

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

August 24, 2023

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – July 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 July 10 and July 24 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: 7 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

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 had a conference call with West Basin program manager to discuss new goals, funding and updates.

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)

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

- *Know Your H2O Classes*
 - July 19, 2023 - Water Quality & Monitoring
 - September 13, 2023 - Emerging Water Saving Technologies

- *Recycled Water Facility Tours*
 - Aug 19, 2023
- *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 – Mira Costa High School – **Pending Approval**
- 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

Upcoming Events:

- July 29 – Eco Gardener Workshop at Edward Vincent Jr. Park, Inglewood

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: 21 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 will conduct outreach walks in District 15 during the month of August.

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: 15 new Cash for Kitchens audits were completed. **GOAL MET***

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

GOAL EXCEEDED

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: 23 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 (8) Hawthorne (9) and Torrance (6)

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 (43), Gardena (26), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (72), 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 (78) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **361** businesses in the program as of July 2023.

Climate Action

The CivicSpark Fellow worked with SBCCOG staff to determine the best transportation methodology to use in the greenhouse gas emissions inventories. The Fellow created 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. A section explaining how the inventory was prepared was also included in the report. Lastly, the Fellow created slides on the work accomplished over the past seven months and presented them to the SBCCOG Board of Directors on July 27, 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.

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

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

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

South Bay Energy & Climate Public Agency Recognition Program – This program recognizes SoCalREN-enrolled cities in the South Bay for their efforts in pursuing energy efficiency initiatives and sustainability related tasks. Cities must complete activities by the third Monday of November annually to achieve points. SBCCOG staff continue to monitor cities' completed activities and have sent city staff their quarterly progress reports.

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 a South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce meeting and is working on an email campaign for eligible properties.

Kits for Kids

This SoCalREN program focuses on providing energy efficiency education to third and fourth grade students. 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. To date, there are 3 schools who have signed up for the 2023-2024 program; from Carson, Gardena, and Hawthorne.

In the 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, and Water Bottle Filling Stations.

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 8 events.

Potential Programs

Energy Efficiency & EV Infrastructure

SBCCOG staff is working with LA County and SoCalREN on three grant funding applications for the following programs: 1) residential direct install, 2) resiliency centers, 3) multifamily EV infrastructure. Applications are due end of Aug./early Sept. and award notification would be before Dec. 2023.

Biodiversity

SBCCOG staff have continued to explore possible collaboration opportunities with conservancies in the region and have recently met with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to discuss collaboration opportunities.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In July 2023

- 3 - Networking Event
- 5 – In Person Event

For the period July 1, 2023, through June 2024

- 3 - Networking Event
- 5 - In-person Community Event