

## **SBCCOG Monthly Report: January 23, 2020**

**From: Judy Mitchell**

**Subject:** Committee updates

### **Regional Council/SCAG**

SCAG held the annual Economic Summit on December 5. Regional Council and Committees did not meet that month.

### **AQMD**

**AB 617:** Approximately 80 people attended the AB 617 community kick-off meeting for the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) community. Staff presented information about the community steering committee (CSC) membership process and provided information about the development of the community air monitoring and emissions reduction plans. Audience members asked questions about available funding for the AB 617 program, the possibility of expanding SELA community boundaries, and whether emissions reductions from the CERP would be permanent. The second AB 617 Community for LA is the Coachella Valley.

Following the AQMD Board meeting on January 10, board members visited a technology demonstration outside the headquarters. On display were many zero- emission heavy- duty and medium- duty trucks, vans, and shuttle buses presently being used and demonstrated in the South Coast region.

Elevated levels of benzene from air monitoring sites operated by Sonoma Technology, Inc as part of the Torrance Refinery Supplemental Environmental Project are under review. AQMD Staff is taking this very seriously. They continuously review the air monitoring data and are investigating the potential source(s) of these readings. The investigation included optical remote sensing mobile monitoring within Torrance and inspection of an oil extraction site adjacent to one of the community air monitoring sites. In general, levels of benzene have been below short-term health-based levels established by OEHHA, so this would not be expected to cause immediate health concerns. Benzene can have long-term (chronic) exposure impacts. Staff followed up with phone calls and emails to the concerned residents and city staff and also provided a summary of the community air monitoring data.

Dr. Bill Burke was elected to chair AQMD for the next year, and Council Member Ben Benoit was elected as vice-chair. Supervisor Kathryn Barger is replacing Janice Hahn on the Board. Yorba Linda Council Member Carlos Rodriguez will replace Dwight Robinson as the Orange County municipal representative on the Board.