

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 4, 2015

AGENDA NO. 11

REPORT: Legislative and Public Affairs Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights October 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.

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Executive Officer

LBS:DJA:MC:DM

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## **BACKGROUND**

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

### October 7

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the Long Beach Alliance for Children's Asthma meeting to discuss the possibility of collaborating on an upcoming SCAQMD Environmental Justice Partnership event. The discussion led to a joint agreement to partner on the November 10, 2015 community meeting that focused on the impacts of air pollution on human health.

#### October 8

- Staff participated in the California Environmental Protection Agency's (CalEPA) CalEnviro Screen Training at the CALO YouthBuild Charter School in East Los Angeles. Staff helped identify ways the tools can be used to develop strategies related to environmental justice efforts. During the meeting, staff met representatives from CalEPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment Department.

#### October 14

- Staff participated in the Murchison Elementary School press conference regarding the co-funded installation of high-performance air filtration systems in the classrooms. Senator Kevin de León and his staff attended, as well as school officials and representatives from the Los Angeles Unified School District.
- Staff attended the California Asthma Summit at the California Endowment offices and met representatives from the Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County, the Comite Civico Del Valle from Brawley, the Desert Healthcare District from Palm Springs, Esperanza Community Housing and others.
- Staff represented SCAQMD at the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan Update Community Workshop at Banning's Landing Community Center in Wilmington. Staff participated in the discussions and met representatives from many local governments and organizations.

#### October 15

- Staff attended the City Leader Reception at the IRWD (Irvine Ranch Water District) San Joaquin Marsh Learning Center and met Orange County elected officials as well as representatives from organizations focused on environmental sustainability.

#### October 17

- Staff participated in the "Let's Create a Healthier Long Beach" Community Forum at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and engaged in discussion throughout the working group session on air pollution related issues, including proximity to major stationary facilities, freeways, the ports, and health topics such as asthma.

#### October 21

- Staff attended the Riverside County Health Coalition meeting in Moreno Valley and provided an update on the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan and other air quality related information to attendees.

#### October 22

- Staff attended the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board meeting to hear discussions related to the South I-710 freeway project.

### October 27

- Staff attended the Bilingual Community Forum on Air Quality and Health in the Coachella Valley at UCR (University of California, Riverside) Palm Desert Auditorium. Staff received information on recent research finding regarding air quality issues in the area, and met with community groups that focus on organizing communities around issues related to asthma.

### October 28

- Staff organized and implemented the logistics for the joint meetings related to Exide Technologies held by the Department of Toxic Substances Control and SCAQMD. There were two meetings held; the first was a technical meeting held by the Exide Technologies Advisory Group and the second meeting was a public meeting to provide an update on the residential clean-up and other issues.

## **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:

### October 3

- Bridge to Health, Free Community Health Wellness & Safety Fair, White Memorial Medical Center, Los Angeles
- Second Annual Geranium Festival Barnes Park, Monterey Park
- Community Health & Resource Fair, Ayala Park, Bloomington

### October 8

- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee Health, Wellness, & Rideshare Fair, Rancho Cucamonga City Yard
- City of Glendale Safe Street Faire, N. Brand Boulevard

October 8, 11, 15, and 18

- Solar Decathlon Events, Orange County Great Park, Irvine

October 10

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rendezvous Back to Route 66 Event, Downtown, San Bernardino
- SCAQMD Lawnmower Exchange, University of Southern California Health Science Center, Los Angeles
- Let's Move On the Trail Event, Pacific Electric Trail, Fontana

October 14 and 15

- California Department of Public Health's California Asthma Summit, California Endowment Center for Health Communities, Los Angeles

October 17

- SCAQMD Lawnmower Exchange, Inland Empire 66ers Stadium, San Bernardino
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Soul Event, Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles

October 24

- City of Artesia's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Go Green" Festival, Artesia Park

October 29

- Loma Linda University Senior Health Fair, University Drayson Center, Loma Linda
- Western Riverside Council of Governments, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Advancing the Choice Expo, UCR Center for Environmental Research and Technology

**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.

October 13

- Eight students from Hope International University in Fullerton visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received an overview on the agency and air monitoring, viewed the *Right to Breathe* film, toured the SCAQMD laboratory, and were shown alternative fuel vehicles.

#### October 15

- Nineteen government officials and representatives from the South Bay Cities Council of Governments' South Bay Environmental Services Center visited SCAQMD Headquarters where they received an overview on the agency and air monitoring, viewed the *Right to Breathe* film, toured the SCAQMD laboratory, and were shown alternative fuel vehicles.

#### October 16

- Twenty-three graduate students from California State University, Fullerton, visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received an overview on the agency and air monitoring, viewed the *Right to Breathe* film, toured the SCAQMD laboratory, and were shown alternative fuel vehicles.

#### October 20 and 21

- Two inspectors from the Taiwan Environmental Protection Agency and one staff member from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Pacific Southwest Region 9 Office, visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received an overview on the agency, viewed the *Right to Breathe* film, were shown alternative fuel vehicles, and were provided a site visit to SCAQMD's Rubidoux Air Monitoring Station. In addition, staff also provided an overview on air monitoring and analysis as well as source testing, toured the SCAQMD laboratory and toured the Tesoro Refinery in Carson.

#### October 22

- Eight environmental managers from Environment Abu Dhabi from the United Arab Emirates, and two staff from RTI International in California were provided an air quality management overview by SCAQMD staff of Engineering and Compliance, an alternative fuel vehicle demonstration, and toured SCAQMD's laboratory.

#### October 27

- Staff gave a presentation on air quality and how poor air quality affects health at the Health Assessment and Research Communities Air Quality Community Forum at the University of California, Riverside - Palm Desert Center.

#### October 29

- Twenty-five students from the Pasadena Transportation Class at Arts Center College of Design visited SCAQMD headquarters where they received an overview on the agency and air monitoring, viewed the *Right to Breathe* film, toured the SCAQMD laboratory, and were shown alternative fuel vehicles.

## 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 October 2015 were:

Calls to SCAQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG <sup>®</sup> Line	4,847
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>40</u>
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 month of September is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC Staff	171
Calls to Automated System	<u>937</u>
Total Calls	1,108
Visitor Transactions	265
E-Mail Advisories Sent	81

## 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 10 free on-site consultations
- Provided permit application assistance to 192 companies
- Issued 26 clearance letters

### Types of businesses assisted

Auto Body Shops	Dry Cleaners	Printing Facilities
Chemical Distributor	Gas Stations	Cabinet Manufacturer
Engineering	Restaurants	Metal Plating Facilities
Construction	Architecture	Medical Facilities

## **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:

Arcadia	Huntington Beach	Pomona
Artesia	Jurupa Valley	Rancho Cucamonga
Aliso Viejo	La Habra	Riverside
Bell	La Verne	San Dimas
Beaumont	Laguna Woods	San Jacinto
Brea	La Cañada Flintridge	San Gabriel
Buena Park	Lake Elsinore	Sierra Madre
Chino Hills	Los Angeles	South El Monte
Claremont	Menifee	South Gate
Coachella	Monrovia	South Pasadena
Corona	Monterey Park	Tustin
Commerce	Moreno Valley	Villa Park
Duarte	Murrieta	West Covina
Glendale	Norco	Yorba Linda
Fontana	Pasadena	Yucaipa
Fullerton	Perris	
Hemet	Placentia	

Visits and/or communications were conducted with elected officials or staff from the following State and Federal Offices:

- U.S. Congressman Pete Aguilar
- U.S. Congressman Ken Calvert
- U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano
- U.S. Congressman Mark Takano
- U.S. Congresswoman Norma Torres
- State Senator Joel Anderson
- State Senator Kevin de León
- State Senator Connie Leyva
- State Senator Mike Morrell
- State Senator Richard Roth
- State Senator Jeff Stone
- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
- Assembly Member Mike Gipson
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Member Eric Linder

- Assembly Member Chad Mayes
- Assembly Member Jose Medina
- Assembly Member Melissa Melendez

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

Association of California Cities, Orange County  
 Beaumont Chamber of Commerce  
 California Environmental Protection Agency  
 California Department of Public Health  
 Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Corona Chamber of Commerce  
 Coachella Valley Council of Governments  
 Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
 Hemet/San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce  
 Irvine Water District  
 Institute for Local Governments  
 Inland Empire Economic Partnership  
 Imperial Valley Economic Partnership  
 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
 Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Orange County Council of Governments  
 Orange County Transit Agency  
 Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
 Redlands Chamber of Commerce  
 Riverside County Transportation Commission  
 Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)  
 San Bernardino Associated Governments  
 San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce  
 San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce  
 San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
 San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
 Southern California Association of Governments  
 Southern California Gas Company  
 South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
 South Bay Environmental Services Center  
 South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
 Taiwan Environmental Protection Agency  
 United States Environmental Protection Agency  
 United States Department of Energy  
 Western Riverside Council of Governments  
 Western Riverside Transportation NOW (RTA)

- Greater Riverside Chapter
  - Hemet/San Jacinto Chapter
  - Moreno Valley/Perris Chapter
  - Northwest Chapter, Corona
  - Southwest Chapter, Temecula
- Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce

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

Arts Center College of Design, Pasadena  
 Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County  
 American Cancer Society, Los Angeles  
 American Lung Association in California  
 Beaumont Unified School District  
 California State University, Fullerton  
 Clean Air Now  
 Desert Health Care District, Palm Springs  
 Exide Technologies Advisory Group, Commerce  
 Hemet Community Medical Group  
 Hemet Jason Simpson Neighborhood Center  
 Hope International University, Fullerton  
 Inland Empire HealthCare Group  
 Los Angeles Unified School District  
 Long Beach Alliance for Children's Asthma  
 Loma Linda University  
 Moreno Valley Unified School District  
 Moreno Valley College  
 Occidental College, Los Angeles  
 Orange County Teen Council  
 Riverside County Department of Health  
 Riverside County Health Coalition