

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

March 14, 2022

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – February 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 staff contacts regarding city participation in updating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories, resulting in the addition of Redondo Beach to the list of 13 participating cities (Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, and Torrance). The SBCCOG received demographic and transportation data for member cities from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The SBCCOG is preparing data to be sent to the utilities for participating cities.

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

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.

The SBCCOG has begun meeting with cities one-on-one to support state benchmarking compliance and assist cities with accessing their portfolios in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, a free online energy management tool maintained by the State. 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. SBCCOG staff met with the city of Manhattan Beach and provided access to the city's portfolio and are now further reviewing the portfolio for any data discrepancies.

Staff are working with cities to gauge interest in the "Behavior Change Challenge" program designed to educate and reward city staff for engaging in energy-saving initiatives. The City of

Manhattan Beach displayed interest and is moving forward in determining what format of the program works best for them.

The SBCCOG continues to develop a facility equipment inventory with SoCalREN that will help inform cities on equipment replacement and potentially provide the CPUC data to help develop incentives. A potential software to compile the data was just presented to the team, and SoCalREN is now working to determine the cost of this software. The SBCCOG secured an additional \$50,000 to support this program.

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 promoted the MultiFamily program at the following events:

- February 17th San Pedro Chamber of Commerce Business Expo about 120 attendees
- February 24th El Segundo Farmers Market about 80 attendees

SBCCOG staff continues to promote the Kits for Kids SoCalREN program focused on providing energy efficiency education to 3rd and 4th grade students. SBCCOG staff is coordinating a grant award ceremony for Towne Elementary in Carson. The SBCCOG hopes to incentivize other South Bay schools to participate via this ceremony. Due to the Omicron surge, the ceremony at Towne Elementary has been delayed but is expected to be scheduled in the next couple of months. SBCCOG staff has provided ICF with follow up survey questions to the teachers, students, and student families to generate program testimonials to be used in future promotional materials. Flyers are scheduled to be sent to more schools in March and April.

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: 3 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 in Wilmington, San Pedro, and Harbor City. Two water assessments are scheduled for the month of April 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 at least 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: 60 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. Follow up phone calls were conducted to the 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 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: Assist West Basin with rain barrel distribution

West Basin home delivery program ran from November 2021 through February 2022; 1,200 rain barrels distributed. The SBCCOG supported 2 in-person distribution events in January and February 2022 where 400 rain barrels were distributed. Final participation numbers for rain barrels delivered and picked up at distribution events will be available in April.

Task - Cash for Kitchens (CFK)

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

Status of goal: 50 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, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Estates and Rolling Hills Estates. Ten water assessments were conducted in the month of February 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: 236 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 Carson and El Segundo Farmer's Markets.

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: 61 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of February 2022

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

Status of goal: 1 presentation has been completed

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: 0

CAGBN – State funding has been confirmed and the CAGBN is waiting for State distribution of funds. The City of Hawthorne and City of El Segundo contracts have been approved and Staff is coordinating to set up a kickoff meetings in March and April 2022. The SBCCOG team is working with the City of Torrance on a contract which will be approved after June 2022.

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 (13), El Segundo (26), Gardena (17), Hermosa Beach (10), Hawthorne (52), Inglewood (16), Lawndale (30), Lennox (3), Lomita (6), 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 **299** businesses in the program as of the end of February 2022.

Transportation

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

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

Status of goals: 234 outreach events; 12 vanpool or rideshare meetings; 4 Survey Engagements

SBCCOG engaged organizations and businesses attending the San Pedro Business Exposition in February and received interest from several employers to participate in an informational vanpool meeting with the SBCCOG including Crowne Plaza Hotel. SBCCOG staff will coordinate to schedule vanpool meetings in March or April. 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. Eight (8) such engagements took place during the month of February– 2 of the events were “in-person” community outreach events.

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 eight (8) events.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In February

- 4 – Virtual Networking
- 1 – Presentation
- 1 – Business Event
- 2 – In Person Event

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

- 26 Virtual Networking
- 12 Virtual Workshop
- 13 In-person Community Event
- 8 Business Event
- 1 Presentation

III. OTHER

GIS Services

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

- SBCCOG working with cities to identify requests for contracted GIS services (i.e. 20-hour allotment included in membership dues). City of Gardena parcel app/tool project anticipated to start in 2 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. West Basin is also exploring SBCCOG’s services to create a StoryMap celebrating West Basin’s 75th anniversary.
- GIS Working Group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month.