

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

February 14, 2022

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – January 2022

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

GHG emission inventory updates – CivicSpark Fellow

The SBCCOG reached out to city managers regarding city participation in updating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories. The cities of Lawndale, Lomita, and Palos Verdes Estates expressed interest in participating in the process as a result of this communication. These additions bring the total cities participating to 12. (Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, and Torrance). The SBCCOG requested demographic and transportation data on behalf of member cities from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and is preparing additional data requests for relevant utilities. The SBCCOG continues to communicate with ICLEI regarding the ClearPath platform, and the data requirements and methodology for inventories.

Energy Efficiency

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN); CITY SUPPORT

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

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

Staff continue to collect utility data for new enrollees in order to complete city specific comparative energy analysis (CEA) which helps identify energy efficiency projects. To date, CEA reports have been presented to the cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, and El Segundo Unified School District. The City of Manhattan Beach CEA is in final review and will be presented to the city shortly.

SBCCOG hosted the Energy Management Working Group in January. The following cities attended the meeting: El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach, and Torrance. Presentation topics included benchmarking initiatives, state benchmarking

compliance, upcoming third-party energy efficiency incentive programs, and additional pilot initiatives for cities in the new year. SBCCOG staff has offered to meet with cities one-on-one to provide more information on the topics discussed and begin to support with state benchmarking compliance. Staff also piloted a new tool at the meeting called Vevox, a polling program that provides participants a more interactive way to see poll results (see one of the questions below). The outcome of one of the polls is below regarding the question “What energy services can the SBCCOG and SoCalREN support you with in the new year?” The most frequent replies are the largest lettering.



SBCCOG will use this information to help guide program in 2022.

Other work planned for 2022 is a “Behavior Change Challenge” program designed to educate and reward city staff for engaging in energy initiatives. The program encourages energy savings at work/home, and offers friendly competition with opportunities to win prizes and receive recognition for energy actions.

Also planned in 2022 is a municipal equipment inventory which will help inform cities equipment replacement and potentially provide the CPUC data to help develop incentives. SoCalREN is working to develop a budget and the team will determine what software will be used to compile the data. A literature review and workplan have been created for future reference in this process.

SBCCOG has developed another literature review to help inform the development of a recognition program for SBCCOG cities. Staff have met with SoCalREN to discuss findings, budgeting, and next steps. The program would encourage completion of energy efficiency projects and recognize cities for their achievements.

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 Unified School District. Additionally, the team will meet in early February with Torrance USD to discuss enrollment.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): MULTIFAMILY

Contract period is September 1, 2020 – August 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. The program was presented to Coastline Equity at the beginning of January.

SBCCOG staff continues to promote the Kits for Kids SoCalREN program focused on providing energy efficiency education to 3rd and 4th grade students. In December, program flyers were mailed to 14 schools (Hawthorne, Lomita, Manhattan Beach) to generate more interest and participation. Follow-up phone calls were made to the schools in January to be sure flyers were distributed to the classrooms. Two classrooms from Towne Elementary in Carson are the first in South Bay to sign up for the program. Once the program activities have been completed, each classroom will receive a \$1,000 grant and the SBCCOG will coordinate being part of the grant award ceremony to help incentivize other South Bay schools to participate. Due to the Omicron surge the ceremony at Towne Elementary has been delayed. Flyers will be sent to more schools in February or March, depending on the status of in-person teaching.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Contract period is January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022

Contract goals: 8,000 therms

Status of goals: 90,456 therms saved **GOAL EXCEEDED**

The Annual Report has been developed and sent to SoCalGas. The following projects received approval in 2021 and count towards contract goals for a total therm savings of 90,456:

- City of Carson (32,853 therms): boiler replacement (2), pool covers (2), Direct Install
- El Segundo USD (4,603 therms): Direct Install
- Redondo Beach USD (6,000 therms): pool heater replacement (2)
- Additional School District sites in SBCCOG territory* (47,000 therms): Direct Install

**Information provided by SoCalGas LAUSD Account Manager for school district sites in the SBCCOG territory*

As this partnership ends, the SBCCOG staff have been working to finalize projects such as El Segundo USD pipe, tank, and pre-rinse faucet installation which will be completed in Jan. 2022.

Now that the partnership has ended, SoCalGas offerings will be coordinated through the SoCalREN partnership.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Contract period is July 2021 through June 30, 2022

Task – Community Outreach and Promotional Events

Contract goal: Exhibit or present at 8-12 targeted special events.

Status of goal: 2 exhibit events completed.

Task - Commercial Kitchen Water Assessments

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

Status of goal: 6 water assessments completed, and materials package was distributed.

Follow up phone calls were conducted to local businesses and outreach walks were conducted in Wilmington, San Pedro, and Harbor City. Three water assessments were conducted in the month of January 2022.

PACE

SBCCOG continues to promote PACE financing for homeowners through Ygrene. For 2021 Q4 payments totaled \$120.37.

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: 52 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Staff continue 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

Staff continue outreach efforts to promote the Water Bottle Filling Station Program. Staff provided program information at El Segundo Unified School District Meeting and Parks and Recreation Directors Meeting in January 2022.

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

Contract goal: 5 physical classes or webinars/virtual

Status of goal: 5 completed (virtual classes)

Staff continue 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 launched its home delivery program in November 2021, and it will continue through February 2022 (1,200 rain barrels allocated). In addition, the SBCCOG will support 2 in-person distribution events in January and February 2022 (400 rain barrels allocated).

Final participation numbers for rain barrels delivered and picked up at distribution events will be available in March. SBCCOG staff supported the January in-person distribution event.

Task - Cash for Kitchens (CFK)

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

Status of goal: 40 water assessments completed, 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 El Segundo and Hermosa Beach. Ten water assessments were conducted in the month of January.

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: 177 water conservation packages were distributed

Contract goal: Obtain up to 25% photos of installed devices

Status of goal: 0

SBCCOG staff promoted this program at the SBCCOG Homeless Hygiene Distribution Event at Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes.

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: 52 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of January 2022.

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

Status of goal: 0 presentations have been completed

SBCCOG staff will begin scheduling presentations in February 2022.

Green Business

South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP):

Ongoing

CAGBN – State funding has been confirmed and the SBCCOG team is working with the cities of Hawthorne and Torrance on contracts. The City of El Segundo contract has already been approved and Staff is coordinating to set up a kick off meeting in February 2022.

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 (13), El Segundo (24), Gardena (17), Hermosa Beach (10), Hawthorne (52), Inglewood (16), Lawndale (30), Lennox (3), Lomita (6), Manhattan Beach (8), Palos Verdes Estates (7), Rancho Palos Verdes (7), Redondo Beach (6), Rolling Hills Estates (4), Torrance (63) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **289** businesses in the program as of the end of January 2022.

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: 226 outreach events; 12 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. In addition, Shared Mobility information was shared through SBCCOG social media platforms. Four (4) such engagements took place during the month of January– 1 of the events was an “in-person” community outreach event.

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

Most SBCCOG outreach events continue to be held virtually. Staff continue to prepare, update, and share the SBCCOG 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 program. In total, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at five (5) events.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In January

- 3 – Virtual Networking
- 1 – Business Event
- 1 – In Person Event

For the period July 1, 2021, through January 2022:

- 22 Virtual Networking
- 12 Virtual Workshop
- 11 In-person Community Event
- 7 - Business Event

III. OTHER

GIS Services

SBCCOG continues to promote GIS service offering to member cities/agencies. The following are highlights from January:

- SBCCOG working with cities to identify requests for contracted GIS services (i.e. 20-hour allotment included in membership dues)
 - City of Gardena reached out to SBCCOG to assist with the development of a GIS-based online parcel app/tool modeled after the City of Long Beach; plans to work with SBCCOG and a third-party vendor to develop application and expects to begin scope of work in 3 months
- 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. This tool was instrumental in the scheduling distribution of 1,200 rain barrels.
- GIS Working Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. In January, there was a presentation on GIS mapping of indoor floor plans and how this tool is used to support “hoteling” for telework. (see City Meeting Attendance spreadsheet for attendance)