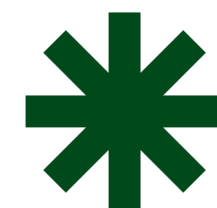




SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



SBCCOG CIVICSPARK 2024- 2025 FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH



Presented By : Zoran Trifunovic



MEET ME!



Zoran Trifunovic graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies in 2024. He served as a CivicSpark Fellow with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, supporting with Outreach and Communications. Zoran grew up in Orange County and enjoys basketball, skateboarding, and DIY projects in his garage. Zoran is now a full-time Project Coordinator with the SBCCOG!



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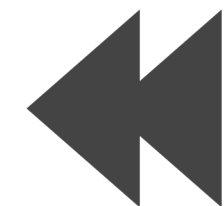
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COMMUNICATIONS

- Published 3 press releases and authored numerous articles
- Posted over 200+ social media posts across 4 platforms
- Managed the General Assembly Promotional Photo Contest
 - Speaker at the General Assembly
- Created a Social Media Policy for SBCCOG Staff
- Produced monthly social media reports for board review





The plant palette at 120 Via Colusa, a Sustainable Landscape Beautification Award winner, uses California natives and low-water Mediterranean plants. Manzanita ground cover slows runoff on a steeply sloped lot.

Torrance Residents Rewarded for Sustainable Green Thumbs

As SoCal water shortages remain widespread this spring, the lush green lawns that made up the residential landscapes of the South Bay's past continue to shrink as residents gradually transition to more sustainable options like river rock, succulents and sage. But residents of Torrance are proving there is nothing aesthetically "dry" about drought-tolerant gardens, and the city is taking notice.

Torrance rolled out its residential Landscape Beautification Award this year to celebrate the efforts of residents who maintain and enhance their homes and outdoor spaces. Also recognized in a Sustainable Landscape Beautification category are homes that exhibit exceptional pride of ownership through water conservation practices as part of their landscaping design. This includes the use of drought-tolerant or native plants, water-friendly irrigation systems and energy-efficient lighting.

"Through this category, we hope to spread the word about what our fellow citizens are doing to help the environment right in their own backyards," said Gregg Lodan, neighborhood services manager, Community Development Department, City of Torrance. "In turn we hope to inspire others to make changes in their own spaces."

Nine properties throughout the city's six council districts were selected as award recipients. Thirteen properties were selected for honorable mention.

The highest-scoring properties had several common features. They used a variety of plants, ground cover and even hardscape, such as pavers, patio spaces or decorative rock, to create a visually pleasing environment. They also used drip irrigation to minimize water usage, incorporated lighting to showcase their properties at night, and planted foliage to attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

Lodan says the program aligns with the city's strategic plan goals of appearance, character and quality of the community, and stewardship of the environment. Winners receive an award certificate, a yard sign to display and a gift card to a local home improvement store. Torrance plans to launch a Commercial Beautification Awards program later this year. •

To learn more about the program, visit torranceca.gov/beautificationawards. Residents throughout the South Bay, including Torrance, who convert their lawns to water-wise gardens, may be eligible for cash rebates from the water company serving their property. Anyone interested should contact their water agency for details. For more water conservation tips, visit southbaycities.org/water-conservation.

South Bay Watch is a quarterly bulletin by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to inform local leaders of subregional progress and alert them to emerging issues.

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The South Bay Cities Council of Governments Wins Eureka Award for Functional Zero Homelessness Program

The California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG), representing 49 regional agencies across California, presented its Eureka Award to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) for its Functional Zero Street Homelessness Initiative. The Functional Zero program helps cities achieve measurable reductions in homelessness by ensuring more people are housed than become homeless. Redondo Beach recently became the first city to pilot and reach this benchmark.

The SBCCOG's Homeless Services team coordinates housing placements, support services and real-time case management throughout the South Bay. In Redondo Beach, Functional Zero reduced street homelessness cases from 261 in 2017 to 25 as of mid-May 2025 while maintaining an average on-the-street duration of 14 days.

The Eureka Award recognizes California's most innovative regional programs. The SBCCOG's initiative stood out for its replicable framework combining housing solutions like pallet shelters and interim housing along with client aid. As three additional South Bay cities prepare to implement the program, the recognition highlights how regional collaboration can create scalable solutions to homelessness.

The CALCOG's selection also highlights the SBCCOG's leadership in developing practical, accountable approaches to one of California's most complex challenges. The award validates the Functional Zero model as both an aspirational goal and achievable standard for communities statewide. •



From left: Sabrina Bradbury, director of government affairs, CALCOG; Bill Higgins, executive director, CALCOG; Jacki Bacharach, executive director, SBCCOG (center, accepting award); Britt Huff, president, CALCOG, council member, Rolling Hills Estates, and former chair, SBCCOG; and David Leger, senior project manager, administration, SBCCOG.

A Slice of History

Local Pizza Show Wins the South Bay 90s Rewind Photo Contest

For nearly 70 years, Hawthorne's Pizza Show has been dishing out what it proudly calls "the best pizza, wings, pasta and sandwiches in the South Bay." This family-owned institution, open since 1956, recently found itself in the spotlight as the winning subject of the South Bay 90s Rewind photo contest, hosted by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG).

Lawndale photographer Giancarlo Guerra captured the pizza parlor's timeless and iconic style in his winning shot. The photo showcased its vintage sign and storefront, where generations have gathered to enjoy meals and watch televised sporting events.

"I came about taking the photo of Pizza Show because of my memories of going there to eat with my parents and brothers in the early '90s," Guerra recalled. "Now as an adult, my friends and I enjoy ordering a giant pizza for lunch breaks."

"Giancarlo's photo captures exactly what we wanted to highlight—those enduring local landmarks that shape our community's identity," said Rodney Tanaka, Gardena's mayor pro tem and SBCCOG chair, who frequented the pizzeria in high school. The contest invited submissions showcasing 1990s-era South Bay. It drew entries featuring street scenes, businesses and everyday life from the decade.

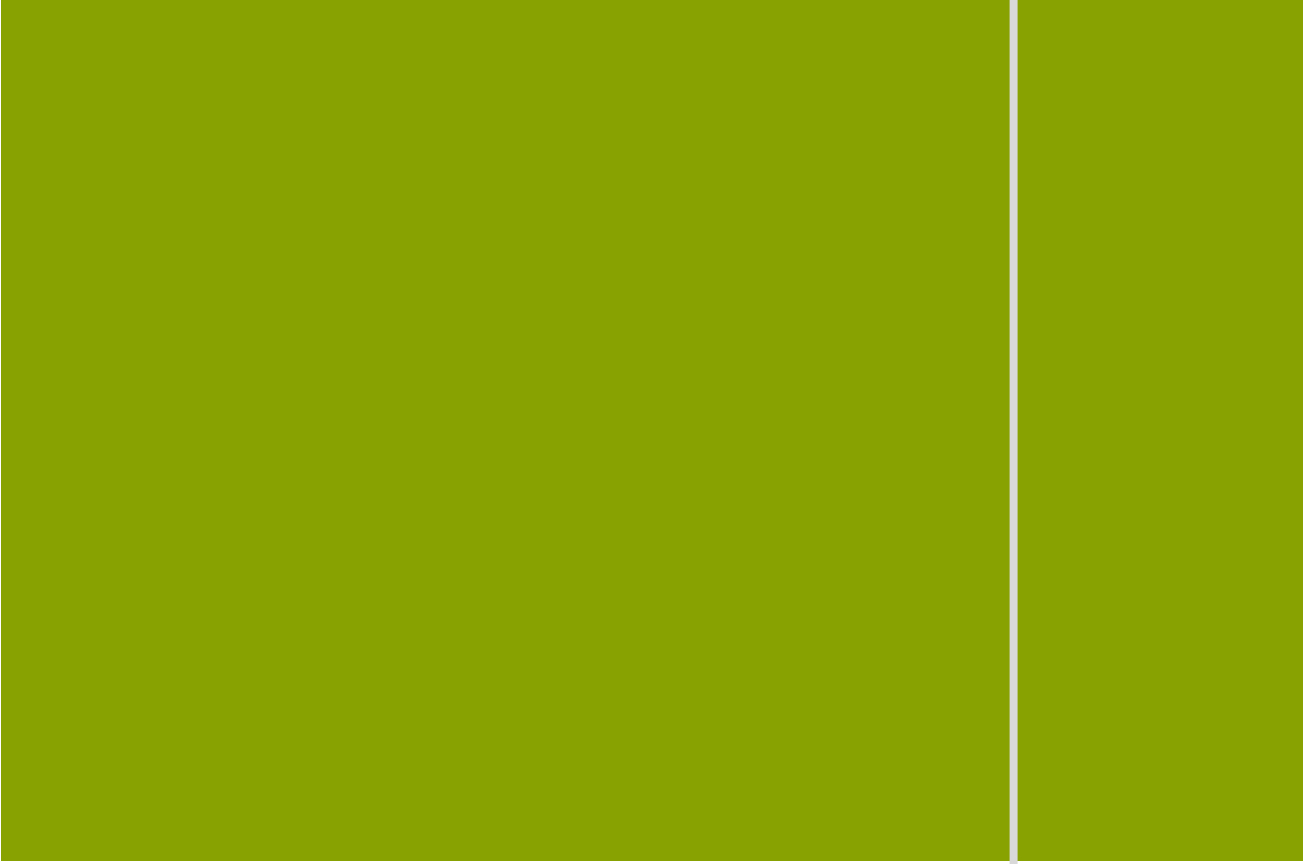
The pizzeria has been a neighborhood staple for generations, known for its late-night hours and game-day atmosphere. Owner Gary Evans, who took over the business from the original owner, his father, Jay, maintains the same recipes and traditions that helped Pizza Show stand the test of time. The pizzeria embodies the contest's goals of celebrating timeless community classics.

Attendees of the SBCCOG's 25th General Assembly in March were invited to select the winner among five finalists through an online vote. Tanaka announced Guerra's photo as winner at the event. •

For more information and to view the other finalists, visit bit.ly/90srewindwinner

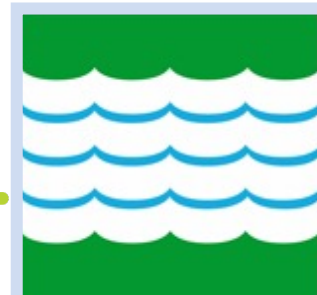


Lawndale photographer Giancarlo Guerra's image depicting the front of Hawthorne's Pizza Show took home first place in the SBCCOG's South Bay 90s Rewind photo contest.



OUTREACH IMPACTS

- Helped the outreach team reach 100 event goal in FY 24-25
- LACSD contract deliverable in getting Speaker's Bureau presentations for committees
- Manage monthly Partner Meetings
- Manage the Volunteer Program



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Launched volunteer hour tracking tool in 2025
 - Most hours tracked since 2016 (and still counting!)
- Updated lobby volunteer board
- Doubled active volunteers
- Reorganized volunteer folder
- Planned a volunteer field trip
- Created monthly volunteer bulletin



VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP!



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- **Commercial Direct Install Program**
 - 40 Businesses Audited
 - 22 Proposals Returned
- **Organic Waste Management and Public Education for the City of Rolling Hills**
 - First Workshop – full house!



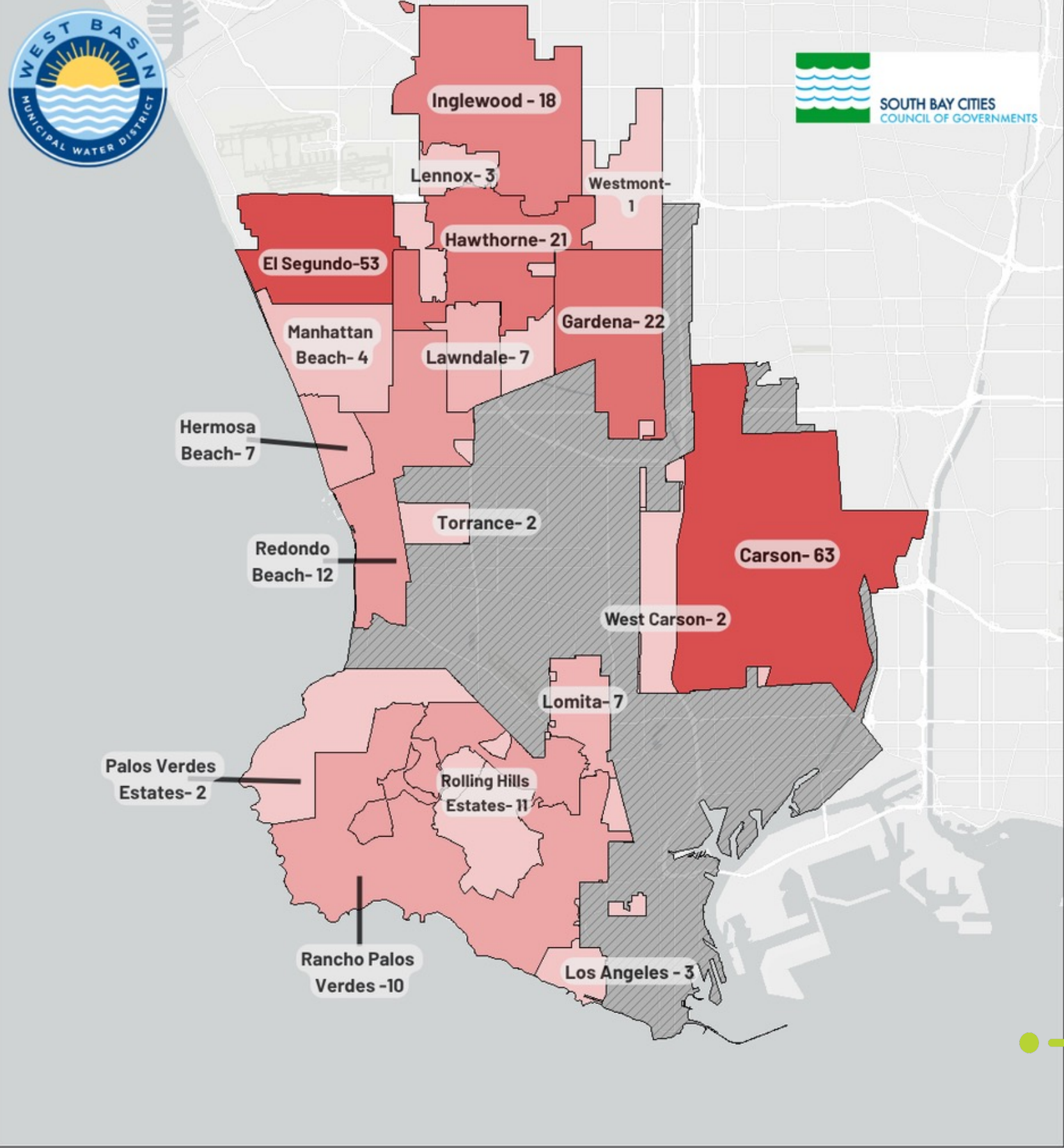
GIS CONTRIBUTIONS

- Created a GIS map for West Basin of all the events SBCCOG has attended since (2020–2025)
- Archived SBCCOG Story Maps before they were deleted



2020-2025 SBCCOG Outreach Events; West Basin Territory

Excluding: 199 Virtual Events, 33 Board Meetings and 37 Steering Committee





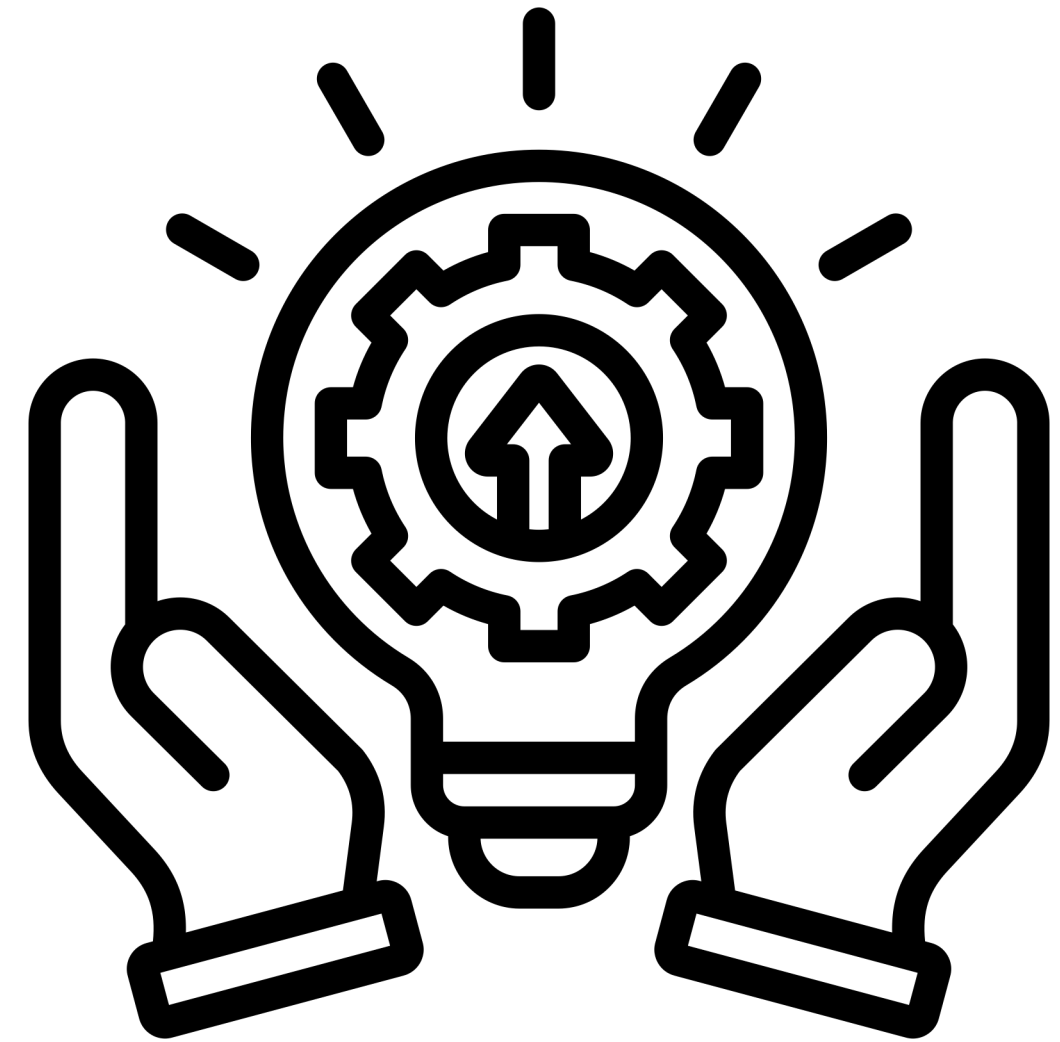
LOOKING FORWARD!

► 2026 GOALS FOR SBCCOG

- Continuing work with the SBCCOG as a Project Coordinator

► SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

- More Organic Waste Programs!



THANK YOU!

