

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

September 11, 2023

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – August 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 August 16 and August 21 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: 21 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

Meeting scheduled in Sept. to discuss expectations.

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 continues to conduct outreach to market the program. SBCCOG staff distributed program flyers at the City of El Segundo and City of Lomita.

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

Contract goal: 20 physical classes or virtual webinars

Status of goal: 1 completed (virtual classes/in-person)

- SBCCOG Staff attended *Recycled Water Facility Tours*
 - Aug 19, 2023

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

Upcoming events:

- *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 now preparing to implement a plan.

Task - Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events

Status of goal: 0/5 Rain barrel program distribution

Upcoming Rain Barrel distribution dates:

- September 23 – West Basin Carson Headquarters
- 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

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

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.

SBCCOG staff worked on a quarterly report.

Torrance Water

Contract period is June 15, 2022-August 31, 2023

Educational Outreach Support Exhibit Events

Contract goal: 6 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

*Status of goal: 18 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. were conducted. **GOAL EXCEEDED***

Cash for Kitchens Program

Contract goal: Conduct a minimum of 15 new Cash for Kitchens audits.

*Status of goal: 16 new Cash for Kitchens audits were completed. **GOAL EXCEEDED***

New purchase order expected in the first part of September.

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

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

Status of goal: SBCCOG staff scheduled 0/3 presentations.

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

Green Business

California Green Business Network (CAGBN):

Contract period February 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

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

Status of goal: 31 certified businesses

CAGBN – The SBCCOG is working with the cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Torrance to “green” certify local businesses and conducted business walks to schedule audits and help identify opportunities for sustainable improvements as well as connect business owners with utility incentives and programs. Total per city: El Segundo (11) Hawthorne (13) and Torrance (8).

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 (46), Gardena (26), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (7), 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 (79) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **364** businesses in the program as of August 2023.

Climate Action

The CivicSpark Fellow completed a draft greenhouse gas emissions inventory report for the City of Torrance, incorporating graphs and tables to illustrate community and municipal emissions, and to show how these emissions compare to targets. Also included in the report was a section explaining how the inventory was prepared. The Fellow had the inventory verified by a third-party - ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, with no reported major issues; however, some modifications were recommended including adding waste to the calculation. Lastly, the Fellow created slides to report the findings of the inventory to be presented to the City of Torrance. The Fellow concluded their CivicSpark Fellowship on August 25, 2023.

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 Fall 2023.

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

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

7 – Site Visits Scheduled for Facility Equipment Inventories in the following cities:

- INGLEWOOD (4)
- RANCHO PALOS VERDES (3)

The team is working on scheduling site visits for the cities of Redondo Beach, Lawndale, and Palos Verdes Estates. In addition, the City of Carson is looking to have two more sites inventoried.

South Bay Energy & Climate Public Agency Recognition Program – This 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. SBCCOG staff continues to monitor cities' completed activities and has sent city staff their 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 is sharing program information at South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce meetings and has developed an email campaign for eligible properties.

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 16 events.

II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: 37 hours for August; 2023 to date = 415 hours

III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In August 2023

- 3 - Networking Event
- 11 – In Person Event

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

- 6 - Networking Event
- 16 - In-person Community Event