

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

January 28, 2021

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – December 2020

## 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

### **Energy Efficiency**

#### Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN); CITY SUPPORT

*Contract year is January 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021*

*Contract goals:* Registration: 10 -13 agencies *Status:* 10 registered **GOAL MET**

*Enrollments:* 6-8 agency *Status:* 6 enrolled **GOAL MET**

*Re-engagements:* 1 agency *Status:* 1 re-engagement **GOAL MET**

*Program presentations:* 4 *Status:* 8 presentations **GOAL MET**

In coordination with the SoCalREN team, SBCCOG staff is working with utility companies to obtain energy data from cities that have enrolled in the program. This data will help SoCalREN complete facility assessments and are the foundation for identifying potential projects. SBCCOG staff continues to follow up with the cities of Lomita and Rancho Palos Verdes to complete enrollment. To date the following cities are enrolled in the SoCalREN program: Carson, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, and Torrance. In addition, SBCCOG staff worked with LA County to identify additional funding to support energy efficiency programs which would be done in coordination with the SoCalREN. It appears that there may be additional funding for pilot programs in 2021.

#### ICF; MULTIFAMILY

*Contract year is September 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021.*

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

SBCCOG staff attended ICF's kickoff meeting as well as ICF's Multi-family home project training. SBCCOG staff continues to look for opportunities for ICF to present on the Multifamily home project and gathering contact information for property owners. ICF will be adding SBCCOG logo to marketing materials for use when identifying opportunities.

#### Southern California Gas Company (SCG)

SBCCOG staff, along with the energy engineer, met with Lawndale School District to discuss SoCalGas project potential. The district is interested in having an analysis of their energy use which would be done in

early 2021. The team also continues to work with cities to obtain gas accounts data for benchmarking facilities.

## **Water Conservation**

### West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

*Contract year is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021*

#### Task - Educational Outreach Support

##### Exhibit Events

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

*Status of goal:* 61 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of December 2020

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

##### 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 staff reached out to Lawndale School District regarding West Basin Water Bottle Filling Station Program. In addition, information about the program was sent to the School Districts of El Segundo and Redondo Beach. SBCCOG staff continues promote the program through social media and SBCCOG working groups. Direct calls to agencies will be conducted in Jan. 2021.

#### Task - Support for Workshops, Events, & Webinars

##### Educational Classes

*Contract goal:* 10 classes or webinars

*Status of goal:* 6 completed (virtual classes); 1 class/webinar was held in December; in-person classes are on hold

Staff continues to work with West Basin staff to hold classes via webinar or Zoom.

##### Rain Barrel Giveaway

*Contract goal:* minimum of 5 and maximum of 6 events

*Status of goal:* rain barrel events are on hold at this time

West Basin is executing a contract to provide delivery options as opposed to holding the standard drive-through event. SBCCOG staff will help coordinate with residents to schedule delivery of the rain barrels. Rain barrel distribution is anticipated to begin again in early 2021. The next planning call with West Basin, LADWP, Torrance, and the SBCCOG will be scheduled for January.

#### Task - Cash for Kitchens

*Contract goal:* distribute pre-rinse spray nozzles, sink flow restrictors, window clings, & program materials to 86 prior survey sites

*Status of goal:* no surveys were conducted in the month of December. The outreach to business and agencies was on hold per West Basin but is scheduled to be relaunched in January.

West Basin staff is moving forward with a Cash for Kitchens online portal and is planning to relaunch this program in January. West Basin staff is expecting to distribute equipment through the mail.

### 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

*Status:*

- Number of calls: 18 in December
- Number of surveys completed: 500 surveys completed
- Number of customers assisted with rebate application: 0 in December

SBCCOG staff answered resident calls checking on rebate status. SBCCOG staff continues to work with West Basin to help customers estimate their rebates prior to purchase of new units. SBCCOG attended West Basin's program relaunch meeting on December 7, 2020. The program has been so successful that West Basin is implementing a second outreach effort that includes program enhancements based on lessons learned. The water survey kit will relaunch on January 4, 2021. The water saving kits will only be for DAC residents, but clothes washer rebates are available for all communities -- 400 for qualified DAC residents and 100 for qualified non-DAC.

### Torrance Water

*Contract year is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021*

Torrance staff is in the process of reviewing/editing Cash for Kitchens' marketing materials. The goal is to begin outreach in January 2021.

### Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD)

*Contract year is July 1, 2019-December 31, 2020.*

Ongoing promotion of WRD programs continues through the SBCCOG's e-newsletters and other social media channels. Contract renewal is on the Jan. 2021 SBCCOG Board agenda.

### Sanitation Districts of LA County (LACSD)

*Contract year is July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021*

#### Task 1. Educational Outreach Support

##### Exhibit Events

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

*Status of goal:* 61 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of the month of December 2020

SBCCOG staff has distributed information on Sanitation programs and virtual events via social media and e-blasts.

The Sanitation Districts is notifying South Bay Cities that they have a food waste program that could help cities meet SB 1383 organic waste reduction targets by the Jan. 1, 2022 compliance deadline. SBCCOG staff will be sending e-mail notices out to Public Works Directors the first week of Jan. This legislation established methane emission reduction targets. The LACSD's materials recovery facility can accommodate 165 tons per day of source separated food waste and is currently operating at 30 tons per day. In addition, their Carson food waste receiving station can accommodate 600 tons per day and is currently operating at 300 tons per day. These diversion solutions are offered on a first come first served basis. If cities are interested in these options, contact Will Chen [wchen@lacsdc.org](mailto:wchen@lacsdc.org); 562-908-4288 ext. 2431 or Habib Kharrat [hkharrat@lacsdc.org](mailto:hkharrat@lacsdc.org); 562-908-4288, ext. 6056.

## Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

*Contract year is January 1-December 31, 2020.*

*Contract goals:*

- 8-12 targeted special exhibit events - *Status of goal:* 8 completed - **GOAL MET**
- 1 training for SBCCOG Volunteers on LADWP programs - *Status of goal:* **GOAL MET**
- 6-8 commercial kitchens to be identified for water assessment and conservation training - *Status of goal:* 7 water assessments completed – **GOAL MET**

The 2021 contract is expected in Feb. 2021.

## PACE

SBCCOG continues to promote PACE financing for homeowners through Ygrene. 2020 Q3 payments will be reported in January 2021. The HERO program will be not be offered in 2021.

## CA Green Business Network (CAGBN) & South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP):

*Contract period: Torrance – June 30, 2021; Hawthorne - Ongoing*

### CAGBN

*Contract goals - City of Hawthorne:* 10 certified green businesses; *Status of goals:* 4 certified businesses

*Contract goals - City of Torrance:* 10 certified green businesses; *Status of goals:* 4 certified businesses

SBCCOG staff continues to assist CAGBN (California Green Business Network) cities of Hawthorne and Torrance with certifying businesses and conducting outreach. During the month of December, SBCCOG staff attended the statewide CA Green Business Network conference via Zoom and met with the City of Torrance to discuss the program. A presentation to the Torrance City Council is scheduled for January 19, 2021. This program is dependent on State funding and it is unknown at this time if there will be funding beyond March 2021.

GBAP - SBCCOG continues to provide information to local businesses on opportunities to implement sustainability programs. In addition, businesses received information on the status of our utility partners' operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As businesses are certified through CAGBN, they also become GBAP participants. GBAP by city: Torrance (61), Lawndale (27), Hawthorne (45), Redondo Beach (16), El Segundo (15), Gardena (15), Carson (12), Inglewood (10), Manhattan Beach (8), Palos Verdes Estates (7), Rancho Palos Verdes (7), Hermosa Beach (5), Rolling Hills Estates (4), Lomita (3), Lennox (2), and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **238** businesses in the program as of the end of December 2020.

## **Transportation**

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

*Contract goals:* 72 outreach events; 36 vanpool, rideshare, telework meetings or events; 8 Marketing/Media Survey Engagements

*Status of goals:* 125 outreach events; 6 vanpool or rideshare meetings; 3 Survey Engagement

Preliminary planning continued for a new series of “online” workshops for South Bay ETCs to be produced starting in mid-2021.

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

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, all SBCCOG outreach events have taken place virtually. In support of the MEL marketing goals, SBCCOG staff continued to organize and plan a virtual calendar of events for the 2021 calendar year where Metro’s MEL program materials will be distributed.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In December

- 1- Virtual Community Event
- 5 - Virtual Networking Meetings

1 – Virtual Workshops

Totals for the period July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020:

- 9 – Virtual Community Events
- 5 – Virtual Business Events

35 – Virtual Networking Meetings  
11 – Virtual Workshops

**Media**

Social Media (*during the month of December*)

- SBCCOG -- Totals for Social Media (SBCCOG) (*top tweet – right*)
  - Twitter: 287 followers total, 3,300 impressions\* 5 posts
  - Facebook: 141 likes total, 298 impressions 8 posts
- SBESC -- Totals for Social Media (*top tweet – right*)
  - Twitter: 563 followers total, 2,500 impressions\* 5 posts
  - Facebook: 755 likes total, 218 impressions 6 posts
  - LinkedIn: 142 followers total, 50 impressions 2 post

\* Impressions: the number of times a post has been viewed during the specified month



Earned Media/Articles/Network TV

- **“Coronavirus hospitalizations surge to unprecedented level as L.A. announces stay-at-home rules”** – *Los Angeles Times* (12/2/2020) <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-12-02/coronavirus-hospitalizations-surge-to-unprecedented-heights>
- **“Coronavirus hospitalizations surge to unprecedented heights as California considers drastic steps”** – *Bakersfield.com* (12/2/2020) – link no longer available
- **“Cities Weigh Costs of Local Health Departments After County Closure Order”** – *Spectrum News 1* (12/3/2020) <https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/coronavirus/2020/12/04/cities-consider-splitting-from-la-county-health-department-services>
- **“Coronavirus Business Resources and Grant Opportunities in Hermosa Beach”** – *Patch* (12/4/2020) <https://patch.com/california/hermosabeach/coronavirus-business-resources-grant-opportunities-hermosa-beach>



- **“LA transport to receive fibre-optic boost”** – *ITS International* (12/8/2020)  
<https://www.itsinternational.com/its7/news/la-transport-receive-fibre-optic-boost>
- **“15 South Bay cities join forces to launch high-speed fibre network”** – *Cities Today* (12/9/2020)  
<https://cities-today.com/15-south-bay-cities-join-forces-to-launch-high-speed-fibre-network/>
- **“California Towns Revel Against Pandemic Restaurant Restrictions”** – *New York Times* (12/9/2020)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/09/us/coronavirus-california-outdoor-dining-ban.html>
- **“Beverly Hills Looks Into Creating Its Own Health Department”** – *Patch* (12/10/2020)  
<https://patch.com/california/beverlyhills/beverly-hills-looks-creating-its-own-health-department>
- **“State Senators Call on Newsom to Classify Restaurants as Essential, Allow Them to Reopen”** – *Eater Los Angeles* (12/15/2020) <https://la.eater.com/2020/12/15/22176418/morning-briefing-restaurant-news-los-angeles-newsom-reopen-restaurants-essential-senators>

## **Volunteer Program**

*Status of Program:* 5.0 hours December 2020

Grand total as of 12/31/2020 - 20,328 (starting April 2008)

Volunteer participation remains low due to COVID-19.