

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

July 10, 2023

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – June 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 June 12 and June 26 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: 106 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 – this task is moving to next contract period

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 Pending Installation

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

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) **GOAL MET***

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: 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.*

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:

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

Upcoming Events:

- July 22 – Eco Gardener Workshop at Madrona Marsh, Torrance
- 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 conducted outreach walks in District 15 during the month of June.

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: 118 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 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: 21 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) 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 (41), 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 **359** businesses in the program as of June 2023.

Climate Action

The CivicSpark Fellow worked with contractor Jon Rodman (GIS) to find the percentages of vehicles on the road for each city using previously obtained IHS Polk data. This information will produce an estimate of emissions for each city's transportation sections of the greenhouse gas emission inventory update. The Fellow and staff are still determining the best transportation methodology to use in the report. The Fellow and Climate Volunteer have drafted customized greenhouse gas emissions inventory update report templates on a graphic design website and have worked together to finalize a draft template text.

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.

Energy Manager Working Group – SBCCOG hosted city and school district energy staff in-person at the SBCCOG Offices in June. The following cities and school districts were in attendance: Carson, El Segundo, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, El Segundo USD, and Inglewood USD. Discussion points at the meeting included:

- SOCIAL GAS PROGRAMS – COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL, PUBLIC, AND OTHER OFFERINGS
- SOCIALREN PROGRAMS – 2023 HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER OFFERING (several cities expressed an interest in implementing this program)
- SBCCOG PROGRAMS – FACILITY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY, BENCHMARKING (AB802 COMPLIANCE), RECOGNITION PROGRAM, BEACON AWARDS, AND FUTURE SCHOOL BOARD OUTREACH

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.

21 – 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)
- MANHATTAN BEACH (3)
- ROLLING HILLS ESTATES (1)
- TORRANCE (3)

The team has scheduled the City of Lomita for July site visits and is working on scheduling Redondo Beach, Lawndale, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills, 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 will send another progress report in the first half of July.

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. Applications are due by July 7, and SBCCOG is assisting with the completion of applications for the cities of Carson, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Rolling Hills Estates. SBCCOG is also applying for a competitive Leadership and Innovation Award to recognize the SBESC for its 20 years of bringing energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, renewable energy, and transportation resources to the South Bay.

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.

- 135th Street? school in Gardena: 1 completed in 2022 and 5 classrooms enrolled in March 2023
- Towne Elementary in Carson: 1 classroom enrolled in January 2023
- Zela Davis school in Hawthorne: 3 classrooms completed in 2022 and 2 enrolled in March 2023
- Washington Elementary in Redondo Beach: 6 classrooms completed in 2023

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.

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 11 events.

Potential Programs

Biodiversity

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

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. SBCCOG staff will be discussing this with the City of Torrance Waste Management staff to explore outreach opportunities and options for the next contract year.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In June 2023

- 1 - Business Event
- 4 – Workshops
- 0 – Presentation
- 0 – Virtual Networking
- 6 – In Person Event

For the period July 1, 2022, through June 2023

- 25 - Virtual Networking
- 36- Workshop
- 66 - In-person Community Event
- 4 - Business Event
- 9 - Presentation