

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 7, 2014

AGENDA NO. 14

PROPOSAL: Legislative and Public Affairs Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the December 2013 outreach activities of Legislative and Public Affairs, which include: Environmental Justice Update, Community Events/Public Meetings, Business Assistance, and Outreach to Business and Federal, State, and Local Government.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

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Executive Officer

LBS:DJA:MC:DM

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the activities of Legislative and Public Affairs for December 2013. The report includes four major areas: Environmental Justice Update; Community Events/Public Meetings (including the Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, and Public Information Center); Business Assistance; and Outreach to Business and Federal, State, and Local Governments.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE

The following are key environmental justice-related activities in which staff participated during the month of December. These events involve communities that may suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

December 4

- Staff participated in the Inland Empire Air Quality Committee meeting. Staff provided information on the “Check Before You Burn” program and the Woodstove and Fireplace Incentive program, and demonstrated the plug-in Prius.
- Staff had a follow-up discussion with officials from the Coachella Unified School District and members of the public on Rule 444 – Open Burning for Agriculture. School officials and residents in Mecca and Thermal are concerned about the lingering smoke from burn events at local farms. Staff provided additional information on steps taken to address the issue and the installation of air filters at the school.

December 10

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the Riverside Health Coalition: Healthy City Resolution Sub-Committee. Staff provided information on the “Check Before You Burn” program and the Woodstove and Fireplace Incentive program.

December 12

- Staff met with the American Lung Association’s Inland Empire Division to discuss the Better Breathers Clubs in the Inland Valley. Staff provided information on the “Check Before You Burn” program.
- Staff met and interviewed Breathmobile staff at Barton Elementary School in Long Beach. The meeting and interview was in preparation for a video project highlighting local air quality issues.

December 14

- The Hearing Board of SCAQMD held a Public Hearing at California State University, Los Angeles in which members of the public provided testimony to consider an Order for Abatement as the result of emissions from Exide Technologies.

December 18

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the Riverside Health Coalition: Healthy City Resolution Working Group meeting. Staff provided information on the “Check Before You Burn” program and the Woodstove and Fireplace Incentive program.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/PUBLIC MEETINGS

Each year, thousands of residents engage in valuable information exchanges through events and meetings that SCAQMD sponsors either alone or in partnership with others. Attendees typically receive the following information:

- Tips on reducing their exposure to smog and its health effects.
- Clean air technologies and their deployment.
- Invitations or notices of conferences, seminars, workshops and other public events.

- Ways to participate in SCAQMD’s rule and policy development.
- Assistance in resolving air pollution-related problems.

The events that SCAQMD staff attended and/or provided information and updates include:

December 3

- Rio Hondo Community College’s Resource / Health Fair, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Probation Department, Whittier.

December 12

- SCAQMD’s Rule 1420.1 Working Group Meeting, Boyle Heights Youth Technology Center

SPEAKERS BUREAU/VISITOR SERVICES

SCAQMD regularly receives requests for staff to speak on air quality-related issues from a wide variety of organizations, such as trade associations, chambers of commerce, community-based groups, schools, hospitals and health-based organizations. SCAQMD also hosts visitors from around the world who meet with staff on a wide range of air quality issues.

December 19

- Staff provided an overview presentation on the SCAQMD, air quality, and a tour of the agency’s Diamond Bar headquarters, and displayed alternative fueled vehicles for State Assembly Members: Cheryl Brown, Eric Linder, and Mike Morrell.

COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS

The Communication Center handles calls on the SCAQMD main line, 1-800-CUT-SMOG® line and Spanish line. Calls received in the month of December 2013 are summarized below:

Main Line Calls	2,757
1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	1,568
After Hours Calls*	495
Spanish Line Calls	<u>91</u>
<i>Total Calls</i>	4,911

* Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and after 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS

The Public Information Center (PIC) handles phone calls and walk-in requests for general information. Information for the month of December 2013 is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC Staff	55
Calls to Automated System	<u>1,071</u>
<i>Total Calls</i>	1,126
Visitor Transactions	1,011
E-Mail Advisories Sent	19,070

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

SCAQMD notifies local businesses of proposed regulations so they can participate in the agency's rule development process of these rules. SCAQMD also works with other agencies and governments to identify efficient, cost-effective ways to reduce air pollution and shares that information broadly. Additionally, staff provides personalized assistance to small businesses both over the telephone and via on-site consultation. The information is summarized below.

- Conducted two free on-site consultations
- Provided permit application assistance to 148 companies
- Issued 11 clearance letters
- Provided assistance in filing two requests for variances

Types of business assisted:

Restaurants	Food manufacturer	Semi-conductor
Hotels	General contractors	manufacturer
Cement plan	Metal coater	Vitamin manufacturer
School & college	Gas stations	Dry cleaners
Auto body shops		

OUTREACH TO BUSINESS AND FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Field visits and communications were conducted with elected officials or staff from the following cities:

Alhambra	Azusa	Beverly Hills	Calimesa
Agoura Hills	Baldwin Park	Big Bear Lake	Canyon Lake
Aliso Viejo	Banning	Bradbury	Carson
Anaheim	Beaumont	Brea	Cathedral City
Arcadia	Bell	Buena Park	Cerritos
Artesia	Bell Gardens	Burbank	Chino
Avalon	Bellflower	Calabasas	Chino Hills

Claremont	Huntington Park	Mission Viejo	San Dimas
Coachella	Indian Wells	Monrovia	San Fernando
Colton	Indio	Montclair	San Gabriel
Commerce	Industry	Montebello	San Jacinto
Compton	Inglewood	Monterey Park	San Juan Capistrano
Corona	Irvine	Moreno Valley	San Marino
Costa Mesa	Irwindale	Murrieta	Santa Ana
Covina	Jurupa Valley	Newport Beach	Santa Clarita
Cudahy	La Cañada	Norco	Santa Fe Springs
Culver City	Flintridge	Norwalk	Santa Monica
Cypress	La Habra	Ontario	Seal Beach
Dana Point	La Habra Heights	Orange	Sierra Madre
Desert Hot Springs	La Mirada	Palm Desert	Signal Hill
Diamond Bar	La Palma	Palm Springs	South El Monte
Downey	La Puente	Palos Verdes Estates	South Gate
Duarte	La Quinta	Paramount	South Pasadena
Eastvale	La Verne	Pasadena	Stanton
El Monte	Laguna Beach	Perris	Temecula
El Segundo	Laguna Hills	Pico Rivera	Temple City
Fontana	Laguna Niguel	Placentia	Torrance
Fountain Valley	Laguna Woods	Pomona	Tustin
Fullerton	Lake Elsinore	Rancho Cucamonga	Upland
Garden Grove	Lake Forest	Rancho Mirage	Vernon
Gardena	Lakewood	Rancho Palos Verdes	Villa Park
Glendale	Lawndale	Rancho Santa	Walnut
Glendora	Loma Linda	Margarita	West Covina
Grand Terrace	Lomita	Redlands	West Hollywood
Hawaiian Gardens	Long Beach	Redondo Beach	Westlake Village
Hawthorne	Los Alamitos	Rialto	Westminster
Hemet	Los Angeles	Riverside	Whittier
Hermosa Beach	Lynwood	Rolling Hills	Wildomar
Hidden Hills	Malibu	Rolling Hills Estates	Yorba Linda
Highland	Manhattan Beach	Rosemead	Yucaipa
Huntington Beach	Maywood	San Bernardino	
	Menifee	San Clemente	

Visits and/or communications were conducted with elected officials or staff from the following state and federal offices:

- State Senator Kevin de Leon
- Assembly Member Cheryl Brown
- Assembly Member Eric Linder
- Assembly Member Jose Medina
- Assembly Member Melissa Melendez

- Assembly Member Mike Morrell
- Assembly Member Brian Nestande
- Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez

Staff represented SCAQMD and/or provided a presentation to the following groups:

American Lung Association
 Barton Elementary School, Long Beach
 Bell Public Library
 Benjamin Franklin Library, Los Angeles
 Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
 California Institute of Technology, Pasadena
 Chino Chamber of Commerce
 Communities for a Better Environment, Huntington Park
 Commerce Public Library
 Corona Chamber of Commerce
 East Los Angeles Public Library
 East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Commerce
 El Camino Real Library
 Florence Public Library, Los Angeles
 Graham Public Library, Los Angeles
 Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce
 Hemet/San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce
 Huntington Park Library
 Irwindale Chamber of Commerce
 Inland Empire Air Quality Committee
 Leland R. Weaver Library, South Gate
 Maywood Cesar Chavez Library
 Menifee Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce
 Resurrection Catholic Church, Los Angeles
 Robert Louis Stevenson Branch Library, Los Angeles
 Riverside County Health Coalition
 Riverside Transit Agency
 San Bernardino Association of Governments
 San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce
 San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
 San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
 San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network
 San Jacinto Community Center
 University of Southern California, Los Angeles
 Western Riverside County Council of Governments
 Western Riverside County Transportation NOW