

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 7, 2017

AGENDA NO. 17

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the May 2017 outreach activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office, which include: an Environmental Justice Update, Community Events/Public Meetings, Business Assistance, Media Relations and Outreach to Business and Federal, State, and Local Government.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
Receive and file.

Wayne Natri  
Executive Officer

DJA:FW:MC:DM

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## **BACKGROUND**

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for May 2017. The report includes five major areas: Environmental Justice; Community Events/Public Meetings (including the Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, and Public Information Center); Small Business Assistance; Media Relations; and Outreach to Business and Governments.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE**

The following are key environmental justice-related activities in which staff participated during May 2017. These events involve communities which suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

### May 2

- Staff attended the Healthy Jurupa Valley Meeting at Crestmore Manor of the Riverside County park system, hosted by Reach Out ([we-reachout.org](http://we-reachout.org)). Staff networked with community groups, public health specialists, elected officials, and residents who live and work in San Bernardino. Agenda topics included air pollution and public health. SCAQMD shared information with participants about the Environmental Justice Community Partnership, and met with the Executive Director from Reach Out to discuss collaboration on a community workshop.

### May 3

- Staff met with IQAir and shared public outreach strategies while discussing opportunities for future collaboration.

### May 10

- Staff attended and presented to the Taking Responsibility and Control, Neighborhood Watch Group meeting in La Puente. Staff provided information on a facility which had received a Notice of Violation, how to file a complaint, and introduced them to the FIND web-based tool to check on the compliance history of facilities.

### May 18

- Staff assisted with the logistics of and attended the Department of Toxic Substances Control and SCAQMD Exide Community Advisory Group meeting in Maywood. SCAQMD staff provided information on the demolition of a building near Exide Technologies, Inc.

### May 23

- Staff hosted a panel at the National Innovative Communities Conference in San Bernardino on “Improving Air Quality and Public Health through Policy, Government Programs, Technology and Partnerships.” Attendees included public health workers, community groups, non-profits, government agencies, and community residents.

### May 24

- Staff hosted the second Environmental Justice Community Partnership’s Advisory Council for 2017. Council members were given a presentation on incentive and assistance programs offered by the SCAQMD, the 2017 Environmental Justice Community Partnership events, and an update on the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan.

### May 24

- Staff met with the Hawthorne Director of Building and Safety to review SCAQMD's updated Air Quality Permit Checklist. Staff provided information on the SCAQMD Small Business Assistance (SBA) program including no-fault inspections and the SBA hotline.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS/PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Each year SCAQMD staff engage with thousands of residents, providing valuable information about the agency, incentive programs and ways individuals can help reduce air pollution through events and meetings sponsored solely by SCAQMD 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;
- SCAQMD incentive programs;
- 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:

### May 11

- Inland Empire Transportation Innovation Fair, San Bernardino.

### May 13

- 48th Assembly District State Resources Fair, Arts and Recreation Center, Baldwin Park.

### May 17

Renewable Natural Gas Symposium, Bourns Technology Center, University California, Riverside.

### May 18

- SCAQMD Proposed Rule 1410 Working Group Meeting, Wilmington Senior Center, Los Angeles.

### May 20

- Children's Hospital of Orange County, Air Power Games Event, Santa Ana.
- American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Walk Event, Santana Regional Park, Corona.

## **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, and health-based organizations. SCAQMD also hosts visitors from around the world who meet with staff on a wide range of air quality issues.

### May 11

- Staff presented an overview on SCAQMD, air quality, and environmental justice to 20 students and teachers at California State University, Fullerton.

### May 12

- Twenty-five representatives from the National Weather Service visited SCAQMD headquarters where SCAQMD staff provided presentations on air pollution and meteorological science.

### May 16

- Staff presented an overview on SCAQMD, air quality, its health impacts, and ways to control smog (including the use of clean alternative fuel vehicles) to 250 students and teachers at Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences School, Granada Hills.

### May 17

- 72 students and teachers at Temecula Preparatory School in Winchester received an overview on SCAQMD, air quality, its health impacts, and the use of clean alternative fuel vehicles to reduce smog.

### May 18

- Staff presented an overview on SCAQMD, air quality, its health impacts, and ways to reduce smog (including the role of clean alternative fuel vehicles) to 60 students and teachers with the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists, University of California, Irvine.
- Staff presented an overview on SCAQMD, air quality, its health impacts, and ways to reduce smog (including the role of clean alternative fuel vehicles) to 40 students and teachers at Mesa View Middle School, Calimesa.

## **COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS**

The Communication Center handles calls on SCAQMD's main line, the 1-800-CUT-SMOG<sup>®</sup> line, the Spanish line, and after-hours calls to each of those lines. Total calls received in the month of May were:

Calls to SCAQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG <sup>®</sup> Line	3,690
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>48</u>
Total Calls	3,738

**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS**

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

Calls Received by PIC Staff	126
<u>Calls to Automated System</u>	<u>860</u>
Total Calls	986
Visitor Transactions	188
Email Advisories Sent	2,909

**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:

- Provided permit application assistance to 249 companies;
- Conducted 11 free on-site consultations;
- Issued 98 clearance letters; and
- Provided assistance in filing 1 request for variance.

**Types of businesses assisted**

Auto Body Shops	Dry Cleaners	Furniture Refinishing Facilities
Engineering Firms	Gas Stations	Auto Repair Centers
Construction Firms	Restaurants	Printing Facilities
Architecture Firms	Breweries	Manufacturing Facilities
Plating Facilities		

**MEDIA RELATIONS**

The Media Office handles all SCAQMD outreach and communications with television, radio, newspapers and all other publications and media operations.

**Total Media Inquiries: 169**

**Major Media Topics for May:**

- **Air Toxics Plan** – With the press release regarding SCAQMD's Compton air monitoring project, the Media Office received multiple requests regarding the plan. Staff also received a Public Records Request for a list of Rule 1469 hexavalent chromium facilities and their hexavalent chromium emissions. Interviews were conducted with KPCC and the LA Times, and stories ran in multiple publications and on the radio station 94.7 The Wave.

- **Refineries** – Staff conducted an interview with the Center for Public Integrity on several issues relating to refineries, including emission trends, the FluxSense optical remote sensing study, RECLAIM and its phase-out, as well as the Tesoro Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance (LARIC) EIR certification.
- **Tesoro EIR** —Random Lengths News submitted a series of questions in regards to the approval process of the Tesoro Final EIR, and questions on why the FluxSense remote sensing study findings were not used in the EIR.
- **Aliso Canyon** – Staff conducted an on-camera interview with KCBS regarding reported formaldehyde emissions from the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility and ambient air monitoring of formaldehyde in Porter Ranch. An interview including the agency’s Health Effects Officer aired on May 23. A reporter requested copies of the AB 2588 screening-score documents for the Aliso Canyon storage facility for three prior years.
- **Rancho Cucamonga Natural Gas leak**– The Daily Bulletin and KCAL 9 submitted queries on SCAQMD’s response to the natural gas leak. Stories ran May 19. A new web page was created on the SCAQMD website, focusing on SCAQMD’s activities investigating this leak.

**Media Campaigns**

- **Google Ad Campaign:** The Right to Breathe Google Ad Word campaign garnered 6,517 clicks, 6.9 million impressions, and 1.29 million views.

**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:

Alhambra	Calimesa	Indian Wells
Anaheim	Claremont	Hawthorne
Arcadia	Coachella	Jurupa Valley
Artesia	Compton	Lawndale
Azusa	Covina	La Cañada Flintridge
Baldwin Park	Desert Hot Springs	La Quinta
Banning	Duarte	Laguna Niguel
Beaumont	Gardena	La Palma
Brea	Garden Grove	Los Angeles
Buena Park	Glendale	Monrovia
Burbank	Indio	Monterey Park
Carson	Inglewood	Newport Beach
Cathedral	Irvine	Palm Desert

Paramount  
Pasadena  
Placentia  
Palm Springs  
Palos Verdes Estates  
Rancho Mirage  
Redondo Beach  
Rolling Hills

Rosemead  
Riverside  
San Bernardino  
San Dimas  
San Gabriel  
San Marino  
Santa Ana  
Sierra Madre

South El Monte  
South Pasadena  
Temple City  
Torrance  
Walnut  
West Covina  
Yorba Linda

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

- Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (WI)
- U.S. Congressman Pete Aguilar
- U.S. Congresswoman Nanette Barragán
- U.S. Congressman Ken Calvert
- U.S. Congressman Tony Cárdenas
- U.S. Congressman Paul Cook
- U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu
- U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (OR)
- U.S. Congressman Jeff Denham
- U.S. Congressman Sam Graves (MO)
- U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD)
- U.S. Congressman Alan Lowenthal
- U.S. Congressman Tom McClintock
- U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano
- U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone (NJ)
- U.S. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
- U.S. Congressman Darrell Issa
- U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher
- U.S. Congressman Ed Royce
- U.S. Congressman Raul Ruiz
- U.S. Congressman Steve Scalise (LA)
- U.S. Congressman Bill Shuster (PA)
- U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson (ID)
- U.S. Congressman Lamar Smith (TX)
- U.S. Congresswoman Mimi Walters
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- U.S. Senator Kamala Harris
- U.S. Senator Ed Markey (MA)
- U.S. Senator Tom Carper (DE)
- U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (WA)
- U.S. Senator John Cornyn (TX)
- U.S. Senator Cory Gardner (CO)
- U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)
- U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)
- U.S. Senator John Thune (SD)
- State Senator Jeff Stone
- State Senator Josh Newman
- State Senator Anthony Portantino
- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Mike Gipson
- Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi
- Assembly Member Anthony Portantino
- Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva

Staff represented SCAQMD and/or provided updates or a presentation to the following governmental agencies and business organizations:

California Department of Transportation  
Carson Chamber of Commerce  
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Coachella Valley Economic Partnership  
Desert Valley Builders Association  
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Imperial Irrigation District  
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division  
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce  
North Orange County Chamber of Commerce  
Orange County Council of Governments  
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)  
Orange County Business Council  
Redlands Chamber of Commerce  
Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)  
San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce  
San Bernardino Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Southern California Gas Company  
Southern California Edison  
Sunline Transit Agency  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Western Region  
Western Riverside County Transportation Now (RTA), San Gorgonio Pass Chapter

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

Carson Women's Club  
Banning Family Community Health Center  
Borrego Health, Desert Hot Springs  
California State University, Fullerton  
Chaffey College  
Habitat for Humanity, Riverside  
Healthy Jurupa Valley  
Inland Empire Health Plan Partners

Inland Empire Behavioral & Health Services  
Inland Action, Inland Empire  
Mesa View Middle School, Calimesa  
Montebello Intermediate School  
Molina Medical Clinic, Pomona  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Banning  
Mt. San Jacinto College, San Geronio Pass Campus  
Reach Out, Jurupa Valley  
Riverside University Health System  
Rubidoux Family Resource Center  
Safe Routes to School, Riverside  
Taking Responsibility and Control, Neighborhood Watch Group, La Puente  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Riverside  
Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences, Granada Hills