

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 3, 2019

AGENDA NO. 14

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the March 2019 outreach activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office, which includes Major Events, Community Events/Public Meetings, Environmental Justice Update, Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, Public Information Center, Business Assistance, Media Relations, and Outreach to Community Groups and Federal, State, and Local Governments.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

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BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for March 2019. The report includes: Major Events; Community Events/Public Meetings; Environmental Justice Update; Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services; Communications Center; Public Information Center; Business Assistance; Media Relations; and Outreach to Community Groups and Governments.

MAJOR EVENTS (HOSTED AND SPONSORED)

Each year South Coast AQMD staff engage in holding and sponsoring a number of major events throughout the South Coast AQMD's four county area to promote, educate and provide important information to the public regarding reducing air pollution, protecting public health, and improving air quality and the economy.

March 16

South Coast AQMD sponsored and participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Ag Math (STEA²M) Fairplex in Pomona. This family-oriented community event was designed to inspire students to study STEAM academic subjects and careers in the sciences. South Coast AQMD staff performed a dry ice experiment to explain how smog is formed in the South Coast Air Basin and provided information on air quality issues.

March 30

South Coast AQMD hosted the Cesar Chavez Day of Remembrance Event at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach. The purpose of this event was to educate the public on the environment and air quality through an inspirational event honoring the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/PUBLIC MEETINGS

Each year South Coast AQMD 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 South Coast AQMD 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;
- South Coast AQMD incentive programs;
- Ways to participate in South Coast AQMD's rules and policy development; and
- Assistance in resolving air pollution-related problems.

South Coast AQMD staff attended and/or provided information and updates at the following events:

March 3

South Coast AQMD was an exhibitor at CicLAvia on Sunday, March 3 in Culver City. CicLAvia was attended by thousands of community members. This event focuses on clean air themes such as public transportation, active transportation and health.

March 15

Staff participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Day at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana. The event featured hands-on activities for 12 middle schools in San Bernardino County. Staff provided information on air quality and clean air tips.

March 20

South Coast AQMD staffed the Los Angeles County Electric Vehicle Day Event. Attendees received information on air quality and Clean Air Choices vehicles from the staff.

March 30

South Coast AQMD was an exhibitor at the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair in Arcadia. The event featured interactive exhibits on a wide variety of environmental topics. Staff conducted a dry ice experiment to simulate the formation of smog in our region and provided information on air quality related issues.

South Coast AQMD also staffed the Highland Citrus Harvest Festival in the city of Highland. Thousands of attendees received information on air quality and South Coast AQMD programs such as the commercial and residential electric lawn and garden equipment, EV charging and furnace rebates. Staff also displayed a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle and provided information on near and zero-emission vehicles.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE

The following are key environmental justice-related activities in which staff participated throughout the month of March 2019. These events involve communities affected disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

March 13

Staff participated in the 2019 National Environmental Justice Conference & Training Program titled, “Enhancing Communities Through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance” in Washington, D.C. This three-day conference and training program provided staff with networking opportunities, training on community capacity building and many other environmental justice topics of interest.

March 14

Staff held the AB 617 Steering Committee meeting in Wilmington/Carson/West Long Beach. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input to help guide staff in drafting the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) and Community Air Monitoring Plan. Staff also presented information on specific rule development efforts related to the community and information on actions that can be included in the CERP to address air quality concerns.

March 18

Staff attended the Oversight Hearing: Natural Resources Meeting in Sacramento. Air Quality Districts throughout California and AB 617 Community Steering Committee members from the ten Year 1 communities were in attendance. Staff presented updates on AB 617 and heard from the Community Steering Committee members.

March 20

Staff hosted the Environmental Justice Community Partnership (EJCP) Inter-Agency Task force meeting in Los Angeles. Those in attendance were from agencies and community based organizations, including Cal/EPA, Los Angeles Sanitation, CARB, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, California Safe Schools, Del Amo Action Committee, and Los Angeles Public Works. The Task Force focused on defining goals and objectives for the year.

March 21

Staff held the fourth AB 617 Steering Committee meeting in San Bernardino. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input to help guide staff in drafting the CERP and Community Air Monitoring Plan. Staff also presented information on specific rule development efforts related to the community and information on actions that can be included in the CERP to address air quality concerns.

March 22

Staff hosted an Environmental Justice Bus Tour with California State University, Los Angeles students. There were a total of 41 participants. The tour included a harbor tour of the Port of Los Angeles and a community tour of the City of Vernon and Boyle Heights.

March 27

Staff organized an EJCP, "Lunch and Learn Workshop on How Electric Vehicles Can Help Clean Our Air and Improve Public Health" in partnership with San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and San Bernardino County Fleet Management at the Jack Bulik Neighborhood Center in Fontana. Attendance included representatives from elected offices, small business owners, community based organizations, and community members. Staff presented on air pollution, electric vehicles, and incentive programs.

March 28

Staff held the AB 617 Steering Committee meeting in Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles/West Commerce. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input to help guide staff in drafting the CERP and Community Air Monitoring Plan. Staff also presented information on specific rule development efforts related to the community and information on actions that can be included in the CERP to address air quality concerns.

SPEAKERS BUREAU/VISITOR SERVICES

South Coast AQMD 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. South Coast AQMD also hosts visitors from around the world who meet with staff on a wide range of air quality issues.

March 28

Staff presented to the El Segundo Environmental Committee on issues related to South Coast AQMD Rule 1180 – Refinery Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring, and other monitoring related to refineries, enforcement, emergency response messaging.

COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS

The Communication Center handles calls on South Coast AQMD’s main line, the 1-800-CUT-SMOG® line, the Spanish line, and after-hours calls to each of those lines. Total calls received in the month of March were:

Calls to South Coast AQMD’s Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	3,578
Calls to South Coast AQMD’s Spanish-language Line	<u>71</u>
Total Calls	3,649

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 is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC Staff	219
<u>Calls to Automated System</u>	<u>459</u>
Total Calls	678

Visitor Transactions	282
Email Advisories Sent emails	11,298

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

South Coast AQMD notifies local businesses of proposed regulations so they can participate in the agency’s rule development process. South Coast AQMD 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, as summarized below:

- Provided permit application assistance to 163 companies
- Processed 53 Air Quality Permit Checklists
- Conducted 2 on-site consultations

Types of businesses assisted

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

MEDIA RELATIONS

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

Total Media Inquiries: 32

Total Web Updates: 211

Press Releases/Air Quality Advisories Issued: 3

Major Media Topics for March

(All inquiries closed unless noted as pending)

- Asbestos Complaints – The Santa Clarita Signal inquired about the demolition of a mobile home park in Santa Clarita. South Coast AQMD has an ongoing investigation. A story was published on Wednesday, March 6.
- Rendering Plant Odors – The culture and news website “www.LATaco.com” has inquired about South Coast AQMD’s efforts to ensure rendering plants in Vernon and Boyle Heights are in compliance with Rule 415 – Odors from Rendering Facilities.
- Windblown Dust – The Southern California News Group and The Desert Sun wanted to know if South Coast AQMD was going to issue a dust advisory due to forecasted winds in the western sections of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Staff advised the reporters about the advisory which had been issued.
- Cesar Chavez Day
 - *ABC7 ran a short piece about the event during a Saturday morning newscast.
 - *The Long Beach Business Journal asked for photos from the event.
 - *Random Length News asked for photos from the event.
- Phillips 66 Refinery Fire – The Southern California News Group inquired about the types of emissions that were released during the fire at the refinery and if those emissions could be harmful to residents that live nearby.

News Releases

- Orange County Supervisor Lisa A. Bartlett Joins South Coast AQMD's Governing Board - March 1, 2019
- Heavy Rains Brought Cleaner Air and a Reduced Number of No-Burn Days to Southern California This Winter - March 1, 2019
- Media Advisory Issued: South Coast Air Quality Management District Commemorates Cesar Chavez Day- March 27, 2019

MARCH 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	Glendora	Rancho Santa Margarita
Arcadia	Hemet	Redlands
Anaheim	Huntington Beach	Riverside
Azusa	Industry	Rosemead
Banning	Irwindale	Rolling Hills Estates
Baldwin Park	La Cañada Flintridge	San Dimas
Beaumont	La Habra	San Gabriel
Bradbury	La Palma	San Marino
Buena Park	La Puente	Santa Ana
Calimesa	La Verne	Seal Beach
Claremont	Laguna Niguel	Sierra Madre
Covina	Lake Forest	San Bernardino
Cypress	Los Alamitos	South El Monte
Diamond Bar	Mission Viejo	South Pasadena
Duarte	Monrovia	Temple City
El Monte	Montclair	Torrance
El Segundo	Monterey Park	Tustin
Fountain Valley	Pasadena	Walnut
Garden Grove	Pomona	West Covina
Glendale	Rancho Cucamonga	

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

- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- U.S. Representative Judy Chu
- U.S. Representative Lou Correa
- U.S. Representative Mike Levin
- U.S. Representative Doris Matsui
- U.S. Representative Katie Porter
- U.S. Representative Harley Rouda
- Senator Ling Ling Chang
- Senator John Moorlach
- Senator Anthony Portantino
- Senator Tom Umberg
- Assembly Member Blanca Rubio
- Assembly Member Tom Daly
- Assembly Member Tyler Diep
- Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
- Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva

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

Association of California Cities, Orange County Public Policy Making Academy, Irvine
Anaheim Chamber of Commerce
Building Industry Association of Southern California, Orange County Division
Crestline Chamber of Commerce
Crestline Sanitation District
California Air Resources Board
California Department of Transportation
California Natural Resources Agency, State Water Board
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
East Rancho Dominguez Service Center
El Segundo Environmental Committee
Environmental Justice Community Partnership
Five Mountain Communities Organization, San Bernardino County
Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
Healthy San Bernardino County, Montclair
Hemet/San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Anaheim
Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce
Inland Empire Conservation District, Redlands
Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments, Calabasas
League of California Cities, Orange County Division
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
North Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Omnitrans, San Bernardino
Orange County Council of Governments
Orange County Business Council
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Automobile Dealers Association
Orange County Taxpayers Association
Orange County Transportation Authority
Orange County Sanitation District
Omnitrans, San Bernardino County
Regional Access Project Foundation, Palm Desert
Rim of the World Unified School District
Riverside County Transportation Commission
Riverside Transit Agency -Transportation Now:
-San Gorgonio Pass Area Chapter
-Hemet/San Jacinto Chapter

Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley City Managers Association
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Fernando City Council
San Pedro Service Center
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
South Bay Environmental Services Center
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
State Water Resources Board, Salton Sea
Transportation Corridor Agencies, Orange County
Valley Industry & Commerce Association Government Affairs Committee
Western Riverside Council of Governments

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

Baldwin Hills Community Standards District
Coordinating Research Council, Long Beach
Crestline Connect Group, Lake Arrowhead
Environmental Justice Community Partnership, Fontana
Pasadena Neighborhood Connections Community Alliance
Regional Access Project (RAP) Foundation, Palm Desert
San Bernardino County Department of Education
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Community Advisory Committee
University of California, Riverside