

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 1, 2015

AGENDA NO. 12

PROPOSAL: Legislative and Public Affairs Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the March 2015 outreach activities of Legislative and Public Affairs, which include: an 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:jns

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the activities of Legislative and Public Affairs for March 2015. 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 SCAQMD staff participated during the month of March. These events involve communities that may suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

March 4

- Staff assisted with the Exide Community Advisory Committee meeting held at Resurrection Church in Boyle Heights and provided updates on Rule 1420.1 as well as the current status of Exide Technologies, Inc.

March 18

- Staff attended the Riverside County Health Coalition's Healthy City Resolution Workgroup meeting in Riverside and provided an update on the upcoming American Lung Association Lung Force Expo on Saturday, May 2 in Ontario, for which SCAQMD is a sponsor.

March 19

- Staff participated in the Moreno Valley/Perris Transportation NOW Chapter meeting in Perris and provided an update on the federal grant funding opportunities for diesel trucks and school buses provided by SCAQMD, as well as the grand opening of SCAQMD's Hydrogen Fueling station.

March 26

- Staff assisted with an SCAQMD Public Workshop Group meeting on Rule 1148.1, related to oil and gas wells in Montebello and provided an overview of the rule as well as accepted public comments from attendees.

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; and
- Assistance in resolving air pollution-related problems.

SCAQMD staff attended and/or provided information and updates at the following events:

March 5

- SCAQMD's Public Workshop & CEQA Scoping meeting on Proposed Revised Rule 415 (Odors from Rendering Facilities) at Barstow Park, Commerce.

March 7

- Chino Youth Museum's "Dairy Aire 5K Run" at Ayala Park, Chino.

March 14

- 36th Annual Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia.

March 20

- 6th Annual Auto Club Speedway – STEM Day Event, Fontana Speedway.

March 25-26

- Orange County Children's Water Festival, University of California, Irvine.

March 28

- SCAQMD's Cesar Chavez Day of Remembrance Event, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.
- 13th Annual Chino Corn Feed Run, Downtown Chino.

March 31

- Staff assisted with SCAQMD public meetings in San Bernardino and Riverside; and provided information on the draft revised Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessments (OEHHA) risk guidelines and possible effects on the implementation of the AB 2588 Toxic Hot Spot program.

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.

March 18

- Staff spoke to 40 members of the Palm Springs Rotary Club and provided them with an overview on the agency, air quality, and information on the CPV Sentinel Energy Project, a local natural gas-powered electric generation facility in Desert Hot Springs.

March 27

- Fifty students from the Environmental Charter High School in Lawndale visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received an overview on the agency, air quality, and toured the laboratory.

March 31

- Twelve students from Hope International University, Los Angeles, visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received an overview on the agency, air quality, and environmental-related social issues.
- Two representative from the City of Ontario visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received an overview on the agency, air quality, and toured the laboratory.

COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS

The Communication Center handles calls on the SCAQMD main line, 1-800-CUT-SMOG[®] line, the Spanish line, and after hours calls to each of those lines. Calls received in the month of March 2015 were:

Calls to SCAQMD's Main Line and the 1-800-CUT-SMOG [®] Line	3,916
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>61</u>
Total Calls	3,977

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS

The Public Information Center (PIC) handles phone calls and walk-in requests for general information. Information for the month of March 2015 is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC Staff	155
<u>Calls to Automated System</u>	<u>922</u>
Total Calls	1,077
Visitor Transactions	174

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

SCAQMD notifies local businesses of proposed regulations so they can participate in the agency's rule development process. SCAQMD also works with other agencies and governments to identify efficient, cost-effective ways to reduce air pollution and shares that information broadly. Staff provides personalized assistance to small businesses

both over the telephone and via on-site consultation. The information is summarized below:

- Conducted four free on-site consultations
- Provided permit application assistance to 181 companies
- Issued 33 clearance letters

Types of businesses assisted

Auto Body Shops	Auto Repair Shops	Metal Processing Facilities
Dry Cleaners	Printing Facilities	Furniture Manufacturers
Gas Stations	Aerospace Manufacturers	Construction & Architecture
Restaurants		

OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY GROUPS AND FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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

Anaheim	Irvine	Murrieta
Alhambra	Irwindale	Paramount
Aliso Viejo	Jurupa Valley	Pasadena
Arcadia	La Canada Flintridge	Placentia
Banning	La Palma	Perris
Bell	Lake Elsinore	Rancho Santa Margarita
Bell Gardens	Lake Forest	Riverside
Beaumont	Laguna Niguel	Rosemead
Brea	Laguna Woods	San Clemente
Buena Park	Loma Linda	Santa Clarita
Bradbury	Los Alamitos	San Gabriel
Burbank	Long Beach	San Marino
Commerce	Los Angeles	Sierra Madre
Cudahy	Maywood	South Gate
Culver City	Montebello	South Pasadena
Duarte	Monrovia	Temecula
Fontana	Moreno Valley	Temple City
Hemet	Monterey Park	Westminster
Huntington Beach	Mission Viejo	

Visits and/or communications were conducted with elected officials or staff from the following State and Federal Offices:

- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
- U.S. Congressman Pete Aguilar
- U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard
- U.S. Congressman Ken Calvert
- U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu
- U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano
- U.S. Congressman Ed Royce
- U.S. Congressman Mark Takano
- State Senator Joel Anderson
- State Senator Ed Hernandez
- State Senator Ricardo Lara
- State Senator Mike Morrell
- State Senator Fran Pavley
- State Senator Richard Roth
- State Senator Jeff Stone
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Member Chad Mayes
- Assembly Member Jose Medina
- Assembly Member Melissa Melendez
- Assembly Member Marc Steinorth

Staff represented SCAQMD and/or provided a presentation to the following governments and business organizations:

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce
Arcadia Chamber of Commerce
Banning Chamber of Commerce
Beaumont Chamber of Commerce
Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce
California League of Cities, Orange County Division
Corona Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce
Hemet/San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce
Irwindale Chamber of Commerce
Los Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Council Economic Development Corporation
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta Chamber of Commerce
Omnitrans
Riverside County Transportation Commission
Riverside Transit Agency
San Bernardino Associated Governments
San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Gabriel Valley Coalition of Chambers of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Southern California Gas Company
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Western Riverside Council of Governments
Western Riverside Transportation NOW (RTA)

- Greater Riverside Chapter, Riverside
- Hemet/San Jacinto Chapter, Hemet
- Moreno Valley/Perris Chapter
- San Gorgonio Pass Chapter, Beaumont
- Southwest Chapter, Lake Elsinore

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

American Cancer Society, Los Angeles
American Lung Association, Inland Counties
Angelus Plaza (Senior Activity Center), Los Angeles
Boyle Heights Senior Citizen Center
Carson Community Center
Californians for Affordable & Reliable Energy
Claude Pepper Senior Citizen Center, Los Angeles
Climate Resolve, Los Angeles
Coronado High School
Coalition for a Safe Environment, Wilmington
El Sereno Senior Citizen Center, Los Angeles
Gardena Senior Community Center
Gage Middle School, Huntington Park
Green LA Coalition
Hawthorne Senior Center
Highland Park Senior Citizen Center
Inglewood Senior Center
International Institute of Los Angeles
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

Lawndale Senior Center
La Puente High School
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Lincoln Heights Senior Citizen Center
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Sustainability Collaborative
Los Angeles Unified School District
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Organization
Monterey Park Environmental Commission
Pasadena Neighborhood Connections
Richard Merkin Middle School, Los Angeles
Riverside County Health Coalition
San Bernardino County Department of Public Health
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
South Bay Environmental Services Center