

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

May 9, 2022

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – April 2022

## 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**

### **Climate**

#### GHG emission inventory updates – CivicSpark Fellow

The SBCCOG is working with city staff and local utilities on the data acquisition process in order to update greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories. As the data is received, it is entered into the ICLEI ClearPath portal. The SBCCOG has also prepared and distributed data requests for emissions related to water use. As data continues to come in, the Fellow is working on GHG emission calculations. The SBCCOG continues to respond to city questions about the inventory update process.

### **Energy Efficiency**

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

*Contract period is January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022*

*Contract goal: Work Plan (including goals) are underway for 2022*

In coordination with the SBCCOG and the SoCalREN, the City of Manhattan Beach held a residential Earth Day event, virtually, on April 27<sup>th</sup>. West Basin Water District was invited as a special guest. With a push from the SBESC newsletter that tripled registration rates, residents heard about City sustainability initiatives along with ways to save energy through energy efficiency and energy conservation practices, as well as SCE, SoCalGas, and West Basin residential programs. The webinar concluded with a call to action, asking residents to share photos of their energy-saving activity via social media or email, for the chance to win a Target gift card. Winners will be drawn on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A webinar recording will be made available on the SBCCOG and Manhattan Beach websites.

The SBCCOG continues to meet with cities to support state benchmarking compliance and assist cities with accessing their portfolios in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM), a free online energy management tool maintained by the EPA. Each city portfolio contains property and energy usage of all city-owned buildings, thus providing an opportunity for cities to understand their energy usage in greater detail. SBCCOG staff have conducted workshops on using ESPM and provided cities with the opportunity to ask any additional questions they may have on their portfolio

and state compliance. To date, SBCCOG staff have met with the following cities: Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Rolling Hills Estates.

Regarding the development of the facility equipment inventory, the SBCCOG continues to coordinate with the SoCalREN. The inventory will help inform cities on equipment replacement and potentially provide the CPUC data to help develop incentives. The SoCalREN and SBCCOG are further assessing which software should be used to compile the data.

Staff continue to collect utility data for new SoCalREN enrollees in order to complete city specific comparative energy analysis (CEA) which helps identify energy efficiency projects. To date, CEA reports have been presented to the cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, and El Segundo Unified School District. The Redondo Beach Unified School District CEA is in final review and will be presented to the district shortly.

*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, Redondo Beach Unified School District, and Torrance Unified School District.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): MULTIFAMILY

*Contract period is September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2022*

*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.

The SBCCOG attended a multifamily program webinar hosted by the SGVCOG on April 26 and promoted the webinar to South Bay cities. Staff is assessing lessons learned from the webinar in hopes of implementing new promotional ideas.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): Kits for Kids

SBCCOG staff continues to promote the Kits for Kids SoCalREN program focused on providing energy efficiency education to third and fourth grade students. The SBCCOG coordinated a grant award ceremony for Towne Elementary in Carson which was held on April 7. The teachers were presented with a ceremonial check as two fourth grade classrooms were awarded \$1,000 grants each. The actual payments have already been made to the school. Boardmember and Carson Councilmember Cedric Hicks joined the ceremony and presented certificates to the school, teachers, SoCalREN and the SBCCOG. The teachers and students completed program surveys which will be used as testimonials to incentivize other South Bay schools to participate.

ICF is working on creating new marketing materials in a resource kit that will include the flyer and testimonials. This item should be completed in May at which time the SBCCOG will provide the kit to the South Bay school district public information and/or communication contacts.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

*Contract period is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022*

Task – Community Outreach and Promotional Events

*Contract goal:* Exhibit or present at 8-12 targeted special events.

*Status of goal:* 6 exhibit events completed.

Task - Commercial Kitchen Water Assessments

*Contract goal:* Conduct 6-8 commercial kitchens in CD15 for water assessment.

*Status of goal:* 8 water assessments completed, and materials package was distributed – **GOAL MET**

PACE

SBCCOG continues to promote PACE financing for homeowners through Ygrene. For 2021 Q4 payments totaled \$120.37.

**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 met on April 13th to discuss implementation of programs and 2022-23 budget.

Task – Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

*Status of goal:* 84 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Staff continue 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

Staff continue outreach efforts to promote the Water Bottle Filling Station Program. Follow up phone calls were conducted to school districts in the South Bay.

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

*Contract goal:* 5 physical classes or webinars/virtual

*Status of goal:* 5 completed (virtual classes) **GOAL MET**

Staff continue 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:* Assist West Basin with rain barrel distribution **GOAL MET**

SBCCOG Staff and West Basin have started discussions on next program year's rain barrel distribution.

Task - Cash for Kitchens (CFK)

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

*Status of goal:* 64 water assessments completed, 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 communities of Lennox and Hermosa Beach. Twelve water assessments were conducted in the month of April 2022. For the month of May, business walks are being planned for El Segundo.

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:* 350 water conservation packages were distributed

*Contract goal:* Obtain up to 25% photos of installed devices

*Status of goal:* 9 photos collected

SBCCOG staff promoted this program at the South Bay Cities Council of Governments General Assembly.

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:* 85 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. as of April 2022.

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

*Status of goal:* 1 presentation has been completed

**Green Business**

California Green Business Network (CAGBN):

*Contract period February 28, 2022 – December 10, 2022*

*Contract goals: 15 certified business per city (total 30)*

*Status of goal: 0*

CAGBN – State funding has been distributed to the City of El Segundo and Hawthorne. SBCCOG was awarded both City of El Segundo and City of Hawthorne CA Green Business Network contracts. A kickoff meeting was held with the City of Hawthorne, and business appointments have been scheduled. SBCCOG staff attended the City of Hawthorne Business Expo on 4/27/2022 to

promote the program. The SBCCOG team is working with the City of Torrance on a contract which will be approved after July 2022.

South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP):

*Ongoing*

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 (26), Gardena (20), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (52), Inglewood (18), Lawndale (30), Lennox (10), Lomita (6), Manhattan Beach (8), Palos Verdes Estates (9), Rancho Palos Verdes (11), Redondo Beach (6), Rolling Hills Estates (6), Torrance (63) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **313** businesses in the program as of the end of April 2022.

**Transportation**

Shared Mobility Program (Contract period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022)

*Contract goals:* 85 outreach events; 36 vanpool, rideshare, telework meetings/events; 8

Marketing/Media Survey Engagements

*Status of goals:* 258 outreach events; 14 vanpool or rideshare meetings; 4 Survey Engagements

The SBCCOG facilitated two informational vanpool meetings with two employers. SBCCOG staff continued to distribute Shared Mobility materials at virtual meetings and online events as well as socially distant outdoor events. In addition, Shared Mobility information was shared through SBCCOG social media platforms. 19 such engagements took place during the month of April– 14 of the events was “in-person” community outreach events.

Metro Express Lanes (MEL) (Contract period November 15, 2019 – November 14, 2022)

Most SBCCOG outreach events continue to be held virtually. Staff continue to prepare, update, and share the SBCCOG 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 program. In total, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at 19 events.

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

Outreach Events

In April

- 4 – Virtual Networking
- 1 – Business Event
- 14 – In Person Event

For the period July 1, 2021, through April 2022:

- 32 Virtual Networking
- 12 Virtual Workshop
- 28 In-person Community Event
- 10 Business Event
- 2 Presentation