

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

June 12, 2023

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – May 2023

I. PROGRAMS - TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING, & RESEARCH

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

Contract period is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

SBCCOG and West Basin staff met on May 14 and May 17 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: 101 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. **GOAL EXCEEDED***

Task - Speakers Bureau

Contract goal: identify and coordinate 14 speaking opportunities.

Status of goal: 10 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. Information is included in discussions with public agencies when meetings on environmental topics.

Approved Applications 8:

- City of Hermosa Beach - Indoor Community Center
- City of Hermosa Beach - Outdoor Clark Field Recreation Area
- Culver City USD, La Ballona Elementary - Indoor Between Rooms 15 & 16 Upstairs
- El Segundo Middle School - Indoor Near Physical Education Area
- City of Gardena, Rush Gymnasium - Outdoor Next to Building Entrance
- City of Gardena, Johnson Park - Outdoor Playground, Basketball & Tennis Courts
- City of Gardena, Freeman Park - Outdoor Playground & Multi-Purpose Room
- City of Gardena, Rowley Park - Outdoor Gymnasium

Pending Applications 3:

- City of Torrance, El Nido Park
- Temple Akiba of Culver City - Annex Courtyard Area
- Temple Akiba of Culver City - Hallway Adjacent to Classrooms

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

Contract goal: 13 physical classes or virtual webinars

Status of goal: 13 completed (virtual classes/in-person)

Staff continue to work with West Basin to hold virtual and in-person classes to execute the 2022-23 program year goals. Upcoming events:

- *Know Your H2O Classes*
 - July 19, 2023 - Water Quality & Monitoring
- *Recycled Water Facility Tours*
 - June 17, 2023
 - Aug 19, 2023
- *West Basin Chats – Grass Replacement*
 - June 7, 2023

Task - Commercial Water Efficiency Program

Contract goal: Assist the program consultant in identifying up to 12 commercial sites.

Status of goal: SBCCOG Staff completed GIS maps for West Basin target marketing activities. West Basin is now preparing to implement a plan.

Task - Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events

*Status of goal: 5/5 **GOAL MET**- All Rain Barrel distribution events for program year are complete.*

Dates for Fall 2023 rain barrel distribution are being planned.

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.

Upcoming Classes:

- June 10 – Sustainable Landscape Design, Hermosa Beach Community Center
- June 17 – Edible Gardening, Hermosa Beach Community Center
- June 26 – Carson Senior Gardening Workshop

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 conducted outreach walks in District 15 during the month of May.

Waste Reduction

Sanitation Districts of LA County (LACSD)

Contract period is July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Educational Outreach Support Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 112 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

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

*Status of goal: SBCCOG staff scheduled a total of 8 presentations, 7 presentations have been completed. **GOAL MET***

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: 14/60 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 (6) and Hawthorne (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 (41), Gardena (26), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (71), 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 **358** businesses in the program as of May 2023.

Climate Action

The CivicSpark Fellow discussed transportation methodologies with the SBCCOG team and reviewed the differences of the various options. The Fellow will be collecting more information within the next two weeks and then a final methodology will be selected. In addition, the Fellow created a draft greenhouse gas emissions inventory update report template to present both community-wide and

municipal emissions findings to the cities. Finally, the Fellow has completed graphs displaying the emissions over the years and how current emissions compare to targets.

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 conduct 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.

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

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

The team has scheduled the City of Inglewood for June site visits and is working on scheduling Redondo Beach, Lomita, Lawndale, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Palos Verdes Estates.

ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) – SBCCOG contacted all South Bay cities to confirm requirements for Building Energy Benchmarking (AB802) reporting (buildings greater than 50,000 square feet). Staff drafted energy use reports for cities’ approval prior to submitting them to the California Energy Commission by the June 1, 2023 deadline. Reports were submitted for: Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance.

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 will send another progress report at the end of Q2.

Institute for Local Government’s Beacon Program – sponsored by the Institute for Local Government (ILG), honors voluntary efforts by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and adopt policies that promote sustainability. The SBCCOG is assisting with the completion of applications for the cities of Carson and Rancho Palos Verdes.

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. Also, ICF has received a database of multi-unit residential building property managers which they are reviewing to identify eligible properties in our geographic area. The SBCCOG is working on an email campaign to these properties once identified.

Kits for Kids

This SoCalREN program focuses on providing energy efficiency education to third and fourth grade students. To date, there are 4 schools who have signed up for the program; from Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, and Redondo Beach. A total of 18 classrooms are now participating in the program with 10 having reached completion and earned the \$1,000 grant award per classroom - 3 of the 4 are DAC designated. These schools learned of the program through the SBCCOG outreach via email and social media campaigns.

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 10 events.

Potential Programs

Biodiversity

SBCCOG staff have begun researching possible collaboration opportunities with conservancies in the region. As part of this effort, staff from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy attended the most recent GIS Working Group meeting to learn more about the group's projects.

Organic Waste

The SBCCOG is considering the potential of incorporating educational information on organic waste disposal for residents and businesses. It is envisioned that information would be included in existing program activities resulting in a more comprehensive message.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In May 2023

- 1 - Business Event
- 0 – Virtual Networking
- 3 - Workshops
- 5 – In Person Event
- 0 – Presentation

For the period July 1, 2022, through April 2023

- 25 - Virtual Networking
- 32- Workshop
- 60 - In-person Community Event
- 3 - Business Event
- 9 - Presentation