

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

March 26, 2015

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors
FROM: SBCCOG Steering Committee
SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report

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

Climate Action Planning

Climate Action Plans/Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plans (CAP/EECAP):

EECAP program: Atkins—the SBCCOG consultant—developed a draft of the sub-regional GHG emissions inventory report for the SBCCOG to review. Atkins and SBCCOG staff met with two additional South Bay cities to discuss preliminary feedback on existing and potential Energy Efficiency strategies for the city and sub-region. Atkins also met with the SBCCOG staff to discuss the sub-regional measures and approach to the sub-regional EECAP.

The CAP/EECAP Working Group met on Wednesday February 18th. The agenda included an update on the EECAP project as well as speakers from Climate Resolve and EcoMotion presenting on Cool Roofs and Climate Smart Schools.

Strategic Growth Council Grant

The signed contract between Metro and the SBCCOG was received. Staff is working with CUSD to finalize a scope of work for Phase I which is to develop the transportation and land use chapters for the city specific climate action plans. Phase II will focus on the development of the subregional transportation and land use chapters.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Leader Partnership

Municipal Energy: 124,978 kWh as of March 2, 2015 for the 2015 year (8% achieved for 2015 goal)
Gas: 2,313 therms as of March 2, 2015 for the 2015 year (23% achieved for 2015 goal) - Redondo Beach Unified School District and Manhattan Beach Unified School District therm projects completed.

Southern California Gas Company (SCG)

Visits with SCG new account representative continued for the month of February and included a visit with Manhattan Beach.

Staff worked with SCG account representative to set up the March Partnership Meeting offsite at the Gas Company Storage Facility in Playa del Rey. The Partnership meeting will culminate with a joint luncheon provided by SCG and tour of the storage facility for partners, staff and our SBESC volunteers.

Energy Upgrade California Community Outreach Ambassador

Contract period: January 1-December 31, 2015

SBCCOG staff provided a training on February 18th to the Green Ambassadors of Environmental Charter High School (Tier II Agency), as these students will be in the community providing presentations, staffing exhibits, and providing information on Energy Upgrade California. Staff prepared an article regarding the Energy Upgrade California® “Play Your Part” Sweepstakes and distributed to our cities for inclusion in their upcoming newsletters and/or websites. Sweepstakes ends March 31, 2015.

Water Conservation/West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

Contract year is Sept. 1 through Aug. 31

Water Reliability (WR) 2020

Contract goals: 427 WR 2020 support cards to be collected by August 31, 2015.

Status of goals: 297 cards collected as of February 27, 2015. Of the 158 collected in February alone, 5 were obtained during Cash for Kitchens visits.

Contract goals: Up to 40 WR 2020 presentations to be scheduled.

Status of goals: 5 have been scheduled as of February 27, 2015. (Note: this goal is dependent upon West Basin’s availability.) SBCCOG staff continues to contact Commission/Committee staff liaisons via email to schedule presentations. The City of Rolling Hills has expressed interest in having a presentation following the City Council election in March; potentially West Basin Director Harold Williams will give the presentation.

Contract goals: Up to 24 tabletop WR2020 business briefings to be scheduled.

Status of goals: 7/24. During the month of February, staff scheduled and attended two Table Top Business Briefing meetings that resulted in commitment for a letter of support from Sunrider International and Manhattan Beach Toyota. Staff followed up with prior prospects - Torrance Chamber resulting in a letter of support and Waste Management resulting in a commitment for a letter of support. Torrance and Manhattan Beach Chambers of Commerce events led to 3 of the 4 successes this month.

Cash for Kitchens

Contract goals: 40 kitchen audits to be completed by Aug 31, 2015.

Status as of February 28, 2015: 11 audits completed.

Contract goals: 50 follow-up visits at 50 previously audited sites.

Status as of February 28, 2015: 38 follow-up visits completed.

Contract goals: 2 training sessions to be completed by August 31, 2015.

Status as of February 28, 2015: 0 training sessions completed. (Note: this goal is dependent upon West Basin’s identifying training topic.)

Activities for February included SBCCOG staff contacting the following school districts and businesses in El Segundo and Inglewood Unified School District: Time Warner (El Segundo), Kai Sushi Sports Bar (Torrance), Gen Koran BBQ House (Torrance) and The Lakes Golf Course (El Segundo). Staff also prepared C4K press releases and distributed to media and chamber of commerce lists.

Rain Barrel

During the month of February, 347 individuals were recorded as indicating interest in the Rain Barrel Giveaway.

Car Wash

Contract goals: “Re-sign” the current 7 car wash companies that are participating in the program and strive to enroll 2-3 new car wash companies by August 31, 2015.

Status of goal: 2 new car wash companies have signed up - Go Eco Express (Lawndale) and Green Forest Car Wash (Hawthorne)

Status of goal: 2 of the 7 current car wash companies has renewed (Dominguez Car Wash in Carson) and Crenshaw Imperial Car Wash (Inglewood);

SBCCOG staff re-visited the following Car Wash businesses in February to promote the program: Carson Car Wash (Carson), Bellagio Car Wash (Lawndale), Crenshaw Imperial Car Wash (Inglewood), Rock n' Roll Car Wash (Hermosa Beach) and Gardena Car Wash (Gardena).

MWD Caucus Meeting

The MWD Caucus meeting held in February included an update on MWD Supply/Demand Balance and Outlook for 2015. Highlights included: driest January on record; snow pack is 25% of normal, although there is more snow than last year at this time; and Colorado River is 86% of Water Year to date which is a little below normal for runoff. MWD will be monitoring what happens in the next few months very carefully. Changes in Department of Water Resources assumptions: current allocation is 15% State Water Project (SWP); if there are continued dry conditions there will be 20% of SWP allocation; if projected conditions are normal, there will be 27-39% of SWP allocation. Due to conservation efforts, demand last year was lower (2.1 MAF). Without these reduction efforts, demand may have been 2.4-2.5 MAF. Governor may renew Drought Emergency Declaration by the end of March.

Sanitation Districts

Contract goal: Schedule 5 Sanitation Districts-related presentations to be completed by December 31, 2015.

Status: 2 presentations given

An additional presentation is scheduled for April 29, 2015. SBCCOG marketing efforts continue to focus on the March 31, 2015 closure of the Palos Verdes Recycle Center.

Transportation

Vanpool Program

Contract goal: 72 outreach events; 18 information/formation meetings to be completed by February 15, 2016.

SBCCOG staff met with Metro staff to plan activities for 2015. The focus will be on employee-oriented “health fairs and environmental fairs”. Staff will also be focusing efforts on businesses in Carson and Torrance.

Metro Express Lanes (MEL)

Contract goal: 30 outreach events; 2 MEL-focused presentations by June 30, 2015

Status of goals: Status: 12/30 community events; 0/2 presentations

Year-to-date: SBCCOG staff has invited MEL to participate at 5 events – two in January; one in February; two in April.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Workshops, Trainings & Exchanges

The following chart lists an overview of all workshops held in February 2015:

Event Date	Event Name	No. Attended/ No. of RSVPs	Marketing Info. (how did they hear about the workshop):	Staff Lead
2/7/15	West Basin Rain Barrel Distribution - Division IV – Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility	153/208 (200 rain barrels)	Email & Flyer	GFG, MS
2/21/15	West Basin Rain Barrel Distribution - Division I – Donald L. Dear West Basin Building	138/220	Email & Flyer	GFG, MS, AB
2/26/15	CA Friendly Landscape HOW and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Rowley Park	25/45	Email: 24 Flyer: 7 Friend or Family: 8 Local Publication: 3	MS
2/28/15	West Basin Rain Barrel Distribution - Division II – Roger’s Park	133/254	Email & Flyer	GFG
2/28/15	West Basin Rain Barrel Distribution - Division III – Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility	168/252	Email & Flyer	CS, AB

Outreach Events

In the month of February, SBCCOG/SBESC had a presence at the following events:

- 6 community events;
 - Scheduled to attend 1 community event in March
- 1 business event
- 5 presentations/workshops;
- Scheduled to give 2 presentations in March
- Calendar year-to-date through January 2015:
 - 9 - community events
 - 0 - Employee events
 - 2 - Business events
 - 9 - Presentations/workshops

SCE Workshops – SBCCOG-hosted the SCE Basic HVAC workshop on February 13, 2015; 13 in attendance (21 registered).

Media

Earned Media Received in February 2015

“SBCCOG 16th Annual General Assembly” – mixAgogo – February 2015

“SBCCOG’s 16th Annual General Assembly” – Daily Breeze – February 4, 11, 13, 18, 19, 2015

“SBCCOG’s 16th Annual General Assembly” – Palos Verdes Peninsula News – February 5, 2015

“Upcoming Events: SBCCOG’s 16th Annual General Assembly” – Your Los Angeles car2go News! – February 5, 2015

Social Media

As of February 23, 2015 social media following is as follows:

Facebook: 362 likes

Twitter: 298 followers

LinkedIn: 57 followers

Volunteer Program

Volunteers

Volunteer hours for the month of February 2015 as of Feb. 27 are as follows:

- 219.25 hours
- Grand total as of 2/28/15 = 13,094.18 (Starting April 2008)

Volunteer Training is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015 to help prepare new volunteers for outreach events.

The next volunteer field trip is scheduled for March 11 to the Gas Company Gas Storage Facility.

III. SPECIAL PROJECTS/INITIATIVES

California Energy Commission Program Opportunity Notice Updates

- ZEV grant was approved at the 2/25/15 commission business meeting and the agreement is being mailed to SBCCOG for signature. Upon CEC signature, we can begin invoicing from date of signature of CEC.
- Notice of Award for the Renewable Energy Assessment of the South Bay will be posted by March 6, 2015, according to the CEC schedule.

Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC)

Update from 2/20/15 Sacramento meeting (main highlights)

Status of local government energy efficiency partnerships with utilities: Overall, local governments are finding that the move to a Rolling Portfolio has thus far made their funding more unstable because the utilities appear to be providing only one-year contracts while the implementation details are developed. There was consensus that local government energy efficiency efforts would benefit from more visibility. The group agreed it would be good to have an outreach and education program about local governments and our work on energy efficiency.

Heather Sanders, Director of Regulatory Affairs for the CAISO (California Independent System Operators), described issues with balancing load and managing the grid to accommodate variable resources. She noted that peak load is changing rapidly, with peaks now occurring in the early evening at certain times of the year, as opposed to late afternoon. While the CAISO had anticipated this, it's coming two years ahead of its projected occurrence.

Sanders cited several planning documents the CAISO has developed on energy storage, demand response, and electric vehicles. She noted that demand response must get to a point where it is automated, occurs daily, and can be easily aggregated. Currently demand response is about emergencies. She said that the goal for the CAISO is to modify the load shape, so the State doesn't overbuild generation and incur additional, potentially unneeded costs.

In response to a question about what community choice aggregators (CCA) might consider as they strategize, Sanders suggested they think about what the CAISO needs. She observed that the CAISO doesn't know how to talk to end-use customers, so CCAs should work with someone who can translate to ISO-ese. Communities should think about what the CAISO is looking to procure, and focus on how to provide services to the grid that also provide value.

CPUC President Michael Picker's remarks described his thoughts on the goal of the Renewables Portfolio Standard to deliver energy and decarbonize the grid. He discussed the value of locational components, reminding the group that when the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) closed, transport over the Sunrise Power Link kept the lights on. There was non-energy value created when SONGS shut down that helped balance the load that must be considered; therefore, electricity supply should be thought about in terms of location, time of year, time of day.

It seemed from his comments, that in Picker's mind, resource planning is more about the needs of the grid than specific technologies. Customers become important as they make their own decisions. For example, we now see corporations investing in renewables (Google, Apple, Kaiser), and we are seeing

pricing of renewables competitive with natural gas plants. He urged people to think about the role of electricity in the state's economy, and to consider carbon budgets. In his view, the role of renewables is to help in fuel switching, if the goal is carbon reduction in the built environment. He suggested that hybrid buildings and advanced microgrid systems can arbitrage solar (market based in real time), and is of the opinion we are close to a carbon-free grid.

Picker advised the LGSEC that local governments should be approaching energy planning, and energy efficiency, from a completely different perspective than currently. He suggested that local governments should use their local planning and governance authorities to define their energy management needs, and then work with the utilities to meet those needs. Picker noted that utilities as we know them are going away.

Picker said it was "psychotic" for local governments to rely on the State to define their local priorities. Instead, local governments should be leading the State. He suggested that taking money from the CPUC constrains the options available to local governments. Examples Picker provided included that local governments should aggregate demand resources across their constituents, and bid that demand in to the location-specific solicitations the utilities are starting to offer to reduce peak demand, or they should volunteer to take a circuit out of the system.

Picker opined that the role of the CPUC is to regulate, not fund. Picker also talked about his goal to change the culture of the CPUC. He suggested that Commissioners need to take a more active role in the effective operations of the agency, keep regular office hours, and generally be more engaged in governance.