

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

June 23, 2022

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – May 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

Several cities are moving more quickly through the data process and as a result will be receiving their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories sooner. Those cities are El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, and Torrance. The remaining member cities will most likely receive inventories in the next CivicSpark program year (anticipated start in Sept. 2022). Data for additional cities will be entered as it is received. Factor sets appropriate for SCE data have been created. The SBCCOG has also prepared and distributed data requests for emissions related to wastewater treatment. The SBCCOG continues to consult with ICLEI on best practices for updating methodology and streamlining the data collection, entry, and analysis process.

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

Work continues with the CivicSpark Fellow meeting with cities to assist in accessing their portfolios utility consumption data in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM). 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 have met with the following cities: Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Rolling Hills Estates.

Staff have also met with cities to support state benchmarking compliance requirements. Under the Building Energy Benchmarking Program (AB802), property owners with buildings greater than 50,000 SqFt are required to submit annual energy usage reports to the California Energy Commission by June 1st. SBCCOG staff have submitted reports for the following cities who are now in compliance for 2022: Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance.

SBCCOG staff continues to collect utility data for new SoCalREN 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, Lawndale, 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.

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 – 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.

SBCCOG staff met with a large contractor who presented at the multifamily program webinar hosted by the San Gabriel Valley COG to discuss opportunities in the South Bay. This contractor has experience with the program and focuses on whole building implementation. SBCCOG staff discussed opportunities to partner with member cities to introduce the program in order to take advantage of massive incentives available now rather than later when problems arise.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): Kits for Kids

SBCCOG staff continues to promote the Kits for Kids SoCalREN program focused on providing energy efficiency education to third and fourth grade students. Carson Towne Elementary school provided SBCCOG with surveys and testimonials after celebrating their two grant awards in April. SBCCOG staff is coordinating with ICF to create new marketing materials as a resource kit, expected to be complete in June, that will include an updated flyer and testimonials from Towne Elementary. Once in hand, the SBCCOG will provide the resource kit to the South Bay school district public information and/or communication contacts. Information on the program was emailed to the Torrance and Hermosa Beach unified school district contacts in May.

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 met on May 11th to discuss implementation of programs

Task – Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 98 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

Staff continues to promote the Water Bottle Filling Station Program through follow up phone calls to school districts in the South Bay.

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

Contract goal: 5 physical classes or webinars/virtual

Status of goal: 5 completed (virtual classes) **GOAL MET**

Staff continues to work with West Basin staff to hold virtual classes and plan for the 2022-23 program year.

Task - Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: Home delivery pilot program and/or distribution events

Status of goal: Assist West Basin with rain barrel distribution **GOAL MET**

SBCCOG and West Basin staff have started discussions on next program year's rain barrel distribution.

Task - Cash for Kitchens (CFK)

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

Status of goal: 81 water assessments completed, and materials package was distributed.

SBCCOG staff 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 communities of Gardena, Carson, and El Segundo. Seventeen water assessments were conducted in the month of May 2022.

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: 487 water conservation packages were distributed

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

Status of goal: 10 photos collected

SBCCOG staff continues to make phone calls to participants requesting photos. An email was also sent out requesting photos and informed participants of the opportunity drawing sponsored by West Basin. SBCCOG staff promoted this program at Fiesta Hermosa, Hermosa Beach.

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.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)
Contract period is July 1, 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: 8 exhibit events completed – **GOAL MET**

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 package was distributed – **GOAL MET**

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: 99 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of May 2022.

Contract goal: Schedule up to 3 Sanitation Districts-related presentations
Status of goal: 1 presentation has been completed

SBCCOG staff continues to reach out to organizations for presentations. A new presentation has been scheduled for June 2022.

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 2 with 3 more enrolled; Hawthorne 2 with 3 more enrolled;

CAGBN – State funding was awarded to the cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Torrance. The SBCCOG is working with these cities to “green” certify local businesses. A kickoff meeting was held with the cities of Hawthorne and El Segundo and business appointments have been scheduled. SBCCOG staff attended the City of El Segundo Environmental Committee Meeting on 5/13/2022 to promote the program. Businesses move through the program by first enrolling and then SBCCOG staff conduct onsite audits to help identify opportunities for sustainable improvements. SBCCOG staff also connect business owners with utility incentives and programs. Once improvements are completed, the SBCCOG staff verify that the business has met the criteria for becoming a green business.

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 (31), Gardena (26), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (54), Inglewood (18), Lawndale (30), Lennox (10), Lomita (9), Manhattan Beach (8), Palos Verdes Estates (9), Rancho Palos Verdes (11), Redondo Beach (6), Rolling Hills Estates (6), Torrance (63) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **313** businesses in the program as of the end of May 2022.

Transportation

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

Contract goals: 85 outreach events; 36 vanpool, rideshare, telework meetings/events; up to 8 Marketing/Media Survey Engagements

Status of goals: 259 outreach events; 14 vanpool or rideshare meetings; 4 Survey Engagements

A contract renewal request for Shared Mobility programs with LA Metro is currently underway. The SBCCOG coordinated a follow-up meeting with LAWA scheduled for June to discuss further collaboration. SBCCOG conducted outreach and distributed information about Metro's shared mobility programs in-person at the Gardena EV Event. 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 distributed through SBCCOG social media platforms – 15 such engagements took place during the month of May– 7 of the events were “in-person”.

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 15 events.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In May

- 3 – Virtual Networking
- 0 – Business Event
- 5 - Workshops
- 7 – In Person Event

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

- 35 Virtual Networking
- 17 Virtual Workshop
- 35 In-person Community Event
- 10 Business Event
- 2 Presentation