

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

October 11, 2021

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director
Kim Fuentes, Deputy Executive Director

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – September 2021

Adherence to Strategic Plan:

Goal A: Environment, Transportation, and Economic Development. Facilitate, implement, and/or educate members and others about environmental, transportation, and economic development programs that benefit the South Bay.

I. PROGRAMS - TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING, & RESEARCH

CivicSpark

The CivicSpark Fellows started their service term in September. They will be focusing on two topic areas: 1) Climate and 2) Energy Efficiency. The service term will end in August 2022.

For Climate: focus and products

The Climate Fellow will be focusing on supporting the update of Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventories for interested member cities and the subregion. Specifically, the Fellow will be targeting 2019 and 2020. This project will involve acquiring relevant usage data from Southern California Edison (SCE), SoCal Gas, various water service providers (Golden State Water Company, California Water Service Company, individual cities), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), municipal agencies, and others as needed. The fellow will then use the ClearPath tool from ICLEI to conduct inventories, analyze city progress toward emission reduction targets, and discuss future action recommendations. In addition, the fellow will provide ongoing support for staff by tracking local and state policies or programs related to climate action planning and other resilience efforts.

For Energy Efficiency: focus and products

The Energy Efficiency (EE) Fellow will be focusing on supporting EE initiatives and engaging with stakeholders. This project will involve creating a draft and final plan for the Equipment Inventory Pilot Project Implementation, as well as any other supporting spreadsheets with necessary information. The Fellow will also develop a plan to engage school districts and increase enrollment in SoCalREN, specifically documenting timelines and a school priority list. Through ENERGY STAR Portfolio, the Fellow will benchmark remaining SCG facility energy data and assist in creating SCG reports. Later in the service term, the Fellow will support CAP/GHG planning by coordinating with utilities on city energy and water data. Finally, the Fellow will create an award/recognition program for the South Bay SoCalREN member agencies.

Energy Efficiency

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): CITY SUPPORT

Contract period is January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021

The SBCCOG has reached the 2021 work program goal to enroll 6-8 public agencies into SoCalREN program and welcomed the City of Lawndale earlier this month. The SBCCOG has enrolled 13 agencies total (cities and school districts). Staff continues to collect utility data for new enrollees in order to complete city specific comparative energy analysis (CEA) which helps identify projects. To date, CEA reports have been presented to the cities of Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance. The cities of Lomita, Gardena, El Segundo Unified School District, and Rancho Palos Verdes will be receiving their SoCalREN CEA soon. As a result of the CEA findings, a SoCalREN audit took place at the Redondo Beach Library, City Hall, Police Dept., and Performing Arts Center earlier this month. In addition, several energy efficiency projects are underway in Carson.

To date, the following agencies are enrolled in the SoCalREN program: Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, El Segundo Unified School District, and Redondo Beach School District.

The SBCCOG team has recognized there are several opportunities available specifically for cities serving low-income, pollution burdened, or disadvantaged communities. This month, SBCCOG met with the cities in the region who fit this profile, including Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, and Torrance, to discuss SoCalREN Pathway to Zero Program, available only to the listed Cities based on their community demographic.

In the coming months, SBCCOG will be presenting at a SoCalREN webinar on third party energy efficiency program incentive updates. Additionally, the team will be determining a target list and engagement strategy for School Districts in the South Bay, to help them take advantage of SoCalREN program offerings.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): MULTIFAMILY

Contract period is September 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021

Contract goals: Contact, track progress, and outreach to local community organizations; track number of virtual events held, and number of attendees; distribute program collateral to local community organizations.

SBCCOG continues to work with the SoCalREN subcontractor ICF to help promote their multifamily energy efficiency program by contacting organizations to schedule presentations. ICF provides social media content monthly that the SBCCOG uses for social media program promotion. SBCCOG presented the program to the Manhattan Beach Kiwanis Club on September 14th. The SBCCOG meets regularly with ICF to review promotion opportunities.

The Kits for Kids, another SoCalREN program implemented by ICF, focuses on providing energy efficiency education to 4th grade students through class curriculum. SBCCOG created a master list of South Bay elementary schools which was used to notify South Bay elementary school principals about the program. Three classrooms located in the City of Carson have

indicated that they are interested in participating. The two September webinar sessions created by ICF did not register any attendees, as a result ICF is reaching out to schools individually to introduce the program. SBCCOG staff is assisting in this effort.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Contract period is January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021

Contract goals: 8,000 therms

Benchmarking initiatives continue for partnership cities. This initiative provides information on how facilities are performing, compares “like” buildings on a national scale, and helps cities meet State benchmarking requirements. Staff continues to input data into Energy Star Portfolio Manager benchmarking program and connect data to SoCalGas Web Services.

SBCCOG staff has also been working to connect cities to the SoCalGas Direct Install program that offers free energy efficiency equipment to public agencies and is currently coordinating a meeting with Carson. Savings derived from this program will count towards SoCalGas partnership contract goals.

Additionally, boiler replacement projects continue to be underway at the City of Carson. Projects are expected to save 2,056 therms annually.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Contract period is July 2021 through June 30, 2022

Staff continues to work with business organizations to identify locations for future assessments and trainings. SBCCOG staff attended the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce Carbon Neutrality Challenges and Opportunities to promote several SBCCOG programs including LADWP.

PACE

SBCCOG continues to promote PACE financing for homeowners through Ygrene. 2021 Q2 payments totaled \$199.97.

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

Contract period is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

SBCCOG and West Basin staff meet weekly to discuss implementation of programs.

Task – Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

Contract goal: 100 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Status of goal: 24 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Staff continues to work with West Basin and community event planners to identify opportunities.

Task – Water Bottle Filling Station Program

Contract goal: To assist with identifying locations for stations.

Status: Public sites are eligible to install two (2) water bottle filling stations per Tax ID

SBCCOG continues outreach efforts to promote the Water Bottle Filling Station Program. An email was sent to the South Bay Cities Public Works Directors advertising the program.

Task - Support for Workshops, Events, & Webinars Educational Classes

Contract goal: 5 physical classes or webinars/virtual

Status of goal: 3 completed (virtual classes); In-person classes are on hold.

Staff continues to work with West Basin staff to hold virtual classes.

Task - Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: Home delivery pilot program and/or distribution events

Status of goal: West Basin is looking to launch home delivery program in November and host 2 in-person distribution events in January and February 2022. Confirmation of dates will be made by West Basin's Board of Directors by the end of October.

Task - Cash for Kitchens (CFK)

Contract goal: conduct up to 100 water assessments and distribute water efficiency packages

Status of goal: 4 water assessments were conducted, and materials package was distributed.

SBCCOG staff will continue to meet with West Basin staff weekly to discuss program implementation and status. Follow up phone calls were conducted to local businesses and outreach walks were conducted in the cities of Hawthorne and Lawndale. Three water assessments were conducted in the month of September. An e-mail was sent to the Chamber of Commerce promoting the program.

Task - Change & Save (DAC) Program

Contract goal: Receive, document, and track customer calls; assist customers with online survey and applying for \$500 High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate

Contract goal: Distribute up to 500 conservation kits, based on qualified surveys

Status of goal: 3 water conservation packages were distributed

Contract of goal: Up to 125 photos of installed devices

Status of goal: 0

Number of calls in September: 1

SBCCOG staff promoted this program at the City of Hawthorne Multicultural World Festival on September 18th and will be promoting this program at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair on October 2nd. In addition to these two major events, SBCCOG staff is also working with West Basin to host a Change and Save West Basin Chats to directly communicate with residents to answer questions and speak about the benefits of this program.

Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD)

Contract period is July 1, 2021-December 31, 2022.

Ongoing promotion of WRD programs continues through SBCCOG's e-newsletters and other social media channels. In addition, SBCCOG posts WRD events on the website and sends out e-blasts to increase attendance at events.

Waste Reduction

Sanitation Districts of LA County (LACSD)

Contract period is July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Educational Outreach Support Exhibit Events

Contract goal: 100 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Status of goal: 24 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of the month of September 2021.

Contract goal: Schedule up to 3 Sanitation Districts-related presentations

Status of goal: 0 presentations have been completed

Staff continues to work with nonprofit organizations to identify speaking engagements/opportunities.

Green Business

South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP):

Ongoing

CAGBN – SBCCOG staff is expected to know funding amounts for cities by October 13th. Distribution of funds to the cities of Hawthorne, El Segundo, and Torrance will be between late October and mid-November but is dependent on receiving funds from the State. SBCCOG staff will be attending the Fall 2021 Statewide Conference October 13-15.

GBAP - SBCCOG continues to provide information to local businesses on opportunities to implement sustainability programs. In addition, businesses receive information on the status of SBCCOG utility partners' operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. GBAP by city: Carson (12), El Segundo (15), Gardena (15), Hermosa Beach (5), Hawthorne (49), Inglewood (10), Lawndale (27), Lennox (2), Lomita (3), Manhattan Beach (8), Palos Verdes Estates (7), Rancho Palos Verdes (7), Rolling Hills Estates (4), Torrance (63) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **250** businesses in the program as of the end of September 2021.

Transportation

Shared Mobility Program (Contract period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022)

Contract goals: 85 outreach events; 36 vanpool, rideshare, telework meetings or events; 8

Marketing/Media Survey Engagements

Status of goals: 191 outreach events; 7 vanpool or rideshare meetings; 4 Survey Engagements

SBCCOG staff continued to distribute Shared Mobility materials at virtual meetings and online events as well as socially distant outdoor events. Nine (9) such engagements took place during the month of September. SBCCOG staff continued its survey, outreach, and engagement campaign to engage Rule 2202 South Bay companies about their company's "telework" plans as they return to their "new normal" workplaces. SBCCOG also continued to work with Metro to receive and distribute updated Shared Mobility information for distribution at Fall in-person events across the South Bay area – 4 such in-person events were held this month. The SBCCOG staff met with the Metro Shared Mobility Team for the second monthly meeting to review reporting and plans of action in support of the goals and mission set out in the SBCCOG scope of work.

Metro Express Lanes (MEL) (Contract period November 15, 2020 – November 14, 2021)

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, most SBCCOG outreach events continue to be held virtually. SBCCOG staff continues to prepare, update, and share its outreach calendar for both virtual and in person outreach events that would provide opportunities to support the mission and goals of the Metro Express Lane scope of work - 4 such in person events were held during the month of September. During the month of September, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at nine (9) events, in total.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In September

3 – Virtual Networking

5 – Virtual Workshops

1 – Business Event

2– In Person Event

For the period July 1, 2021, through September. 2021:

- 10 Virtual Networking
- 9 Virtual Workshop
- 3 In-person Community Event

2 - Business Event

II. OTHER

GIS Services

SBCCOG is offering its member cities/agencies services, reporting the following highlights:

- GIS Working Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month (see City Meeting Attendance spreadsheet for attendance)
- SBCCOG continues to work with cities to identify requests for contracted GIS services (i.e. 20-hour allotment included in membership dues); Torrance has expressed interest in obtaining services
- SBCCOG staff is preparing GIS analysis and registration tools to support FY 2021-2022 rain barrel distribution program deliverables via partnership with West Basin