

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 4, 2018

AGENDA NO. 17

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the March 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

DJA:LTO:DM

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for March 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 March 2018. These events involve communities which suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

March 13

Staff presented on environmental justice to a group of graduate students at Caltech in Pasadena. The presentation provided general background on environmental justice, and included case studies in which air pollution has affected disadvantaged communities throughout the South Coast Air Basin. Students asked about SCAQMD's inter-departmental approach to addressing air quality issues in marginalized neighborhoods.

March 13

Staff held a community meeting in Wilmington on AB 617 and AB 134, which are focused on reducing air pollution in environmental justice communities throughout the state. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information on the new laws and to receive public input on community prioritization, air quality projects, and suggestions for outreach materials.

March 14

Staff presented on environmental justice to a group of undergraduate students in an Urban Pollution class at California State University Los Angeles. The presentation provided general background information and case studies in which air pollution has affected disadvantaged communities throughout the South Coast Air Basin. Students asked about incentive programs available to individuals from low-income communities. Students were particularly interested in the Replace Your Ride Program.

March 27

Staff held a community meeting in Riverside on AB 617 and AB 134, which are focused on reducing air pollution in environmental justice communities throughout the state. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information on the new laws and to receive public input on community prioritization, air quality projects, and suggestions for outreach materials.

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:

March 1

- Cities and Schools - Building Sustainable Partnerships, Sierra Lakes Golf Club, Fontana.

March 10

- 39th Annual Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair, Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Arcadia.

March 16

- S.T.E.M. Day, Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, California.

March 24

- SCAQMD, Cesar Chavez, Day of Remembrance Event, California State University, Los Angeles.

March 24

- Sustainable Paramount Eco-Fair, Civic Center, Paramount.

March 30

- Discover and Drive Event, Inland Center Mall, San Bernardino.

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.

March 8

- Staff presented an update on air quality in Southern California and in the San Gabriel Valley to 30 members of the Men's Club at the Westminster Garden Retirement Community at Packard Hall in Duarte.

March 16

- Sixteen law students from the University of California, Los Angeles, visited SCAQMD, and were provided presentations on SCAQMD regulations, enforcement, compliance, and issues related to mobile sources. They were given a tour of SCAQMD and the laboratory.
- Staff presented on SCAQMD rules and the permitting programs for stationary diesel fuel combustion engines and compression ignition engines to 25 members from Consulting Electrical Engineers in Sherman Oaks.

March 20-23

- Five government officials from the Jiangsu Provincial Environmental Protection Department in China visited SCAQMD. The visit included presentations and information on SCAQMD air pollution control standards, regulations, air quality forecasting, rule development, enforcement program, and stationary source site visits.

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 March were:

Calls to SCAQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	3,432
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>39</u>
Total Calls	3,471

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	136
Calls to Automated System	<u>597</u>
Total Calls	733

Visitor Transactions	302
Email Advisories Sent	244,523

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	Engineering, Construction, & Architecture Firms
Auto Repair Centers	Restaurants	
Manufacturing Facilities	Printing Facilities	

MEDIA RELATIONS

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

Total Media Inquiries: 85

Press Releases Issued: 6

Media Advisories: 1

Major Media Topics for March**All inquiries closed unless noted as pending**

- **Air Quality and Climate Change Training Program (ACT):** University of California, Riverside (UCR) submitted a draft news release on the ACT Training Program for SCAQMD review and approval. Staff reviewed the article, and provided a quote to UCR.
- **Proposed Sales Tax Increase:** Following the March 2, 2018 Board meeting, Inside Washington publishing inquired whether the Board had taken any action on the proposed sales tax measure. Staff responded that testimony was heard but the item was deferred to the April Board meeting.
- **Facility-Based Measures:** L.A. Times reporter requested copies of any written comments, letters or messages submitted by members of the public or interested parties related to agenda item 32 from the March 2, 2018 Board meeting. A KPCC reporter also inquired about the discussion at the Board meeting. Staff responded to both requests.
- **Grant Applications:** L.A. Times requested information regarding an August 2017 grant proposal submitted by Build Your Dreams (BYD) and the City of Los Angeles, to fund two electric refuse-collection trucks. Pending.
- **Check Before You Burn:** L.A. Times has submitted extensive public records requests for funds spent on the annual program, number of No-Burn days called and enforcement data going back to 2012.
- **Flaring:** Freelance journalist requested records of Wilmington refinery flaring events for 2018. Pending.
- **Air Quality Issues:** Freelance reporter inquired whether SCAQMD air monitoring data excluded data involving natural environmental factors such as wildfire smoke.

- **BYD:** L.A. Times requested a copy of SCAQMD's policy as well as all correspondence between SCAQMD Board Members and staff, regarding the acceptance of gifts by Board Members and Board Assistants from entities interested in business opportunities.
- **Ultramar Flaring Mitigation Plan:** The Daily Breeze requested, and staff provided, assistance in finding the Ultramar Flaring Mitigation Plan.
- **Interview Request from Healthy African-American Families (HAAF):** HAAF Staff participated in a live internet radio interview on health equity and environmental justice, aired on April 25, 2018.
- **Prop 1B/Carl Moyer:** SoCalGas requested a supporting quote by SCAQMD staff regarding the utility company's efforts to assist fleet owners in applying for Prop 1B/Carl Moyer funding.
- **E-Highway Demonstration:** NY Times interviewed staff in regards to the E-Highway demonstrated by SCAQMD..

Media Campaigns

Annual Check Before You Burn Program:

This annual program ended on February 28, 2018. The contractor delivered the final report presentation on March 28, providing recommendations for future campaigns.

The Right to Breathe Signature Film update

The film has been completed and is now live on YouTube and the SCAQMD website. Staff is seeking estimates for translation and subtitling services.

News Releases & Media Advisories Issued

- SCAQMD Releases Updated “Right to Breathe” Documentary on Environmental Justice, March 27, 2018
- SCAQMD Hosts Cesar Chavez Day of Remembrance, March 24, 2018
- SCAQMD Hearing Board Adopts Order to Reduce Lead Emissions from Trojan Battery Co. in Santa Fe Springs, March 22, 2018
- SCAQMD Inspections Help Prevent Excess Truck Idling, March 21, 2018
- News Release: SCAQMD Inspections Help Prevent Excess Truck Idling, March 21, 2018
- Clean Technology and Clean Fuels Programs Continue to Improve Southland Air Quality, March 15, 2018
- Southern California’s Unusually Dry Winter Brought Record Number of No-Burn Days, March 1, 2018

Website

- AB 167 & 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	Hawaiian Gardens	Pomona
Aliso Viejo	Hawthorne	Rancho Cucamonga
Anaheim	Hemet	Rancho Palos Verdes
Arcadia	Hermosa Beach	Redondo Beach
Artesia	Huntington Beach	Riverside
Avalon	Huntington Park	Rialto
Azusa	Industry	Rolling Hills
Baldwin Park	Irvine	Rolling Hills Estates
Bell	Irwindale	Rosemead
Bellflower	Inglewood	Santa Ana
Bell Gardens	Jurupa Valley	San Dimas
Brea	La Cañada Flintridge	San Bernardino
Bradbury	Laguna Woods	San Gabriel
Burbank	La Palma	San Fernando
Buena Park	La Puente	San Marino
Carson	La Verne	Santa Ana
Calimesa	Lake Elsinore	Santa Clarita
Canyon Lake	Lake Forest	Santa Fe Springs
Cerritos	Lawndale	Sierra Madre
Claremont	Lakewood	Signal Hill
Compton	Lomita	South El Monte
Commerce	Los Angeles	South Gate
Corona	Long Beach	South Pasadena
Covina	Lynwood	Temecula
Colton	Manhattan Beach	Temple City
Cudahy	Menifee	Torrance
Cypress	Monrovia	Tustin
Dana Point	Monterey Park	Upland
Diamond Bar	Moreno Valley	Vernon
Duarte	Montebello	Walnut
Eastvale	Murrieta	West Covina
El Monte	Newport Beach	Wilmington
El Segundo	Norwalk	Wildomar
Fontana	Palos Verdes Estates	Whittier
Fountain Valley	Pico Rivera	Yucaipa
Gardena	Pasadena	
Glendale	Paramount	
Glendora	Perris	

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

- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- U.S. Senator Kamala Harris
- U.S. Congresswoman Nanette Barragán
- U.S. Congressman Lou Correa
- U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu
- U.S. Congressman Raul Ruiz
- U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu
- U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman
- U.S. Congressman Mark Takano
- U.S. Congresswoman Mimi Walters
- Senator Steven Bradford
- Senator Mike Morrell
- Senator Anthony Portantino
- Senator Richard Roth
- Senator Henry Stern
- Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes
- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Stephen Choi
- Assembly Member Paul Cook
- Assembly Member Tom Daly
- Assembly Member Mike Gipson
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Member Chad Mayes
- Assembly Member Jose Medina
- Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi
- Assembly Member Jay Obernolte
- Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell
- Assembly Member Eloise Reyes
- Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva

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

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce
Carson Chamber of Commerce
California Department of Transportation
Consulting Electrical Engineers, Sherman Oaks.
Five Mountain Communities Government Affairs Council
Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Greater Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Imperial Irrigation District
Jiangsu Provincial Environmental Protection Department, China
Los Angeles Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability
Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities, Orange County Division
Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce
North Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Council of Governments

Orange County Business Council
Orange County Association of Realtors
Orange County Transportation Authority
Orange County Community Engagement Collaborative
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Riverside County Transportation Commission
Riverside Transit Agency
Riverside County Agricultural Commissioners
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Gabriel Valley Water District
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Southern California Association of Governments
Southern California Gas Company
Tustin Chamber of Commerce
Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce
Western Municipal Water District
Western Riverside Council of Governments
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Wilmington Neighborhood Council

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

American Cancer Society
American Lung Association
Altadena Senior Center
Anderson Memorial Senior Citizen Center, San Pedro
Arcadia Senior Center
Arcadia Community Center
Azusa Pacific University
Baldwin Park, Julia McNeill Senior Center
Betty Hill Senior Citizen Center, Los Angeles
Boyle Heights Senior Citizen Center, Los Angeles
Breathe California of Los Angeles County
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, San Bernardino

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena
California Communities Against Toxics
Canoga Park Senior Center, Los Angeles
Claude Pepper Senior Center, Los Angeles
Coalition for a Safe Environment
Community Center, Compton
Costello Senior Center, Los Angeles
Comite Civico Del Valle
Duarte Senior Center
El Sereno Senior Center, Los Angeles
Expo Center, Ahmanson Senior Center, Los Angeles
Fairfax Senior Center, Los Angeles.
Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Center, Los Angeles
Garvey Center, City of Rosemead
Green Meadows Recreation Center, Los Angeles
Griffith Park Adult Community Center, Los Angeles
Glassell Park Senior Center, Los Angeles
Glendale Adult Recreation Center
Highland Park Adult Senior Center, Los Angeles
Hollywood Multi-Purpose Senior Center, Los Angeles
Jim Gilliam Senior Center, Los Angeles
Joslyn Adult Recreation Center, Burbank
Las Palmas Senior Center, Los Angeles
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability, California
Lincoln Park Senior Center, Los Angeles
Lincoln Heights Senior Center, Los Angeles
Los Angeles Unified School District Nursing Services
Los Nietos Senior Center, Whittier
Mid-Valley Senior Center, Panorama
Monrovia Community Center
Monterey Park Langley Senior Center
Montecito Heights Senior Center
North Hollywood Senior Center
Orange County United Way
Orange County Community Engagement Collaborative
Pasadena Neighborhood Connections
Pan Pacific Senior Activities Center, Los Angeles
Park La Brea Clean & Green, Los Angeles
Praises of Zion Baptist Church, Los Angeles
People Coordinated Service, Los Angeles
Reach Out, Inland Valley
Rim of the World School District
Royal Oaks Senior Living Community, Pasadena
Robert M. Wilkinson Multi-Purpose Center, Northridge

Torch Middle School, La Puente
Tree People, Los Angeles
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
San Bernardino Valley Community College
Santa Ana Unified School District
San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Association
Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center
Slauson Multi-Purpose Center, Los Angeles
Sparr Heights Senior Citizen Center
South Los Angeles Sports Activity Center
Sunland Senior Center
Sunshine Canyon Community Advisory Committee
University of California, Riverside
University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine
University of California, Irvine
Van Metter Senior Center, Los Angeles
Van Ness Rec-Senior Center, Los Angeles
Vineyard Recreation Center/Senior Center, Los Angeles
Watts Senior Center, Los Angeles
Westchester Senior Center, Los Angeles
Westminster Garden Retirement Community, Duarte
Wilmington Neighborhood Council