

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 6, 2018

AGENDA NO. 10

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the February 2018 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

FW:LTO:LA:DM

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for February 2018. The report includes five major areas: Environmental Justice Update; Community Events/Public Meetings (including the Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, and Public Information Center); 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 February 2018. These events involve communities which suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

February 21

SCAQMD hosted a town hall meeting for the City of Compton at the Dollarhide Community Center. Staff provided an update on the monitoring efforts and explained the next steps. There was a robust question and answer session.

February 21

Staff attended the Joint Environmental Justice Community Partnership and Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force meeting in Indio. Staff provided an air quality overview and an update regarding AB 617 and AB 134, and how the legislation might affect the Eastern Coachella Valley.

February 22

Staff hosted a community meeting in conjunction with CARB on AB 617 and AB 134 in the City of Commerce. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a summary of how these two laws will reduce air pollution in the region and receive public input on community identification and prioritization, and future projects for the Carl Moyer program.

February 28

The Santa Ana Madison Park Neighborhood Association invited SCAQMD staff to discuss air quality issues. The primarily Spanish speaking community members focused on a recently issued facility permit to Brasstec, a plating facility.

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:

February 1-3

- 17th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Hilton San Francisco Union Square.

February 12

- 4th Annual Environmental Health Summit, California Endowment, Los Angeles.

February 20

- Staff hosted community meetings on Community Priorities for Emission Reduction Projects using SCAQMD Incentive Funds in Torrance and Wilmington. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit input from the public on the type of emission reduction projects they would like to have implemented in their communities.

February 23

- South Bay Cities Council of Governments General Assembly, Carson.

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.

February 6

- Staff presented to more than 30 environmental policy students from Chapman University on SCAQMD rules and regulations, enforcement and compliance, and other issues.

February 13

- Staff provided an overview of AB 617 to a broad audience of more than 50 representatives from industry associations, local regulatory and utility agencies, and environmental organizations, at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts office in Whittier.

February 23

- Staff hosted 30 students and a teacher from Montclair High School. Their visit included an overview of SCAQMD, air quality monitoring, and clean alternative fuels and vehicles. The visit also included a tour of the SCAQMD facility, its laboratory, alternative fueling and charging stations, and a display of various types of vehicles.

COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS

The Communication Center handles calls on SCAQMD'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 February were:

Calls to SCAQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	3,354
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>38</u>
Total Calls	3,392

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS

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

Calls Received by PIC Staff	134
<u>Calls to Automated System</u>	<u>699</u>
Total Calls	833

Visitor Transactions	318
Email Advisories Sent	27,969

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 293 companies;
- Issued 60 clearance letters;
- Conducted 6 free on-site consultations; and
- Provided assistance in filing 1 request for variance.

Types of businesses assisted

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

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: 100

Press Releases Issued: 4

Media Advisories: 1

No-Burn Alerts: 4

Major Media Topics for February

All inquiries closed unless noted as pending.

- **School Air Filters:** KPCC and Southern California News Group requested interviews prior to the February 2, 2018 Board meeting regarding implementation of air filtration technology in schools in Boyle Heights. NBC asked about the time frame expected for air filter installation.
- **Indirect Source Rules:** IWP News inquired as to when SCAQMD would be establishing new indirect source measures. Staff responded with information about the March 2, 2018 Board meeting presentation.
- **EV Charger Funding:** Following a City of Calabasas agenda item on AB 2766 funding, staff provided information to the Acorn newspaper about funding for EV charging infrastructure in the city.
- **Career Video:** Staff was interviewed by Pearson Education about careers in air pollution science. Pearson is producing a series of career videos to accompany a fifth grade science textbook.
- **Trojan Battery/Air Monitoring:** KCRW requested an interview on the topic of special air monitoring and enforcement in Paramount, Compton and at Trojan Battery. An interview was also conducted with KPCC regarding SCAQMD's filing a Petition for an Order for Abatement to curtail lead emissions from Trojan Battery in Santa Fe Springs.
- **Trash Trucks:** L.A. Times inquired regarding SCAQMD regulations pertaining to garbage trucks in the LA Area.
- **World Logistics Center:** KPCC inquired about SCAQMD's settlement with the World Logistics Center.
- **Prescribed Burns:** KQED inquired about prescribed burn events and the incidence of complaints in relation to prescribed burns.
- **SCIG Lawsuit:** The Daily Breeze and a freelance reporter requested an update on an appeal over the SCIG EIR. Staff declined to comment but reported the Board's decision to join an appeal.
- **Metro Plans for I-710 South Corridor Improvements:** The L.A. Times editorial staff inquired whether SCAQMD had adopted a formal position on Metro's plan to adopt Alternative 5 for the I-710 South project. No formal position has been taken.
- **Health Effects of PM2.5:** Staff conducted an interview with the Daily Breeze about the short- and long-term health effects of PM2.5.

- **Torrance Refinery:** The Daily Breeze inquired about NOVs and penalties issued to the Torrance Refinery in December 2017.
- **Potential Sales Tax:** The OC Register inquired regarding the legislative bill to authorize a ballot measure for a potential sales tax and the polling study to be launched on the issue. Staff conducted an interview with an L.A. Times editorial writer on a proposed quarter-cent sales tax to fund clean air incentives. Inside Washington Publishers also inquired and staff provided a prepared statement.
- **Check Before You Burn:** L.A. Times submitted a follow-up request to a public records request submitted in January. The reporter requested an update on complaints and any NOVs or warning letters issued in regards to no-burn days. Pending.
- **Enforcement Statistics:** The L.A. Times inquired about whether SCAQMD compiles and issues an annual report of enforcement statistics including the number of NOVs, NCs, inspections, etc.
- **Facility-Based Measures:** The L.A. Times requested an interview with staff on proposed facility-based measures. An interview is pending.
- **Aliso Canyon:** A student reporter with University of Southern California requested an update on the Aliso Canyon situation. Pending
- **Rule 1410:** OPIS (Oil Price Information Service) reporter requested information on the status of Proposed Rule 1410. Staff provided a status update to the reporter.

Media Campaigns

Annual Check Before You Burn Program:

The annual program ended on February 28, and the contractor is now preparing a final report.

33 no-burn days were called this season.

4,598 total new Air Alerts subscribers were added during the season.

The Right to Breathe Signature Film Update

Additional edits were requested and discussed with the contractor. Contract was extended to accommodate additional work. The film has been completed and is now posted on YouTube.

News Releases & Media Advisories Issued

- Anaplex in Paramount Ordered to Temporarily Suspend Operations - February 28, 2018.
- SCAQMD Hosts Series of Community Meetings on New Measures Aimed at Reducing Pollution Exposure in EJ Communities - February 13, 2018.
- East Los Angeles Schools to Receive Air Filtration Units to Reduce Indoor Air Pollution - February 6, 2018.

- SCAQMD Takes Action to Reduce Lead Emissions from Trojan Battery – February 1, 2018.

Website

- AB 167 and AB 134 webpage: Coordinated with staff across the agency to prepare and launch this new page.

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	Highland	Pomona
Aliso Viejo	Industry	Rancho Cucamonga
Anaheim	Indio	Rosemead
Arcadia	Irvine	Santa Ana
Azusa	Irwindale	San Dimas
Bell Gardens	Inglewood	San Bernardino
Buena Park	Jurupa Valley	San Gabriel
Baldwin Park	La Cañada Flintridge	San Marino
Bradbury	La Palma	Santa Fe Springs
Carson	La Puente	Sierra Madre
Claremont	La Verne	South El Monte
Compton	Los Angeles	South Pasadena
Commerce	Mission Viejo	Torrance
Covina	Monrovia	Temple City
Cypress	Monterey Park	Tustin
Diamond Bar	Norwalk	Upland
Duarte	Palos Verdes Estates	Walnut
El Monte	Pico Rivera	West Covina
Glendora	Pasadena	

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

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • U.S. Congresswoman Nanette Barragán | • U.S. Congresswoman Mimi Walters |
| • U.S. Congressman Lou Correa | • Senator Ben Allen |
| • U.S. Congressman Ed Royce | • Senator Ed Hernandez |
| • U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu | • Senator Anthony Portantino |
| • U.S. Congressman Mark Takano | • Senator Richard Roth |
| • U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu | • Senator Josh Newman |
| • U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano | • Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes |

- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Stephen Choi
- Assembly Member Tom Daly
- Assembly Member Mike Gipson
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Member Blanca Rubio
- Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi
- Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Assembly Member Chad Mayes
- Assembly Member Jose Medina

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

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce
 California Air Resources Board
 Coachella Water Mosquito & Vector Control District
 Daylight Transportation
 Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
 North Orange County Chamber of Commerce
 Orange County Business Council
 Orange County Public Affairs Association
 Orange County Transportation Authority
 Omnitrans
 Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
 Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce
 Riverside County Transportation Commission
 Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)
 RTA Greater Riverside Transportation Now
 Riverside County Agricultural Commissioners
 San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
 Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce
 Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
 San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
 San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
 South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
 South Bay Cities Council of Governments
 South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
 Southern California Gas Company
 Tustin Chamber of Commerce
 Upland Chamber of Commerce
 United States Environmental Protection Agency
 Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce

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

California State University, San Bernardino
Chapman University, Orange
Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force
Community Center, Compton
Comite Civico del Valle
La Union Hace La Fuerza
Montclair High School
Pasadena Neighborhood Connections
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Government
Sierra Club, Coachella Valley
Sustainable Claremont
University of California, Riverside
UC Irvine Health Family Center - Santa Ana