

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 6, 2015

AGENDA NO. 17

REPORT: Legislative and Public Affairs Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights September 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.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.  
Executive Officer

LBS:DJA:MC:DM

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## **BACKGROUND**

This report summarizes the activities of Legislative and Public Affairs for September 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 September. These events involve communities that may suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

### September 8

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the City of Commerce City Council Meeting, during which the state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) provided the community with information on the clean-up efforts on and around

the Exide facility. Staff also met with representatives from Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) who expressed their concerns.

#### September 15

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the Long Beach Alliance for Children’s Asthma meeting and provided an update on SCAQMD programs, including the Air Quality Management Plan.

#### September 18

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the Environmental Justice Summit in Coachella Valley, hosted by the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice. Staff met with multiple leaders from environmental justice groups in the Riverside County area, and learned about the many environmental justice issues affecting their communities.

#### September 23

- Staff provided information on National Drive Electric Week and SCAQMD related programs at the Riverside County Community Health Workshop in Riverside.

#### September 24

- Staff attended the Technical Working Session of the Exide Technologies Advisory Group at Maywood City Hall. Staff heard from community members about the Advisory Group’s recommendations on the clean-up efforts.

#### September 26

- Staff attended the 2015 Congress of Neighborhoods which was organized by the Neighborhood Councils of the City of Los Angeles. SCAQMD participated in a workshop panel entitled, “LA’s ‘Sustainable City pLAN’; What It Means For Your Community.”

#### September 30

- Staff met with representatives from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to discuss environmental justice and community outreach efforts, and learned about SCAG’s outreach strategies, which included focus groups, interviews, and workshops.

### **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:

September 12

- National Drive Electric Week Event, sponsored by SCAQMD at the agency's headquarters, Diamond Bar
- National Drive Electric Week Event, sponsored by SCAQMD at Houghton Park, Long Beach

September 13

- National Drive Electric Week Event, sponsored by SCAQMD at Exposition Park, Los Angeles

September 16

- 2015 Anaheim Transportation Fair & Chili Cook-off, Ridesharing Under the Sea Event, Center Street Promenade, Anaheim

September 17

- Veterans Business Network Event, Lyon Air Museum, Santa Ana

September 18-19

- Alt Car Expo, Santa Monica Convention Center

September 19

- 21<sup>st</sup> Annual River Rally, Santa Clarita

September 23

- Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Green, Conserve and Health Expo, Garden Grove

September 29

- 62<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District's Back to School Wellness and Health Fair, Oakwood Park, Venice

## **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.

### September 10

- Sixty industry delegates from Chinese air quality monitoring equipment companies hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China, visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received overviews on the agency, air monitoring, and toured SCAQMD's laboratory.

### September 23

- Twenty-two government officials from Vietnam hosted by California State University, Dominguez Hill, visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received overviews on the agency, air monitoring, and toured SCAQMD's laboratory.

## **COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS**

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

Calls to SCAQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG <sup>®</sup> Line	3,659
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>30</u>
Total Calls	3,689

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS**

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

Calls Received by PIC Staff	175
Calls to Automated System	<u>1,011</u>
Total Calls	1,186
Visitor Transactions	252

## **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 14 free on-site consultations
- Provided permit application assistance to 118 companies
- Issued 20 clearance letters

### **Types of businesses assisted**

Auto Body Shops	Dry Cleaners	Printing Facilities
Chemical Manufacturer	Gas Stations	Circuit Board Manufacturer
Engineering	Restaurants	Metal Plating Facilities
Construction	Architecture	Plastic Molding/Extruding

## **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	La Habra	Riverside
Alhambra	Lake Elsinore	Rosemead
Arcadia	Los Angeles	San Dimas
Brea	Los Alamitos	San Gabriel
Buena Park	Maywood	San Jacinto
Canyon Lake	Menifee	San Marino
Commerce	Monterey Park	Sierra Madre
Diamond Bar	Moreno Valley	Temple City
Duarte	Murrieta	Temecula
Glendora	Norco	Walnut
Hemet	Pasadena	

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 Ken Calvert
- U.S. Congresswoman Janice Hahn

- U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter
- U.S. Congressman Alan Lowenthal
- U.S. Congressman Ed Royce
- U.S. Congressman Raul Ruiz
- U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez
- U.S. Congressman Mark Takano
- U.S. Congresswoman Mimi Walters
- State Senator Ed Hernandez
- State Senator Bob Huff
- State Senator Mike Morrell
- State Senator John Moorlach
- State Senator Richard Roth
- State Senator Jeff Stone
- Assembly Member Travis Allen
- Assembly Member Cheryl Brown
- Assembly Member Autumn Burke
- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Ling Ling Chang
- Assembly Member Tom Daly
- Assembly Member Rodger Hernandez
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Member Young Kim
- Assembly Member Eric Linder
- Assembly Member Chad Mayes
- Assembly Member Jose Medina
- Assembly Member Melissa Melendez
- Assembly Member Anthony Rendon
- Assembly Member Don Wagner

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

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce  
 Beaumont Chamber of Commerce  
 Corona Chamber of Commerce  
 Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County  
 Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce  
 Hemet/San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce  
 Legislative Affairs Committee of West Orange County  
 Norco Chamber of Commerce  
 North Orange County Legislative Alliance

Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
Orange County Council of Governments  
Orange County Transit Agency  
Redlands Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber's Teen Council  
Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)  
San Bernardino Associated Governments  
San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
Southern California Association of Governments  
Western Riverside Council of Governments  
    – Clean Cities Coalition  
Western Riverside Transportation NOW (RTA)  
    – Greater Riverside Chapter  
    – Hemet/San Jacinto Chapter  
    – Moreno Valley/Perris Chapter  
    – San Gorgonio Pass Chapter, Beaumont  
    – Southwest Chapter, Temecula  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce

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

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Coachella Valley  
Communities for a Better Environment  
Norco Unified School District  
Riverside County Health Coalition