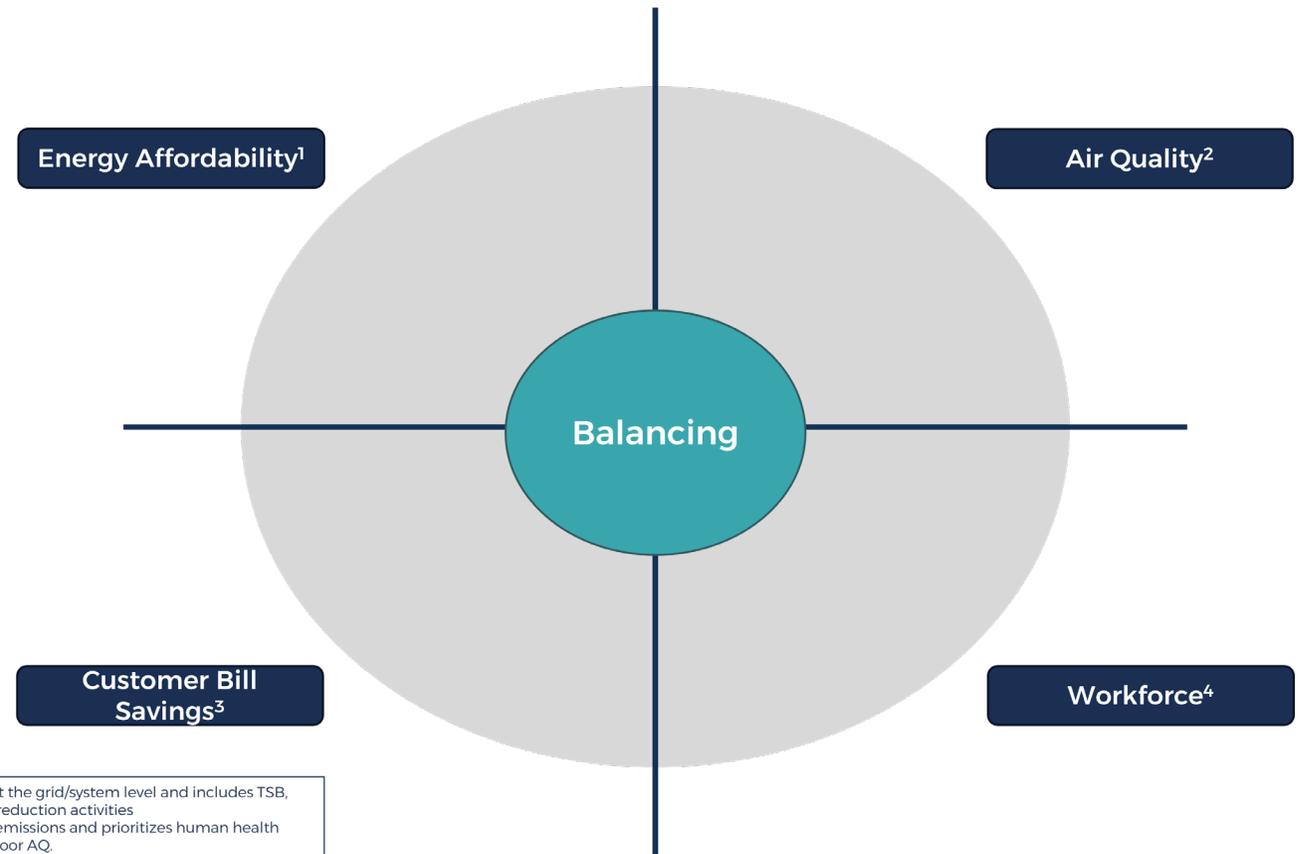
# CCR REN 2028-2035 BPA Portfolio Principles

## Guiding Principles

All activities should present clear regulatory value to ratepayers

- **Energy Affordability** (Grid System level benefit: peak load reductions, lower cost of running programs)
- **Customer Bill Savings** (Raw utility cost savings for the participant: focus on underserved participants, strategic energy management, and demand side resources )
- **Workforce** (Local workforce is trained, implements programs to the greatest extent possible to increase local capacity and economic return. Job placement is key)
- **Air quality** (prioritizes human health whether indoor or outdoor, prepares the region to meet state mandates.)

Delivering Services to Central CA. Rural Communities



1. Energy affordability is at the grid/system level and includes TSB, TRC, and rate pressure reduction activities
2. Air quality captures all emissions and prioritizes human health whether indoor or outdoor AQ.
3. Raw utility cost savings for the participant.
4. Local workforce is used to the greatest extent possible to increase local capacity and economic return

Presenting Clear Regulatory Value

# CCR REN BP: Program Additions and Expansions

- Commercial Program is scaling 10x to serve 400-600 small businesses and nonprofits annually.
- New Strategic Energy Management (SEM) program will offer 3-6 year engagement cycles to unlock energy savings for medium-sized customers.
- Integrated Demand Side Management (IDSMS) provides technical assistance for solar and battery project development.

# CCR REN Proposed Budget: Program Overview

- The commercial and SEM programs will deploy incentives directly to customers to complete projects.
- The residential program will deploy innovative offerings designed to serve rural residents.
- In total, \$46 million in direct incentives will be provided to residents and small businesses from 2028 to 2031.
- The Workforce Education and Training Program will train and deploy local workers to implement CCR REN programs and begin their career in the energy field.

Program	2028-2031 budget
Commercial Program	\$56,000,000
SEM Program	\$43,000,000
Residential Program	\$25,000,000
Workforce Program	\$16,000,000
IDSM Program	\$9,000,000
Finance Program	\$8,000,000
Codes and Standards program	\$5,500,000
Evaluation Measurement and Verification	\$6,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$169,000,000</b>

# Looking Forward

- CCR REN has successfully launched and continues to deploy critical resources to our communities.
- The 2028-2035 business plan application presents a timely opportunity to increase investments in energy efficiency and electrification in Central California.
- Proposed program budgets are aligned with levels of service other Regional Energy Networks are providing to their communities.
- The proposed 2028-2031 CCR REN portfolio of programs will support energy affordability, reduce GHG emissions, and train the workforce of tomorrow.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA RURAL REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

**For rural, by rural.**



[www.ccrren.org](http://www.ccrren.org)

# **Item #15: Adjournment**

**Next meeting: April 8, 2026**

