



Salt River Project (SRP) Integrated System Plan Advisory Group Meeting #1- Summary

Prepared by Kearns & West

Advisory Group – Meeting #1 Overview

Meeting Objectives

- Build relationships and get to know each other
- Establish a high-level knowledge base of the Integrated System Planning process
- Establish an understanding of the Advisory Group’s role and responsibilities
- Collaborate on a shared vision of the Integrated System Plan

Topic: Meet & Greet/Role Discussion and Orientation

Date: November 18, 2021

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m. MST

Location: Virtual

Please see the appendix for the Advisory Group member roster and attendance information. The [meeting agenda](#) and [presentation](#) are available at the [Integrated System Plan portal](#).

Welcome and Advisory Group Introductions

Kelly Barr, Associate General Manager & Chief Strategy, Corporate Services & Sustainability Executive at SRP, welcomed participants to the first meeting of the Advisory Group and introduced the project team leads ([slide 4](#)).

Angie Bond-Simpson, Director of Integrated System Planning & Support at SRP reviewed the meeting objectives ([slide 8](#)).

Joan Isaacson, facilitator from Kearns & West, showed the list of Advisory Group members ([slide 10](#)), asked members to introduce themselves and explain why they are participating in the Advisory Group, and reviewed the meeting agenda ([slide 14](#)). Themes from members’ reasons for participating in the Advisory Group are illustrated in the word cloud in Diagram 1.

Diagram 1: *Themes in Advisory Group Member Reasons for Saying “Yes”*



Introduction to the Integrated System Plan

Bond-Simpson described the how, why and when of integrated system planning ([slides 16-35](#)). She said she wanted Advisory Group members to know that the future will likely look more disruptive with a rapid transformation coming in the power sector. She noted in particular:

- Growth in the Phoenix area
- Customer goals and partnerships
- Advances in digital technologies
- Climate change
- Regional markets
- Regional power shortages

Lakshmi Alagappan, Partner from E3, the Integrated System Plan’s technical consulting group, introduced herself and explained that E3 is a consulting firm that helps power systems with analysis for deep decarbonization and issues the energy sector is facing today.

Q&A and Discussion

Question: Please elaborate on E3's role in this process.

Response [Bond-Simpson]: E3 is helping with the analysis to make sure there are no gaps. E3 will be supporting some of that analysis and development of new methods.

Question: Will Advisory Group members be able to assist with developing models and verifying inputs? Other members echoed this interest in analytical details.

Response [Bond-Simpson]: The project team will be looking at the whole power system (i.e., transmission, generation and distribution) and how patching those pieces together requires innovation because there is not a tool currently available to do this. These topics will be addressed at technical meetings.

Question: What kind of collaboration exists with the different power companies so they are not working in silos?

Response [Bond-Simpson]: SRP has partnerships with its neighbors and trades on a market with other utilities. When we talk about future partnerships, we see everyone is struggling with the same issues. The future will be more collaborative and SRP participates with research institutions like EPRI (Electric Power Research Institute). We are looking to leverage experience wherever we can.

Question: Energy justice or just energy transition comes up often in discussing the energy journey. How do those themes play into the Integrated System Plan process?

Response [Bond-Simpson]: SRP wants to leverage Advisory Group members' expertise and community connections to develop ideas for this area. The first Integrated System Plan will have a more technical focus with companion efforts starting a deeper dive on energy justice and equity moving forward to fold into the next Integrated System Plan.

Advisory Group Role

Bond-Simpson explained how the Integrated System Plan process looks at how the future comes together not just through the power lines but also the customer-sided resources. She described the balancing of trade-offs in affordability, sustainability and reliability as the Integrated System Plan brings together the subject matter experts, customers and stakeholders to prioritize what's important for them.

Bond-Simpson presented the Integrated System Plan process ([slide 28](#)) and asked Advisory Group members to use their networks to capture the voices of the sector they represent. She also showed the:

- Stakeholder and customer engagement framework ([slide 32](#))
- Mission statement of the Advisory Group ([slide 33](#))
- Charge and purpose of the Advisory Group ([slide 34](#))

Roundtable Discussion: Long-Term Vision

Isaacson facilitated roundtable discussion of the question “How do you think your expectations and needs for electricity service will change in the future?” Advisory Group members raised the following issues and concerns.

- Needs of property owners and tenants with regard to energy service and sustainable energy options; owners may be interested in how a tenant is using utilities, especially if there are not separate meters, and manage both costs and knowing what to build in future rental properties
- Ensuring reliability given increasing reliance on non-dispatchable generation (e.g., 20% renewable capacity)
- Role of interruptible and curtailment programs for industrial customers in times of need; role of on-site generation and standby riders to entice users to help SRP and address their own ESG (environmental, social and governance) goals
- Need for continuous power down to the millisecond level for computer and robot operations
- Ensuring reliability in summer and the implications for building redundancy in water and wastewater operations, micro grids and backup power, with those sources being renewable to the extent possible
- Importance of reliability for public health and safety and the expectation that power is available

- Hotter summers and extreme weather events may lead to increasing demand from customers; planning is needed for greater preparedness and resiliency; workers in locations like warehouses are impacted by rising temperatures, which then use more power to cool
- Expectations for more local generation and a distributed grid with an evolution in generation, transmission and distribution
- Increasing costs create problems for fixed formal budgets, and organizations want to focus on their role rather than taking on responsibility for infrastructure and maintenance
- Affordability for members of the organizations they serve
- Balancing affordability with the health of the planet as a primary concern
- Placement of infrastructure and impacts to communities
- Decarbonizing while recognizing the impact of plant closures on rural communities and how that fits with current sustainability goals
- Expectations of the speed of decarbonization increasing beyond incremental changes and factor of comparisons within the power industry
- Recognizing that the conversation on trade-offs (affordability, sustainability and reliability) is also about values and morals and that the Integrated System Plan should not force those choices
- Need for the Integrated System Plan to be clean, reliable, affordable, sustainable, leading edge, consumer-oriented, interactive, responsible, carbon-free, efficient, integrated

Upcoming Meetings

- Large Stakeholder Group meeting on November 30, 2021, 9:00-11:00 a.m. MST
- Advisory Group Meeting #2 on December 6, 2021, 3:00-5:00 p.m. MST
- Advisory Group Meeting #3 on January 19, 2022

Appendix

Meeting Attendance

Advisory Group Member Organizations (members in attendance on 11/18 are indicated in bold)

Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

A New Leaf

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

Arizona State University (ASU)

Arizona Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)

Chicanos Por La Causa

City of Phoenix

CMC Steel Arizona

CyrusOne

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

Intel

Kroger

Local First

Mesa Public Schools

PAC Worldwide

Pinal County

SRP Customer Utility Panel (CUP)

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC)

Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET)

Western Resource Advocates (WRA)

Wildfire

Key SRP Staff

Angie Bond-Simpson, Integrated System Plan Project Lead

Domonique Cohen, Integrated System Plan Communications Lead

Jed Cohen, Integrated System Plan Project Co-Lead

Kelly Barr, Integrated System Plan Project AGM Sponsor

Mike Jones, Integrated System Plan Project SRP Planning Coordination Council Sponsor

Key Facilitation Team

Lakshmi Alagappan, E3
Alyson Scurlock, Kearns & West
Joan Isaacson, Kearns & West
Karen Lafferty, Kearns & West
Taylor York, Kearns & West

Observers

Anda McAfee, SRP Board Member
Jack White, SRP Board Member
John Hoopes, SRP Board Vice President
Larry Rovey, SRP Board Member
Randy Miller, SRP Board Member
Rocky Shelton, SRP Council Member
Suzanne Naylor, SRP Council Member