

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

October 26, 2023

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – September 2023

I. PROGRAMS - TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING, & RESEARCH

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

Contract period is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

SBCCOG and West Basin staff met on September 5 and September 18 to discuss implementation of programs and develop the next program cycle scope of work.

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 24 speaking opportunities.

Status of goal: 0 completed - Task is on HOLD per West Basin Staff

The SBCCOG Staff met with West Basin Staff to discuss expectations of the Speakers Bureau Program. As a follow up, the SBCCOG Staff is compiling a list for potential speaking opportunities and will send to West Basin Staff the first of Oct.

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 distributed program flyers at the City of Manhattan Beach and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. SBCCOG staff will be meeting with School Districts starting at the end of October through the first of 2024. In these meetings WBFSP information will be shared.

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

Contract goal: 20 physical classes or virtual webinars

Status of goal: 3 completed (virtual classes/in-person)

Staff continue to work with West Basin to hold virtual and in-person classes.

- *Know Your H2O Classes*
 - September 13, 2023 - Emerging Water Saving Technologies
- *West Basin Chats – Grass Replacement*
 - September 27, 2023

Task - Commercial Water Efficiency Program

Contract goal: Assist the program consultant in identifying commercial sites.

Status of goal: West Basin is preparing an implementation plan.

Task - Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events

Status of goal: 1/5 Rain barrel program distribution

One rain barrel event was held in September and almost 500 barrels were given away.

Upcoming Rain Barrel distribution dates:

- October 7 – City of Hawthorne – Memorial Center
- October 12 – City of Manhattan Beach - Mira Costa High School
- November 4 – City of Inglewood – Morningside High School
- November 18 – City of Malibu – Malibu City Hall –SBCCOG takes RSVPs but does not staff this event
- December 2 – Culver City – West Los Angeles College - SBCCOG takes RSVPs but does not staff this event

Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD)

The contract period is January 1-December 31, 2023

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.

Completed:

- July 22 – Eco Gardener Workshop at Madrona Marsh, Torrance
- July 29 – Eco Gardener Workshop at Edward Vincent Jr. Park, Inglewood
- August 28 – Eco Gardener Workshop at Carson Event Center, Carson

Upcoming:

- October 28 – Edible Gardening at Madrona Marsh Nature Center, Torrance

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Contract period is July 29, 2021, through July 29, 2024

Task – Community Outreach and Promotional Events

Contract goal: Exhibit or present at 24-36 targeted special events.

Status of goal: 22 exhibit events completed.

Task - Commercial Kitchen Water Assessments

Contract goal: Conduct 18-24 commercial kitchens in CD15 for water assessment.

Status of goal: 14 water assessments completed, and materials and packages were distributed.

Waste Reduction

Sanitation Districts of LA County (LACSD)

Contract period is July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Educational Outreach Support Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 31 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

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

Status of goal: SBCCOG staff scheduled 1/3 presentations.

Ongoing SBCCOG is working with LACSD to identify topics the organization would like to promote through community presentations.

Upcoming Presentation:

October 10, 2023 – Rotary Club of Palos Verdes Sunset

Green Business

California Green Business Network (CAGBN):

Contract period February 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Contract goals: 20 certified businesses each for El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Torrance (total 60)

Status of goal: 48 certified businesses

CAGBN – The SBCCOG is working with the cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Torrance to “green” certify local businesses and conduct business walks to schedule audits and help identify opportunities for sustainable improvements as well as connect business owners with utility incentives and programs. On September 20th, a news segment was filmed interviewing green businesses by the City of El Segundo that will be broadcast in October 2023. In addition, the city is working with SBCCOG to line up business interviews.

Total per city: El Segundo (17) Hawthorne (18) and Torrance (13).

South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP): Ongoing

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’ programs. GBAP by city: Carson (18), El Segundo (52), Gardena (26), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (77), 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 (84) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **381** businesses in the program as of September 2023.

Climate Action

A new CivicSpark Fellow is completing the GHG emissions inventories. Currently, the Fellow is reviewing relevant work: transition reports, Climate Action Plans for the South Bay region, and the ICLEI user manual. The Fellow also started reviewing the GHG inventory data and assessing what is needed to complete reports for the rest of the South Bay cities.

Energy Efficiency

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) CITY SUPPORT

Contract period is January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Contract goal: Work Plan (including goals) are underway for 2023.

Facility Equipment Inventory Pilot Project – SBCCOG staff and the Civic Spark Fellow conducted on-site visits to collect equipment information which will be used to identify energy efficiency projects. The team is working to complete all city halls by December 2023.

To date, SBCCOG has inventoried 37 facilities across 12 South Bay facilities. Through this process, staff has also completed lighting recommendations for 20 facilities, finding over 500,000 potential kWh savings from lighting retrofits. SBCCOG has also identified more than 50 HVAC units that contain banned or phased out refrigerants (R-22 and R-410a). These refrigerants have been banned/phased out due to their ozone depletion and global warming potential.

37 – Site Visits Completed for Facility Equipment Inventories in the following cities:

- CARSON (2)
- EL SEGUNDO (4)
- GARDENA (3)
- HAWTHORNE (3)
- HERMOSA BEACH (3)
- INGLEWOOD (5)
- LOMITA (4)
- MANHATTAN BEACH (3)
- RANCHO PALOS VERDES (3)
- ROLLING HILLS (3)
- ROLLING HILLS ESTATES (1)
- TORRANCE (3)

The team is scheduling site visits for the cities of Lawndale, Palos Verdes Estates, and Redondo Beach.

South Bay Energy & Climate Public Agency Recognition Program –recognizes SoCalREN-enrolled cities for their efforts in pursuing energy efficiency initiatives and sustainability related tasks (activities must be completed by the third Monday of November annually). To date, 2 cities have reached the Gold recognition level, 3 cities have reached the Silver level, and 4 cities have reached the Bronze level. SBCCOG staff continues to monitor cities' completed activities and sends city staff quarterly progress reports. Cities' accomplishments will be recognized at a Recognition Ceremony, scheduled for **December 6th, 2023**.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) MULTIFAMILY & KITS FOR KIDS

Contract period is January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024

Contract goals: Contact, track progress, and outreach to local community organizations; track number of virtual events held and attendees; distribute program collateral to local community organizations

Multifamily

The SBCCOG and ICF together continue to develop new strategies focused on outreach directly with contractors. ICF has received a database of multi-unit residential building property managers which they are reviewing to identify eligible properties in our geographic area. ICF was also able to send an email to all South Bay contractors, using their contractor network. The SBCCOG continues to share program information with eligible properties. The SBCCOG is currently working with the City of Lomita to explore the possibility of enrolling Lomita Manor, a low-income senior multifamily property, in the program.

Kits for Kids

The SoCalREN's Kits for Kids program focuses on providing energy efficiency education to third and fourth grade students. Activities for the 2023-24 program year: 3 South Bay schools have already signed up; 1 classroom from Towne Avenue in Carson, 5 classrooms from 135th Avenue in Gardena, and 2 classrooms from Zela Davis in Hawthorne. In the 2022-2023 program year, 10 classrooms participated in the program: 1 classroom from 135th Street School in Gardena, 3 classrooms from Zela Davis in Hawthorne, and 6 classrooms from Washington Elementary in Redondo Beach.

Mid-Fall of 2023, the SBCCOG will begin outreach to South Bay Schools Boards and work to increase SoCalREN enrollment. The SBCCOG plans to discuss relevant SoCalREN Project Delivery Programs, Kits for Kids, Turf Replacement Programs, Water Bottle Filling Stations, and other programs offered by SBCCOG Partners.

Transportation

Metro Express Lanes (MEL) (Contract period November 18, 2022 – November 17, 2023)

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 14 events. SBCCOG staff has begun working with Metro on a contract renewal for November 2023-2024.

II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: 58 hours for September; 2023 to date = 473 hours

III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In September 2023

- 4 - Networking Event
- 5 - In Person Community Event
- 1 - Business Event
- 2 - Workshops Event

Total for the period July 1, 2023, through June 2024

- 9 - Networking Event
- 21 - In-person Community Event
- 2 - Business Event
- 4 – Workshops Event