

## VCREA Board of Directors

In 2005, two additional agencies joined the VCREA: the Ventura Regional Sanitation District and the Casitas Municipal Water District. The VCREA Board held four meetings in 2005. These meetings provided an opportunity to receive information from the VCREA advisory committee and staff, for the public to address Board members on energy matters and for Board members to share information about jurisdictional energy issues and progress. In addition to policy and fiscal oversight of the activities reported in this annual report, Board members actively pursued expansion of VCREA to include the Ventura Regional Sanitation District and Casitas Municipal Water District, approved a logo and a marketing plan and made a series of administrative decisions to support a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization.

## VCREA Advisory Committee

The VCREA Advisory Committee is composed of individuals who represent the local energy community, including businesses, energy industry leadership and interested individuals. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the VCREA Board on a broad range of issues. In 2005, the Committee was particularly active in assisting VCREA in their evaluation of potential new projects, like BEST, CALeep and outreach to schools, as well as expanding VCREA's internship program. On the advice of the Advisory Committee, VCREA sponsored and participated in the planning efforts for the October 2005 Ventura County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDA) Business Outlook Conference, which focused on the subject of sustainable energy. The Committee looks forward to more business opportunities to leverage the organization for commercial sector participation. Meetings are open to guests and there are opportunities for additional members.

## 2005 in Context

The VCREA, is a joint powers agency (JPA) formed in 2003 with the support of community leaders following the energy crisis of 2000-01. In 2004, VCREA partnered with Southern California Edison and the Southern California Gas Company to create the Ventura County Energy Resource Center, which is funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utility Programs. By mid-2004, VCERC began rolling out energy efficiency programs in earnest, opening an energy center, offering a series of workshops and community events related to energy efficiency and extending technical support to member agencies. These actions set the stage for a very successful 2005!

## 2005 Accomplishments

The **VCREA/Southern California Edison/Southern California Gas** local government partnership program, is VCREA's largest effort to date, providing for the **Ventura County Energy Resource Center (VCERC)** operation that includes information, training and outreach as well as technical assistance and financial incentives for member agencies.

In 2005, VCERC provided nearly \$750,000 towards 35 different **energy efficiency projects** that were put in place over a period of 14 months (beginning in November 2004), including lighting upgrades, motor replacements, controls, and heating and cooling system improvements. Combined total energy savings exceeded 3.1 million kilowatt-hours: enough energy to meet the annual electricity needs of more than 500 households. Member public agencies will now see their annual utility bills reduced by over \$340,000. In addition to taxpayer savings, for every one dollar of incentive provided by VCERC, three dollars of construction costs were spent by the public agencies to complete their energy efficiency projects, generating highly-skilled jobs for engineers, hardware installers, and electricians, all of which contributed to the economic prosperity of the region.

VCERC provided **training** on energy efficiency topics ranging from residential "Energy Efficiency 101" to guidance on new California Title 24 regulations, to water pump operation and maintenance. More than 564 workshop participants benefited from practical, leading-edge energy information presented throughout the county. The VCERC participated in 20 **community events** such as the community beautification days and County Schools Annual Science Fair, reaching out to more than 300,000 residents and businesses.

"**Energy Leader**", the VCREA newsletter was introduced this year and published six times. Energy news became a regular one-page feature of the VCEDA Business newsletter that reaches 200,000 readers six times per year. The organization's active **website [www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)** was expanded. Community outreach was supplemented by attendance at intergovernmental meetings and providing technical support to public member agencies in their quest for energy services.

The VCERC partnership distributed 1,110 "**LivingWise**" energy savings kits to sixth grade students in Oxnard and Santa Paula. Students used the materials to analyze their household consumption of water and electricity and help devise plans to conserve these resources. Savings totaling over 14,000 therms of natural gas and 70,000 kwhs of electricity were credited to this program.

## 2005 Special Projects

VCREA and KEMA, Inc. coordinated efforts to offer a Business Energy Services Team (**BEST**), targeted at small businesses in Santa Paula, Ventura, Thousand Oaks and Oxnard to offer customized analysis of energy use and the installation of high-quality energy efficient equipment. A total of 552 projects were completed, with annual kilowatt-hour savings of 743,546 and gas savings of 8,761 therms. The total incentive provided to businesses to make energy efficiency improvements was \$1,057,405 and equaled 96% of the total project costs.

VCREA received an additional \$75,000 in funding from the California Local Energy Efficiency Program (**CaLEEP**), which was sponsored by Navigant Consulting Inc. VCREA collaborated with the Green Building Council of Ventura County to complete a pilot project on innovative approaches to energy efficiency and through green building practices. The study and related information on green building measures is now available from the VCREA.

## A 21st Century Organization

In 2005, VCREA maintained its commitment to organizational efficiency, operating with two contract employees and supplemented by contractors and consultants. Administrative and general support services were purchased from member agencies as needed. The organization remains committed to reaching the goals of its strategic business plan and contributing to the economic growth of the region through best practices in energy use and conservation. The office will relocate on February 1, 2006 to:

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance  
Home of the Ventura County Energy Resource Center  
1000 Hill Road, Suite 230  
Ventura, California 93003  
805.289.3335  
[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)



VCERC is funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

## Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

### 2005 Annual Report

Formed in July 2003, the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) is a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) composed of public agencies working in collaboration to address the availability, reliability, conservation and innovative use of energy resources in the Ventura County region.

The current JPA consists of Ventura County and the cities of San Buenaventura, Oxnard, Santa Paula and Thousand Oaks, the Ventura County Community College District, the Ventura Regional Sanitation District and the Casitas Municipal Water District. Membership may be expanded at any time to include new public agency members with shared interests and powers in common.

***The VCREA mission is to establish Ventura County, its communities and neighboring regions as the leader in developing and implementing durable, sustainable energy initiatives that support sensible growth, healthy environment and economy, enhanced quality of life and greater self-reliance for the region by (1) reducing energy demand and increasing energy efficiency and (2) advancing the use of clean, efficient and renewable local resources.***

## 2005 Highlights

- Continued its innovative partnership with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas, resulting in energy savings of 3.1 million kilowatt-hours (kwh) per year.
- Added more than \$1 million to the region and generated energy savings of more than 800,000 kwh and almost 23,000 therms through special projects that benefited small businesses.
- Positioned the VCERC partnership for refunding by the California Public Utilities Commission, 2006-2008 Energy Efficiency Program.
- Expanded its training and outreach to public agencies, businesses and the general public.