

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

October 10, 2022

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – October 2022

I. PROGRAMS - TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING, & RESEARCH

Energy Efficiency

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN); CITY SUPPORT

Contract period is January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022

Contract goal: Work Plan (including goals) are underway for 2022

The 2022-2023 CivicSparks Fellow will support Energy Efficiency initiatives: implement the Facility Equipment Inventory (FEI); create methodology for tracking city progress in the SBCCOG recognition program; create educational content for social media and website, and review energy/waste nexus to recommend actions.

In coordination with the SBCCOG and the SoCalREN, the City of El Segundo held a residential Go Green El Segundo event on September 19th, in-person at the Council Chambers and virtually on Zoom. The event was also livestreamed on YouTube and broadcasted on local Spectrum Channel 3 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. The event has already tracked 39 views. West Basin Municipal Water District was invited as a special guest. Residents learned about City sustainability initiatives along with ways to save energy and water through energy efficiency and water conservation practices, as well as SCE, SoCalGas, and West Basin residential programs. Attendees were also entered into a drawing to win drought tolerant plants. The webinar recording will be made available on the SBCCOG and El Segundo websites.

SBCCOG hosted the Energy Management Working Group in September. The following cities attended the meeting: Carson, Gardena, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Redondo Beach. The following school districts were also in attendance: Inglewood USD, LAUSD, and Torrance USD. Presentation topics included SoCalREN's supercharged bonus energy efficiency incentives, other upcoming third-party incentive programs, and additional pilot initiatives for cities. Staff used Slido, a polling program that provides participants with a more interactive way to see poll results, to ask the question "Which of the following components of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant would be of interest to your agency?" The results showed that agencies are most interested in heating/cooling systems.

Currently, the following is a status of SoCalREN enrolled agencies:

- City of Carson: Pursuing boiler retrofit, HVAC and chiller installation at City Hall and Community Centers, as well as EV charging stations through SCE Charge Ready
- City of El Segundo: Pursuing project identification at City Hall

- City of Gardena: SoCalREN is finalizing project proposals for City Hall and Nakaoka Community Center to present opportunity and financial metrics to the City
- City of Hawthorne: Pursuing project identification and discussing Public Power Up opportunities with SoCalREN
- City of Lawndale: Pursuing project identification and discussing Public Power Up opportunities with SoCalREN
- City of Manhattan Beach: Energy audits will be completed at Police & Fire Station
- El Segundo USD: Energy audits will be completed at 4 school sites

SBCCOG staff continue to update City ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) portfolios to ensure utility energy data from SCE and SoCalGas are properly flowing on a monthly basis. Each city portfolio contains property and energy usage of all city-owned buildings, thus providing an opportunity for cities to understand their energy usage in greater detail. To date, SBCCOG staff has met with the following cities to train staff, and grant access to ESPM: Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Rolling Hills Estates. Data is requested from the utilities using CISR forms which must be signed by city staff. The SBCCOG is coordinating with cities to complete the forms and follow up with the utilities to help ensure requests are being processed.

Staff continue to meet with SoCalREN and an outside contractor regularly to coordinate a Facility Equipment Inventory pilot project. This project will create an organized system to monitor facilities' energy-using equipment as well as other assets that affect energy efficiency, such as windows. SBCCOG staff will coordinate with some of these cities to arrange for on-site visits in the coming months.

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, Redondo Beach Unified School District, and Torrance Unified School District.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): MULTIFAMILY

Contract period is September 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022

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. Discussions are ongoing regarding time extension on the contract.

SBCCOG is assisting a 21-unit condominium property in Rancho Palos Verdes which is interested in adding energy efficiency elements as they upgrade this 50-year-old complex. The HOA reached out to learn more about how they can qualify for the multifamily energy efficiency rebates. Information was sent to the HOA to complete the required Property Owner Agreement and to provide their most recent copies of the complex SGC and SCE bills.

SBCCOG continues to seek outreach opportunities to promote the multifamily program. SBCCOG staff are following up with cities to identify opportunities and next steps.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): Kits for Kids

SBCCOG staff continue to promote the Kits for Kids SoCalREN program focused on providing energy efficiency education to third and fourth grade students. The SBCCOG and ICF are working

to re-launch the program now as the new school year is starting. Marketing materials are also being updated to include testimonials from the Towne Elementary grant award ceremony. Once revisions have been made, the SBCCOG will provide the resource kit to the South Bay school district public information and/or communication contacts.

PACE

SBCCOG continues to promote PACE financing for homeowners through Ygrene. Ygrene announced that the residential PACE offerings were suspended Aug. 15. They believe that this is a temporary suspension. The company continues to support existing projects and complete projects that are in the approval process. For Q1 of 2022 (Jan-Mar services), a full payment of \$24.66 was received. As for Q2 (Apr-Jun 2022), Ygrene has been billed \$114.02.

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

Contract period is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

SBCCOG and West Basin staff met on September 14, to discuss implementation of programs

Task – Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 35 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Task - Speakers Bureau

Contract goal: identify and coordinate 14 speaking opportunities

Status of goal: 4 completed

Task – Water Bottle Filling Station Program

Contract goal: To assist with identifying locations for stations.

(Conduct outreach and marketing for program until grant dollars are fully expended or until West Basin reaches its maximum number of applicants)

Status: Public sites are eligible to install two (2) water bottle filling stations per Tax ID

SBCCOG staff continue to do outreach to market the program and reach the goal. In addition, the water bottle filling station flyer was included in with the handouts for the City Managers' Meeting on September 21, 2022.

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

Contract goal: 13 physical classes or virtual webinars

Status of goal: 5 completed (virtual classes) 2 classes in person.

Staff continue to work with West Basin to hold virtual and in person classes to execute the 2022-23 program year goals.

Task - Commercial Water Efficiency Program

Contract goal: Assist the program consultant in identifying up to 12 commercial sites

Status of goal: 0/12

SBCCOG staff is working with the West Basin team to set up the new program. More details to follow over the next few months.

Task - Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events

Status of goal: 1/5

SBCCOG Staff attended Palos Verdes High School on 9/24/2022 Rain Barrel Event where 300 barrels were given away.

Upcoming Rain Barrel Events:

Lawndale High School – 10/8/2022

Redondo Union High School – 10/29/2022

Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD)

The 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. A tour of the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling and Environmental Learning was conducted for the SBCCOG Partner organizations.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Contract period is July 1, 2021, through July 30, 2023

Task – Community Outreach and Promotional Events

Contract goal: Exhibit or present at 9-12 targeted special events.

Status of goal: 10 exhibit events completed

Task - Commercial Kitchen Water Assessments

Contract goal: Conduct 6-8 commercial kitchens in CD15 for water assessment.

Status of goal: 8 water assessments completed, and materials and packages were distributed

SBCCOG staff is in the process of setting up a meeting with the LADWP to discuss the next 12 months of activity and set new goals.

Waste Reduction

Sanitation Districts of LA County (LACSD)

Contract period is July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Educational Outreach Support Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 49 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Contract goal: Schedule up to 3 Sanitation Districts-related presentations

Status of goal: SBCCOG staff scheduled a total of 0 presentations, 0 presentations have been completed.

SBCCOG is currently working with LACSD to establish new goals for 2022-23.

Green Business

California Green Business Network (CAGBN):

Contract period February 28, 2022 – December 10, 2022

Contract goals: 15 certified business per city (total 30)

*Status of goal: **El Segundo**: 7 certified (completed sustainable actions), 3 enrolled (indicated interest in the program & enrolled); **Hawthorne**: 8 certified; 2 enrolled; **Torrance**: 6 certified; 2 enrolled*

CAGBN – The SBCCOG is working with the cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Torrance to “green” certify local businesses. SBCCOG staff conducted onsite audits in each of these cities to help identify opportunities for sustainable improvements and connect business owners with utility incentives and programs. The team is also working with city staff to promote businesses that have received certification and reaching out to elected officials for potential business walks.

South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP):

Ongoing

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 (18), El Segundo (35), Gardena (26), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (55), Inglewood (20), Lawndale (30), Lennox (10), Lomita (9), Manhattan Beach (10), Palos Verdes Estates (9), Rancho Palos Verdes (11), Redondo Beach (6), Rolling Hills Estates (6), Torrance (66) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **324** businesses in the program as of September 2022.

Transportation

Metro Express Lanes (MEL) (Contract period November 15, 2019 – November 14, 2022)

South Bay events are being held both virtually and in-person. SBCCOG staff continue to prepare, update, and share the SBCCOG outreach calendar for events that provide opportunities to support the mission and goals of the Metro Express Lane program. In total, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at 11 events.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In September

- 2 – Virtual Networking
- 1 - Workshops
- 6 – In Person Event
- 2 – Presentation

For the period July 1, 2022, through September 2022:

- 9 - Virtual Networking
- 13 - Virtual Workshop
- 17 - In-person Community Event
- 0 - Business Event
- 6 - Presentation