

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

December 13, 2021

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – November 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

In support of the GHG emissions inventory updates for 2019 and 2020, the Fellow used the ICLEI ClearPath platform to support the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in their effort to examine emissions from energy use by analyzing electricity usage data from 2018, 2019, and 2020, and generated presentation materials for the city. The Fellow also liaised with member cities in order to update the SBCCOG's contact database of staff working on sustainability, climate action planning (CAP), greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories, or other related projects at member cities. This information was used to invite staff to the kick-off meeting scheduled for Dec. 8. The meeting agenda will be included, history of SBCCOG CAP, GHG, & Adaptation work, discussion of GHG inventory update, schedule, and products.

#### For Energy Efficiency: focus and products

Supporting the SBCCOG's facility benchmarking efforts, the Fellow used ENERGY STAR Portfolio to update multiple cities' gas meter information. The SBCCOG is following up with SoCalGas to schedule a meeting to troubleshoot connecting meters to their web services. In addition, the SBCCOG is preparing for an EMWG meeting in January to discuss assistance with AB802 compliance for cities as well as reporting on the status of the benchmarking. The Fellow has also completed compiling historical city project information and reports to centralize records.

Regarding the Equipment Inventory Pilot Project, the Fellow is finalizing a literature review of findings on existing energy inventories, databases, and tools used by other organizations. The SBCCOG met with a SoCalREN representative to discuss initial ideas for implementing the project and a second meeting is planned for December. The Fellow will present findings from the literature review and next steps will be discussed.

## **Energy Efficiency**

### Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN); CITY SUPPORT

*Contract period is January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021*

*Contract goal: enroll 6 public agencies GOAL MET*

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 Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, and Torrance. The cities of Lomita, 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, the City of Gardena will pursue SoCalREN whole building energy audits at City Hall, Transportation Center, Nakaoka Community Center, Gymnasium, and Public Works.

This month, SBCCOG staff coordinated an overview meeting for a new point of contact at El Segundo USD in response to recent staff transition. Next steps will be providing a CEA presentation in early 2022.

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. ICF provides social media content monthly that the SBCCOG uses for social media program promotion. This program was updated to the new SBCCOG website under Environmental Services Programs. 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. Two classrooms from Towne Elementary in Carson are the first in the South Bay to sign up for the program. The delivery of program supplies was delayed due to the back-up of containers in the Port of Los Angeles. One classroom has their supplies and the other should have theirs soon. 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. The SBCCOG is following up with the Principal at Center Street school in El Segundo who is possibly interested in the program.

### Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

*Contract period is January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021*

*Contract goals: 8,000 therms*

*Status of goals: 2,056 therms saved*

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. The City of Carson has completed a Direct Install visit, and a visit will take place at El Segundo USD early next month.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

*Contract period is July 2021 through June 30, 2022*

Follow up phone calls were conducted to local businesses and outreach walks were conducted in San Pedro. Two water assessments were conducted in the month of November.

PACE

SBCCOG continues to promote PACE financing for homeowners through Ygrene. 2021 Q3 payments totaled \$184.75.

**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 School Districts 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.

The home delivery program currently has 419 registrations while the in-person distribution events currently have 29 registrations.

Task - Cash for Kitchens (CFK)

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

*Status of goal:* 18 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 Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Lomita, Gardena, and Carson. Ten water assessments were conducted in the month of November and marketing materials were distributed at the locations of Gardena, Carson, Redondo Beach and the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce 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:* 5 water conservation packages were distributed

*Contract of goal:* Up to 125 photos of installed devices

*Status of goal:* 0

SBCCOG staff promoted this program at the Gardena's Senior Health Fair in November. In addition, 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:* 41 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

SBCCOG staff will began scheduling presentations in January 2022.

### **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-December but is dependent on receiving funds from the State.

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 (15), Gardena (17), Hermosa Beach (5), Hawthorne (52), Inglewood (10), Lawndale (30), Lennox (3), Lomita (6), Manhattan Beach (8), Palos Verdes Estates (7), Rancho Palos Verdes (7), Redondo Beach (4), Rolling Hills Estates (4), Torrance (63) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of 267 businesses in the program as of the end of November 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:* 216 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. Eight (8) such engagements took place during the month of November– 1 of the events was an “in-person” community outreach event. SBCCOG continued to distribute Shared Mobility information through its online and social media platforms. Three vanpool formation meetings were held in November. SBCCOG staff met with vanpool service providers as well as the LAX ETC Program Administrator to discuss collaboration and opportunities to support one another’s initiatives.

#### 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 – 1 in person event was held during the month of November. In total, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at eight (8) events.

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

### Outreach Events

In November

4 – Virtual Networking  
1 – Virtual Workshops

1 – Business Event  
2– In Person Event

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

- 17 Virtual Networking
  - 12 Virtual Workshop
  - 7 In-person Community Event
- 5 - 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)
- 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
- SBCCOG staff developed several GIS maps in November:
  - Highlighting the South Bay subregion in the proposed redistricted supervisorial districts to be reviewed by SBCCOG Executive Director and City Managers
  - Identifying potential facilities/sites in West Athens of interest to SBCCOG and the County of Los Angeles
- Hosted virtual exhibit (can still be viewed [here](#)) during the County of Los Angeles' GIS Day 2021 on November 17 and 18