BOARD MEETING DATE: August 7, 2020 AGENDA NO. 11

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the May and June 2020 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 Nastri Executive Officer

FW:NM:LTO:KH:DM:ar:lam:mc

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for May and June. 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 several major events throughout South Coast AQMD's four county areas to promote, educate, and

provide important information to the public regarding reducing air pollution, protecting public health, improving air quality, and the economy.

No major events were hosted or sponsored in May and June due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 May and June events and meetings:

AB 2588 Public Notification Meeting for MM West Covina, LLC

On May 19, staff held an AB 2588 public notification meeting for MM West Covina, LLC in West Covina. MM West Covina generates electricity by combusting landfill gas from the BKK landfill. The meeting provided information on the AB 2588 Toxic Hotspots program, the facility Health Risk Assessment (HRA), the potential impact emissions may have on public health, and what is being done to reduce emissions both now and in the future. Meeting attendees participated in a public comment session with questions and answers.

AB 2588 Public Notification Meeting for Southern California Edison Pebbly Beach Generating Station

On June 24, staff held an AB2588 public notification meeting for Southern California Edison Pebbly Beach Generating Station in Avalon. This facility PBGS is the primary producer of electric power for Santa Catalina Island, as well as the primary provider of both water and liquefied petroleum gas. The meeting provided information on the AB 2588 Toxic Hotspots program, the facility Health Risk Assessment (HRA), the potential impact emissions may have on public health and what is being done to reduce emissions both now and in the future. Meeting attendees participated in a public comment session with questions and answers.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE

The following are key environmental justice-related activities in which staff participated during the months of May and June. These events involve communities affected disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

AB 617 Southeast Los Angeles Community Steering Committee Meeting

On May 8, staff held the first virtual AB 617 Community Steering Committee (CSC) for Southeast Los Angeles with more than 100 participants. The meeting focused on foundation level issues that the CSC will build upon throughout the year including, community boundaries, air quality priorities, Community Emission Reduction Plan and Community Air Monitoring Plans. Additional topics for discussion included the meeting format to maximize community participation and online training provided by CARB. The meeting was attended by community members, government representatives, staff from elected officials' offices, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Environmental Justice Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting

On May 13, staff organized and conducted a quarterly meeting of the Environmental Justice Inter-Agency Task Force meeting. The Task Force discussed the 2020 goals and objectives, virtual inter-agency staff training planned for August, and the inter-agency referral directory "Who to Call Guide."

AB 617 Wilmington/Carson/West Long Beach Community Steering Committee Meeting

Staff held the second AB 617 Wilmington/Carson/West Long Beach CSC meeting. While the meeting was held virtually, it contained the same components as previously in person meetings format to provide consistency and move the program forward. The meeting focused on CERP updates including school prioritization results, monitoring updates and oil drilling, and production. The meeting also featured CSC member updates and public comment.

Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE) and CARB Community Project Meeting

On May 20, staff participated in the Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE) and CARB AB 617 Community Air Grant Project Kick-Off Meeting. Jesse Marquez, CFASE Executive Director presented an overview of the community air monitoring project in Wilmington and discussed project tasks and goals. CARB provided an overview of the grant administration process.

AB 617 Eastern Coachella Valley Community Steering Committee Meeting

Staff held the second CSC meeting for the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV). The agenda focused on foundation level topics including an update on the newsletter, meeting format and process, and the ECV CSC Charter. CARB also provided an update on their

Blueprint Training. provided opportunity CSC members suggested topics for future meetings and there was an opportunity for public comment.

AB 617 San Bernardino/Muscoy Community Steering Committee Meeting

On May 21, staff held the second quarter update meeting for the San Bernardino/Muscoy CSC. The agenda included updates from CSC members and CARB, CERP implementation, air filtration in schools, a Safe Routes to Partnership presentation, the South Coast AQMD Indirect Source Rule for warehouses and rails and an update on air monitoring. CSC members discussed future meeting topics and there was an opportunity for public comment.

AB 617 Briefing for American Cancer Society

On May 22, staff held an AB 617 briefing for several Board Members and the American Cancer Society. Staff shared the history of the AB 617 program and the work being done in the five AB 617 communities in the South Coast, including formation of the CSCs and development of the Community Air Monitoring Plans and Community Emission Reduction Programs. Staff responded to questions regarding outreach and engagement in environmental justice communities and discussed strategies for developing community partnerships.

AB 617 Eastern Coachella Valley Meeting with Community Steering Committee Representatives

On June 2, staff held a meeting with ECV CSC representatives from Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to discuss a U.S. EPA grant opportunity, known as the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program. These grants fund projects through state and local governments, tribes, and territories to work with underserved communities on projects that help improve environmental health and/or public health.

Environmental Justice Community Partnership Advisory Council Meeting

On June 3, staff hosted the second meeting of the year for the Environmental Justice Community Partnership (EJCP) Advisory Council. The Advisory Council discussed COVID-19 impacts on their communities and approved their 2020 Goals and Objectives. Staff provided an overview and live demonstration of the South Coast AQMD's mobile app.

Salton Sea Management Program Meeting

On June 4, staff participated in a State Salton Sea Management Program meeting that focused on their draft Dust Suppression Action Plan presentation, discussion and questions. A draft plan will be provided to South Coast AQMD for review.

AB 617 Southeast Los Angeles Community Steering Committee Meeting

On June 11, staff held the second AB 617 CSC meeting. Staff presented on the process to identify community air quality issues and provided examples of strategies and

actions. CSC members discussed a worksheet to help prioritize community air quality issues and strategies to address issues and goals. There was significant discussion on how to direct incentive funds to assist local businesses in an equitable manner.

AB 617 Eastern Coachella Valley Community Steering Committee Meeting

On June 22, staff held the first ECV CSC Charter Working Group meeting. The working group discussed the charter and developed draft recommendations that would be presented at the next meeting.

SCAG Town Hall Meeting

On June 24, staff attended Southern California Association of Governments Virtual Townhall: Regional Dialogue on Connect SoCal and COVID-19 Recovery. Immediate regional impacts identified were increased unemployment, decline in transit ridership, declining tax revenues, and increased teleworking. Two breakout sessions were held "How has COVID-19 impacted your community" and "How can Connect SoCal be a tool for recovery."

San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan Implementation Stakeholder Advisory Meeting

Staff attended the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan Implementation Stakeholder Advisory Meeting. Staff from the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach provided updates on the status of various technology demonstration projects, as well as an update on the Clean Truck Program. Additional topics included incentive partnerships with South Coast AQMD and CARB. The Port of Los Angeles briefly discussed their participation on the AB 617 Wilmington/Carson/West Long Beach CSC as a means by which they stay connected to the local community.

Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Task Force Meeting

Staff attended the Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Task Force meeting. The meeting focused on continued collaborative efforts between the community and public agencies regarding COVID-19, the Salton Sea, Oasis Mobile Park drinking water issues, and AB 617 efforts (Imperial County and South Coast). Staff briefed the Task Force on ongoing AB 617 efforts and upcoming meetings.

AB 617 Eastern Coachella Valley Community Steering Committee Meeting

On June 25, staff held the third AB 617 ECV CSC meeting. The meeting included a follow-up discussion on the charter with recommendations by the Charter Working Group. Additional topics discussed were the AB 617 budget, air quality priorities, preview of air monitoring workshop, and CSC agenda items for upcoming meetings.

CARB AB 617 Meeting

On June 30, staff participated in a CARB webinar to discuss the AB 617 community selection process and 2020 Community Recommendations.

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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no requests for the Speaker's Bureau and Visitor Services in May and June 2020.

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 months of May and June were:

Calls to South Coast AQMD's Main Line and	4,805
1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	
Calls to South Coast AQMD's Spanish-	82
language Line	
Total Calls	4,887

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS

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

Calls Received by PIC Staff		5
Calls to Automated System		1,257
	Total Calls	1,262

Materials Mailed	0
Visitor Transactions	0
Email Advisories Sent	27,687

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 for May and June 2020.

- Provided permit application assistance to 469 companies; and
- Processed 116 Air Quality Permit Checklists.

Types of businesses assisted:

Auto Body Shops	Gas Stations	Furniture Refinishing Facilities
Auto Repair Centers	Restaurants	Construction Firms
Warehouses	Plating Facilities	Architecture Firms
Manufacturing Facilities	Dry Cleaners	Engineering 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. May/June 2020 reports are listed:

Major Media Interactions	166
Press Releases	16
News Carousel Write-Ups	5

Major Media Topics for May and June

- **ISR and Electric Truck Standards** Forbes requested an interview to discuss ISR and Electric truck standards. Staff participated in the interview.
- **ISR Warehouse** Inside EPA requested additional information on the delay of Rule 2305 and the rule calendar. Written responses with a link to the requested information online were provided.
- Respiratory Illness in the Imperial Valley BBC inquired about air pollution and respiratory illness in the Imperial Valley. Reporter was referred to the Imperial County APCD and was provided contact information.
- **Rule Development** LA Times requested an interview to discuss the rule development schedule. Staff participated in the interview.
- **EPA Data relating to COVID-19 shutdowns** NPR requested any updates on air quality data relating to COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Responses were provided.

- **Permit Dashboard** Pitches were sent to local reporters on the new permit dashboard. LA Sentinel and several other online outlets picked up the story.
- Ozone Advisory and Smog Season Pitches were sent to local reporters announcing the start of smog season and the ozone advisory issued. The announcement was picked up by Associated Press, KTLA, NBC/CBS Palm Springs, and other local outlets.
- Ozone and PM2.5 NBC requested ozone and PM2.5 data from January-April 2020. Information was sent to the reporter.
- Aliso Canyon and other Odor Complaints ABC, KPCC, the LA Daily News, KNX, City News Service, Patch, and NBC inquired about extreme odors. Staff participated in the interview with ABC and other outlets were sent information.
- **RECLAIM** NPR reached out with written questions regarding RECLAIM, light-duty trucks, off-road equipment, and residential fuel combustion. Responses were sent.
- Quemetco Settlement The San Gabriel Valley Tribune requested additional information on the facilities pending permit application and information was provided.
- World Logistics Center CalMatters asked for information on the World Logistics Center and impacts on local air quality and provided written questions. Responses were provided.
- Air Quality Impacts of COVID-19 NBC conducted an interview with staff on changes in traffic patterns and air quality during the stay-at-home period. Responses to written questions regarding health impacts of COVID-19 were sent to reporter.
- **Regulatory Impacts of COVID-19** California Environmental Insider requested a copy of the rules calendar. Reporter was sent the information.
- MATES IV The New York Times requested an interview to discuss the MATES IV study. Staff participated in the interview. The reporter requested follow up information on diesel emissions and their effects on public health. Written responses were provided.
- Ozone Advisory Pitches were sent to local media on the May 25 ozone advisory and was covered by more than 15 radio, television, and print outlets.
- **Agency Funding** The LA Times requested an interview on how funding has been affected by COVID-19 measures and its impacts on South Coast AQMD's goals. An interview was held with staff.
- **SB 1099** Bloomberg Law reached out with questions about SB 1099 and gas generators during public safety power shutdowns. An interview was held with staff.
- **Aliso Canyon Odors** The LA Times requested an update on odors near Aliso Canyon. An update was provided.
- **Windblown Dust Advisory** Pitches were sent to news outlets and the dust advisory was covered by local media.

- **SB 732** The LA Times requested a timeline for SB 732. Information was provided to the reporter.
- Windblown Dust Advisory Extension Pitches were sent to news outlets and the advisory and was picked up by local media.
- Air Quality Index Maps Staff reached out to NBC to clarify agency information when reporting AQI during weather reports. The station agreed to make the adjustment.
- **Replace Your Ride** Pitches were sent to news outlets regarding the Replace Your Ride announcement. City News Service reached out with some questions about the programs. The reporter was provided information. KPCC /LAist reached out with additional questions and an interview request. Information was sent and an interview was conducted with staff.
- Salton Sea Odor Advisory Pitches were sent to news outlets and the advisory was picked up by local media.
- AQI Data Spectrum News is looking to feature the agency's daily AQI map on its forecast. Reporters were provided with a data file. FOX LA also requested the daily AQI forecast for evening newscasts. Staff is working on a long-term solution for sending daily information and making data files more accessible to news meteorologists.
- Thermal Fire KESQ inquired about the fire in Thermal and its effects on air quality. Smoke advisory information was sent to reporter. The advisory was also pitched to local media outlets.
- Windblown Dust Advisory Dust advisory was pitched to news outlets and was picked up by local media.

News Release and Announcements May and June

- South Coast AQMD unveils online tool to track permit applications May 1, 2020: Notified residents of the new permit dashboard.
- Summer Smog Season Has Begun, Stay Informed of Air Quality Levels May 5, 2020: Announced the onset of summer smog season.
- South Coast AQMD Issues Ozone Advisory Due to Heat Wave May 5, 2020: Notified residents of an ozone advisory issued through May 8th.
- South Coast AQMD Reaches \$600,000 Settlement with Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Facility for Emissions Violations May 8, 2020: Announced settlement with Quemetco over previous violations.
- U.S. EPA awards \$4.1 million for air quality projects in Southern California May 14, 2020: Announces Targeted Air Shed Grant to South Coast AQMD to reduce emissions.
- South Coast AQMD Issues Ozone Advisory Due to Heat Wave May 25, 2020: Informed residents of increase of ozone levels due to the heat wave.

- Near-Zero Emission Natural Gas Truck Technology Proven Ready for the Rigors of Port Drayage Operations May 28, 2020: Provided quote for California Natural Gas Vehicle Partnership release.
- South Coast AQMD Files Lawsuit Challenging Trump Administration Rollbacks to Clean Vehicle Standards – May 28, 2020: Announced the D.C. Circuit petition challenging U.S. EPA and NHTSA's rollbacks to the SAFE Vehicles Rule. Issued jointly with BAAQMD and Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD.
- South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for Portions of Riverside County – June 5, 2020: Advised residents of windblown dust advisory.
- South Coast AQMD Extends Windblown Dust Advisory June 7, 2020: Announced extension of the dust advisory.
- South Coast AQMD Receives \$15.4 Million from CARB for Replace Your Ride Program June 11, 2020: Announced new funding for the Replace Your Ride program and information on the application process.
- Volvo Trucks Deploys First Pilot All-Electric VNR Truck at TEC Equipment in Southern California June 18, 2020: Announced the first VNR Electric truck deployed in Southern California by Volvo LIGHTS and South Coast AQMD.
- \$35 million in new funding for zero-emission projects in California June 18, 2020: Announced the availability of \$35 million in Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust project funding.
- South Coast AQMD Issues Salton Sea Odor Advisory June 20, 2020: Notified residents of the Coachella Valley odor advisory.
- South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory due to a Mulch Fire in City of Thermal June 24, 2020: Notified residents of the smoke advisory issued due to fire conditions.
- South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory June 28, 2020: Notified residents of windblown dust advisory.

News Carousel May and June

- Keep up with the latest from South Coast AQMD May 12, 2020: Highlighted newest edition of the Advisor.
- NPR: Why Air Pollution Hasn't Fallen More with Everyone Driving Less May 20, 2020: Highlighted national NPR story featuring an interview with staff.
- Deadline Extended for Carl Moyer Program Funding Applications June 4, 2020: Informs residents of the Carl Moyer application deadline extension.
- LAist: Scrap Your Old Ride for Cash, Get A Newer, Cleaner Vehicle June 17, 2020: Spotlight on Replace Your Ride article and interview with staff.

Additional "Plus Up" VIP funding available for replacing small truck fleets
June 24, 2020: Posted information on funding availability with links to program page.

Social Media Notable Posts: May and June

- Ozone Advisory Initial Post (5/5): 9,324 Twitter Impressions
- Ozone Advisory Reminder (5/6): 10,366 Twitter Impressions
- Air Quality Awareness Week: WHAM (5/8): 1,756 Twitter Impressions
- AQ Forecast (5/17): 1,676 Twitter Impressions
- Ozone Advisory (5/25): 10,291 Twitter Impressions
- (External) Metrolink's AB 617 Post (5/27): 31,000 South Coast AQMD Twitter Impressions on 5/28; 23K South Coast AQMD Twitter Impressions on 5/29
- Windblown Dust Advisory Extension (6/7): 3,359 Twitter Impressions
- AQ Forecast (6/9): 2,816 Twitter Impressions
- AQ Forecast (6/11): 4,580 Twitter Impressions
- AQ Forecast (6/15): 8,889 Twitter Impressions

Glendale

- AB 617 Reminder (6/23): 1,309 Facebook Users Reached
- Dust Advisory (6/28): 27,742 Twitter Impressions

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

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

Anaheim Huntington Beach Rosemead Avalon Irvine San Bernardino Baldwin Park La Cañada Flintridge San Dimas Brea La Habra San Fernando Buena Park La Puente San Gabriel Burbank Laguna Niguel Santa Ana Chino Valley Lake Forest Santa Clarita Claremont Loma Linda Sierra Madre Corona Long Beach Temple City Los Alamitos Tustin Covina Cypress Mission Viejo Walnut Duarte Moreno Valley West Covina Fountain Valley Pacoima Whittier Fullerton Placentia Yorba Linda Garden Grove Rancho Cucamonga

Riverside

Communication were conducted in May and June with elected officials and/or staff from the following state and federal offices:

- U.S. Representative Judy Chu
- U.S. Representative Gil Cisneros
- U.S. Representative Lou Correa
- U.S. Representative Mike Levin
- U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal
- U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano
- U.S. Representative Harley Rouda
- U.S. Representative Norma Torres
- Senator Ben Allen
- Senator Bob Archuleta
- Senator Ling Ling Chang
- Senator Connie Leyva
- Senator John Moorlach
- Senator Mike Morrell
- Senator Anthony Portantino

- Senator Susan Rubio
- Senator Henry Stern
- Senator Tom Umberg
- Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon
- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Phillip Chen
- Assembly Member Tom Daly
- Assembly Member Tyler Diep
- Assembly Member Cristina Garia
- Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia
- Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove
- Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
- Assembly Member Eloise Reyes
- Assembly Member Luz Rivas

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

Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

American Green Zone Alliance

Association of California Cities, Orange County

Association of Climate Change Officers

Brea City Council

Building Industry Association, Orange County

California Air Resources Board

California Commission on Status of Women \$ Girls

California Contract Cities Association

California Insurance Commissioners

California State Water Company

Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce

Coachella Valley Association of Governments

County of Riverside, Economic Development Agency

County of San Bernardino, Economic Development Agency

Fullerton City Council

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Gateway Cities Energy Leadership Partnership

Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce

Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce

Inland Valley Development Agency

La Habra City Council

League of California Cities, Orange County Division

Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce

Long Beach Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Metro Los Angeles

Mountain Transit Board

Omnitrans

Ontario International Airport Authority

Orange Chamber of Commerce

Orange County Board of Supervisors

Orange County Business Council

Orange County Council of Governments

Orange County Transportation Authority

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Port of Long Beach

Port of Los Angeles

Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Riverside Transit Agency

San Bernardino Council of Governments

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

San Bernardino County Regional Parks

San Bernardino County Transportation Authority

San Bernardino International Airport Authority

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

San Gabriel Valley City Managers Association

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce

Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce

South Bay Council of Governments

Southern California Association of Governments

Sunline Transit Agency

Western Regional Epidemiology Network

Western Riverside Council of Governments

Yorba Linda City Council

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

Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations

California State University, San Bernardino

California Women Lead

CHA CHA, Altadenans for Clean Healthy Air

Clean Air Coalition of North Whittier and Avocado Heights

Earthjustice

Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality

National Urban League, Los Angeles Chapter

North Whittier Neighborhood Watch

Orange County Community Relations Collaborative

Rio Hondo College

Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council

Rowland Unified School District

San Bernardino Valley College

Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee

Sustain Southern California

Taking Responsibility and Control (TRAC) Neighborhood Watch

Torrance Air Advisory Council

Walnut Valley Unified School District

Western Regional Epidemiology Network