

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

November 8, 2021

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – October 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 continue to work on their projects which focus on two topic areas: 1) Climate and 2) Energy Efficiency. Their term of service will end in August 2022.

#### For Climate: focus and products

Supporting the update of GHG inventories, targeting 2019 and 2020, the Fellow gained access to the ICLEI ClearPath platform, which will be used to calculate the emissions. The Climate Fellow also researched previous methodology and identified relevant data sources, including 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. In addition, the Fellow is supporting the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in their effort to examine emissions from energy use.

#### For Energy Efficiency: focus and products

The Energy Efficiency (EE) Fellow attended various city meetings regarding energy audits and project identification. The Fellow is also in the process of collecting historical project information and reports to centralize records. Regarding the Equipment Inventory Pilot Project, the Fellow researched existing energy inventories, databases, and tools used by other organizations to successfully implement such projects. The Fellow also met with other COGs regarding award programs and conducted research on existing offerings that may be a good fit for the SBCCOG to implement a recognition program for participating agencies.

Through ENERGY STAR Portfolio, the Fellow entered city gas meter information and began working with SoCalGas to connect meters to their web services for data to flow on a monthly basis.

## **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 public agencies into SoCalREN program and welcomed the City of El Segundo earlier this month. The SBCCOG has enrolled 14 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, Rolling Hills Estates, and Torrance. The cities of Lomita, Gardena, and Rancho Palos Verdes as well as El Segundo Unified School District will be receiving their SoCalREN CEA soon.

As a result of CEA findings, audits took place at the Redondo Beach Library, City Hall, Police Dept., and Performing Arts Center. The City and SBCCOG met with the SoCalREN to review the Initial Measures List based on audit findings. Potential measures included HVAC unit replacements, EMS upgrades, pumping retrofits, LED lighting upgrades, chiller replacements, and ventilation retrofits for a potential savings of 981,782 kWh and 14,575 therms. As a next step, the Redondo Beach will confirm which measure to acquire complete engineering calculations on. The SoCalREN will then develop and present a final project proposal to the City in Q1 2022.

This month, SBCCOG staff hosted a joint webinar with SoCalREN and other Southern California COGs on third party energy efficiency program updates. This recording will be made available on the SBCCOG website for reference to member cities.

Agencies enrolled in SoCalREN to date: Carson, El Segundo, 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.

### 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. SBCCOG staff reached out to the PATH Lease-Up program seeking information on multi-unit properties in the South Bay. ICF provides social media content monthly that the SBCCOG uses for social media program promotion. 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade students through class curriculum. SBCCOG created a master list of South Bay elementary schools which is being used to contact South Bay elementary schools about the program. Two of the three participating classrooms located in the City of Carson, will be receiving their classroom kits in the next week. In addition, each

classroom will receive \$1,000 grant. ICF is reaching out to schools individually to introduce the program. SBCCOG staff is assisting in this effort and has suggested hard copy mailers be sent with follow up emails and phone calls to each school. This program has been added to the updated SBCCOG website in two locations.

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. Savings derived from this program will count towards SoCalGas partnership contract goals. Additionally, boiler replacement projects have been completed at the City of Carson and savings will be determined in the coming month.

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 the San Pedro Strong and Healthy Community Health Fair, which provided opportunities to promote several SBCCOG programs including those from LADWP. Approximately 500 attendees participated at the Community Health Fair.

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: 32 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 Community Development Directors advertising the program.

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

*Contract goal:* 5 physical classes or webinars/virtual

*Status of goal:* 4 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 launching its home delivery program in November (and continuing through January 2022) and hosting 2 in-person distribution events in January and February 2022.

Task - Cash for Kitchens (CFK)

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

*Status of goal:* 8 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, Lawndale, Lennox, and Inglewood. Four water assessments were conducted in the month of October. SBCCOG staff attended the Palos Verdes Leadership Event and the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair to promote 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 October: 1

SBCCOG staff promoted this program at the City of Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair and the Palos Verdes Leadership Event during the month of October. 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. A social media campaign is being planned and will launch in Nov.

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: 33 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of the month of October 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 and opportunities.

## **Green Business**

### South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP):

*Ongoing*

CAGBN – Distribution of funds to the cities of Hawthorne, El Segundo, and Torrance is expected mid-November but is dependent on receiving funds from the State. SBCCOG staff attended 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 (52), Inglewood (10), Lawndale (30), Lennox (3), 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 257 businesses in the program as of the end of October 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: 200 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 October – 2 of the events were “in-person” community outreach events. SBCCOG staff continued its survey and targeted outreach campaign to engage Rule 2202 South Bay companies about their company’s “telework” plans as well as their efforts to “restart” their rideshare and vanpool efforts (for those companies returning to pre-pandemic work strategies). SBCCOG continued to distribute Shared Mobility information through its online and social media platforms 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 – 2 such in person events were held during the month of October. During the month of October, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at nine (9) events, in total.

**II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION**

Outreach Events

In October

- 3 – Virtual Networking
  - 2 – Virtual Workshops
  - 2 – Business Event
- 2– In Person Event

For the period July 1, 2021, through October 2021:

- 13 Virtual Networking
  - 11 Virtual Workshop
  - 5 In-person Community Event
- 4 - 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 is reaching out to Lomita (currently does not have GIS staff)
- SBCCOG staff is using GIS mapping and analysis to support West Basin programs such as Rain Barrel Distributions, Cash for Kitchens, Change & Save, Water Bottle Filling Stations