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Big Check, Brighter Futures: I-REN Funds Energy Efficiency Upgrade at Joe Baca Middle School

\$88k incentive check helps Colton Joint Unified School District power learning, not utility bills, showing sustainability in action

Colton, CA – July 22, 2025 – The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) presented an \$88,348 incentive check to the Colton Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) last week to recognize the completion of a major interior LED lighting retrofit at Joe Baca Middle School in Bloomington.



CJUSD connected with I-REN to explore energy-saving opportunities and tapped into the **Cash-for-Kilowatts** program, which rewards public agencies and schools for implementing measurable energy-saving improvements. Working together, the team implemented smarter, more efficient lighting and wattage settings that unlocked I-REN's highest incentive rate.

Caption: CJUSD receives \$88k check from I-REN energy efficiency program. From left to right – Casey Dailey (WRCOG Director of Energy and Environmental Programs); Gregory Fromm (CJUSD Asst. Superintendent of Business Services); Bertha Flores (CJUSD Board Member); Jennifer Aguilar (SBCOG); Betty Pineda (SBCOG); Jay Kim (CJUSD); Natalie Louis (The Energy Coalition); Dan Flores (CJUSD Board Member); Frank Miranda (CJUSD Superintendent); Patt Haro (CJUSD Board Member); Israel Fuentes (CJUSD Board Member)

By replacing outdated lighting with high-efficiency LED fixtures and optimizing wattage levels for its nearly 800 students, Joe Baca Middle School is projected to reduce its annual energy use by over 173,000 kilowatt-hours – that's enough to power 25 homes annually – and put over \$40,000 back into the District's budget.

"The Inland Regional Energy Network was formed to help local communities like ours reduce energy use, lower costs, and build a more sustainable future," said Art Bishop, I-REN Executive

We are a network of partners, including the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the San Bernardino Council of Governments, and the Western Riverside Council of Governments, formed to serve the cities and communities of our region.



Committee Chair and Mayor of Apple Valley “Every dollar saved on energy is a dollar we can redirect to classrooms, programs, and opportunities for our students. It’s exciting to see Joe Baca Middle School leading the way toward a brighter future.”

I-REN is a strategic partnership between the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), and Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG). Together, these agencies deliver critical energy efficiency resources, education, and funding to communities across San Bernardino and Riverside Counties – with a shared commitment to saving energy, lowering costs, and expanding equity for residents, businesses, and local governments.

CJUSD will receive its incentive in phases during a 12-month monitoring period as savings are verified. To learn how I-REN helps communities unlock energy savings, visit iren.gov.

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The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) connects local governments, the workforce, and other stakeholders to a wide range of energy efficiency resources. Our aim is to provide equitable access to all the benefits that energy efficiency offers, including cost savings, throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties. IREN is a California ratepayer funded Energy Efficiency Public Purpose Program administered under the authority of the California Public Utilities Commission.