

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

April 24, 2014

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

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

Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plans (EECAP)

The first deliverable for the EECAP project is an Assessment and Planning report for each city and the sub-region. These reports will provide an overview of the work plan for each jurisdiction and are anticipated to be completed in April, 2014. To inform the reports and kick off the project, SBCCOG staff and Atkins Consultants have been meeting with staff from each South Bay city. In March, SBCCOG staff met with 11 cities and is in the process of scheduling the remaining four meetings. Staff is also working with Atkins to collect activity data to update the greenhouse gas emissions inventories for each city. The updated inventories, forecasts, and reduction targets are anticipated to be completed in Summer 2014. SBCCOG staff and Atkins Consultants presented to the Torrance Environmental Quality & Energy Conservation Commission on March 6, 2014, providing an overview of the EECAP project scope of work and projected timeline. Staff are scheduled to present to the Carson and Rolling Hills Estates Environmental Commissions in April.

Energy Efficiency

Direct Install

Staff and SBCCOG engineer continued to work with all our cities that have expressed an interest in the SCE free municipal direct install program. As of 3/27/14 – City Updates for DI are as follows:

- Completed: Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale
- Close to Completion: Carson
- Installations Scheduled: Gardena, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance

- City Agreed to meet with vendor: Lomita, Palos Verdes Estates, Rolling Hills
- Met with vendor: Rancho Palos Verdes (still deciding) and Redondo Beach (need signatures on application)
- Manhattan Beach wants LED lights which are not eligible under this program.
- Staff also met with the muni direct install vendor FCI and discussed lessons learned. FCI complimented our team stating that working with the SBCCOG helped to facilitate the work for the cities making the process faster and more efficient.

SCE Water Leak Detection Program

Water losses caused by unrepaired leaks and operating at unnecessarily high-pressure results in wasted water and wasted energy. The Program is designed to deliver quantifiable savings of both water and energy. Specifically for each participating local government, the team will determine a water loss baseline, conduct leak detection and track water loss recovery therein, develop a pressure management strategy, and devise longer term water loss control plans.

Each of the four participating water agencies (El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Lomita and Inglewood) has received a pressure management technical memo based upon data retrieved from pressure loggers placed for 18-24 hours within each city's system. Conference calls to discuss the pressure management memos took place in March.

The water leak detection specialist is currently spending about 2 ½ weeks in each city surveying their water system. City of Inglewood's field work has finished and the City has received their survey summary results. Lomita's field work was completed on March 28th. Manhattan Beach began on March 31 and El Segundo's field work will begin shortly. Technical work on the project is being performed by Willdan Engineering and subconsultant Water Systems Optimization (WSO) .

Energy Leader Partnership (ELP)

Staff continues to guide the cities through the ELP requirements and provide technical support and guidance. March activities included:

- Lawndale and Manhattan Beach made Platinum!!! – SBCCOG staff worked hard to make this happen, appealing an early decision that they would not qualify this quarter.
- SBCCOG ELP team met with Gardena staff to discuss what is required to move from Value to Silver.
- Hermosa Beach completed their community and demand response awareness items which were approved by SCE.

Beacon Award Champion

No new cities have joined Beacon during the month of March, however, an appointment has been scheduled with the City of Gardena and the Beacon program will be discussed at that

meeting. 7 cities are currently members: Carson, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates and Torrance.

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

Water Reliability 2020

Contract goals: 1,000 WR 2020 support cards to be collected by August 31, 2014.

Status of goals: 541 cards collected as of March 29, 2014

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

Status of goals: 24 presentation have been scheduled as of March 29, 2014. (Note: this goal is dependent upon West Basin's availability)

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

Status of goals: 11 scheduled as of March 31, 2014.

Presentations: In March, three presentations were given -- Carson Mobile Home Rental Review Board, Rancho Palos Verdes Emergency Preparedness Commission, and El Segundo Planning Commission. SBCCOG staff were in attendance representing the SBCCOG at the commission meetings. Presentations have been scheduled throughout April and May, and staff has started to schedule June-August.

Tabletop: a sample letter of support was sent to Surf Air requesting their support of WR2020. Staff met with C&S Sales of Hawthorne and obtained letter of support. In addition, a support letter was received as a result of the Feb. meeting with Merchants Bank of California. Staff also was successful in scheduling a meeting with Wells Fargo Southern Region for April and is working on leads for presentations to – Barnes & Noble and Walser's both in Torrance.

Cash for Kitchens

Contract goals: 40 kitchen audits to be completed by Aug 31, 2014.

Status as of March 27, 2014: 22 audits completed.

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

Status as of March 27, 2014: 31 follow completed.

Flyers were delivered to the Torrance Green Committee for members to circulate to local restaurants. Outreach in March also included contacting Keegan's Pub and Grill, Red Car Brewery, and Curry House CoCo Ichibanya.

Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Exchange

While no WBIC Exchanges took place in March, staff was busy registering people for two upcoming exchanges taking place in West Basin's service area - Malibu (April 26) and Topanga (May 17).

Rain Barrel

The first Rain Barrel giveaway took place on March 29th with 166 rain barrels distributed to 52 attendees! The next Rain Barrel giveaway in the SBCCOG service area is scheduled for May 3rd. Two additional rain barrel giveaways will take place in Malibu (April 26) and Topanga (May 17).

West Basin Special HET Exchange in Lennox

For several years, Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas's office has asked SBCCOG staff to arrange a high efficiency toilet (HET) exchange in the county unincorporated area of Lennox. West Basin staff finally has approval and it will be a joint event, between two of West Basin Board of Director Divisions thereby doubling the amount of free HET's to 600 instead of 300.

SBCCOG and West Basin Staff have begun to coordinate this event with the Supervisor's staff. We have a tentative date of Saturday, May 31. The event will be held in Lennox and the Supervisor's Office is currently helping to secure a site.

MWD Caucus Meeting

The meeting highlighted: an update on drought and how MWD is planning to meet both water supply and water quality challenges. MWD has declared a Water Supply Alert to support a 20% reduction in water use. They are planning on doubling the conservation budget to \$40 million for incentives and outreach. Other strategies include maximizing Colorado River deliveries and managing storage reserves. The main message was that water use efficiency is the key on a region-wide basis.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP)

IRWMP South Bay Steering Committee March meeting highlighted: the Legislature recently passed Drought legislation that has been signed by the Governor that appropriates the full balance of remaining Prop 84 funds. Per the legislation, these funds are to be disbursed in two funding cycles. The South Bay IRWM Steering and Leadership Committees refer to them as Round 3-Part 1 and Round 3-Part 2. Round 3-Part 1 will total \$200 Million and is for drought-related projects. Round 3-Part 2 will total \$250 Million; no word on priorities for the funding. At this point there is no word on the schedule for Round 3-Part 2.

Round 3-Part 1 Schedule:

- Draft Guidelines Released April 1st
- Public Review Process April (30 day process)
- Final Guidelines Released May 1st
- 60 day Application Period May-July
- Applications Due July 1st

- 60 day DWR Review July – September
- Grant Awards October

Transportation

Vanpool Program

Vanpool materials continue to be made available at all outreach events to the community and businesses.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Workshops & Trainings

The following chart lists an overview of all workshops held in March 2014:

Event Date	Event Name	No. Attended/ No. of RSVPs	Marketing Info. (how did they hear about the workshop):	Staff Lead
3/11/14	Title 24 Where We're Headed with the 2013 Standards (SCE seminar)	36/65	SCE Website/SBESC Website	GFG
3/12/14	Building Operator Certification 1006: Common Opportunities for Low-Cost Operational Improvements: The workshop was cancelled due to the instructor being involved in an accident the morning of the class, but those in attendance took the test. The majority passed; therefore the class will not be rescheduled.	18 (4 South Bay cities staff and 2 PVPUSD staff) /22	E-mail: ongoing 8 session course	GFG
3/26/14	Building Operator Certification 1007: Facility Electrical Systems	18 (4 South Bay cities staff and 2 PVPUSD staff)/23	E-mail: ongoing 8 session course	GFG
3/29/14	West Basin's Rain Barrel Distribution Event	52/68	Flyer/E-mail distribution	MS
3/31/14	Remodeling Your Home? Do It the Energy and Water Efficiency Way (as part of South Bay Adult School)	3/3	E-blast & SB Adult School Advertisement	GFG

City Staff Training Programs

In addition to the above workshops and trainings, SBCCOG hosted an EEMIS training on March 6th conducted through the County of Los Angeles.

Outreach Events

In the month of March, SBCCOG staff:

- Exhibited at **2** community events & **1** business event
- Conducted **3** Energy/Water Efficiency presentation (one for Wiseburn Library in Hawthorne and two for the Environmental Science AP classes at Palos Verdes High School)

Media

Earned Media Received in March

Article in the March 6 edition of the *Lawndale Tribune*, a Herald Publication, regarding City of Lawndale completing the criteria to reach Gold Level in Energy Leader Program.

Article and picture in March 1 edition of *Inglewood Today* paper regarding City of Inglewood reaching Gold Energy Leader level and receiving rebate check for energy projects completed.

Social Media

As of March 31, 2014 social media follower base are as follows:

Facebook: 284 likes

Twitter: 238 followers

LinkedIn: 39 followers

The Social Media Working Group met on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at our office. The City of Lawndale staff summarized the city's programs, speaking about its cable television channel use for community outreach while expressing interest in exploring social media. The group discussed using the newly created LinkedIn group to communicate in between working group meeting dates. In addition, the group decided to set the next meeting for June 12, 2014, which was earlier than the original biannual schedule proposed in the previous meeting. The following action items from the meeting:

- LA County DPW to share RFP scope to develop social media policy
- Identify ways to assess goals and measures of success for social media use as well as target audiences
- Share South Bay cities demographics
- Research environmental apps such as Joulebug
- SBCCOG will ask the League of California Cities to expand their social media list of services
- Encourage city participation in LinkedIn Group and feature monthly new information to remind group to use it as a communication tool

Volunteer Program

Volunteers

Volunteer Training was held at the SBESC Office on Tuesday, March 25. 12 volunteers attended the training. Staff and volunteers are gearing up to respond to the increased activity in April as it is Earth Month. In addition, a Coro Fellow from Mark Ridley-Thomas' office attended the training to learn about how our environmental center operates.

Volunteer hours for the month of March 2014 are as follows:

- 177 hours
- Grand total as of 3/31/14 = 11,044.93 (Starting April 2008)

Internships

SBCCOG staff had the opportunity to speak at an environmental class at El Camino Community College to recruit 1 to 2 energy interns. El Camino Community College, located in Torrance, offers an environmental technology certificate to prepare students for employment in the sustainable technology field. These potential energy interns would be working on real-world projects assigned by SBCCOG staff on issues that drive sustainability and energy efficiency.

III. SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Holiday Light Exchange Sponsorship Initiative:

SBCCOG staff followed up with sponsorship request letters sent to Chevron and Sam's Club and is waiting on response.