

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 7, 2018

AGENDA NO. 12

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the October 2018 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 Government.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
Receive and file.

Wayne Nastri  
Executive Officer

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## **BACKGROUND**

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for October 2018. 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 SCAQMD staff engage in holding and sponsoring a number of major events throughout the SCAQMD's four county area to promote, educate and provide important information to the public regarding reducing air pollution, protecting public health, and improving air quality and the economy.

## **October 5**

SCAQMD held the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean Air Awards to honor those who have made outstanding clean air contributions to the health of our communities and economy. The event was attended by more than 350 guests and emceed by Kaj Goldberg, Anchor and Weathercaster for KTLA TV.

2018 Clean Air Award Recipients are listed below:

### **Robert M. Zweig, M.D Memorial Award**

- Dr. Keith L. Black, M.D., Chairman and Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Director, Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

### **Model Community Achievement**

- Metrolink (Southern California Regional Rail Authority)
- City of Paramount

### **Innovative Clean Air Technology**

- Tesla

### **Clean Air Education and Outreach**

- California State University, Los Angeles

### **Business Leadership in Air Quality**

- Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)
- Proterra, Inc.

### **Youth Leadership in Air Quality**

- Grid Alternatives, Inland Empire

## **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:

**October 3**

- Science Technology Education Program (STEP) Conference, Bourns College of Engineering and the Center for Environmental Research and Technology, University of California, Riverside
- Los Angeles County Public Health & Air Quality Workshop Meeting, Los Angeles

**October 6**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Rendezvous Back to Route 66, Downtown San Bernardino.

**October 10**

- Ride & Drive Electric Vehicle Exhibition, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

**October 20**

- 2018 Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival, Los Angeles

**October 27**

- The Green Prize Festival, Admiral Kidd Park, Long Beach

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE**

The following are key environmental justice-related activities in which staff participated throughout the month of October 2018. These events involve communities affected disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

**October 2**

A kickoff community meeting was held in Wilmington for the AB 617 program, which focuses on reducing air pollution in environmental justice communities. The purpose of the meeting was to seek members for the Community Steering Committee, to help guide program implementation in the Wilmington, Carson and West Long Beach AB 617 communities.

**October 2**

Staff participated in an environmental justice community roundtable meeting hosted by East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice and the State Lands Commission in Long Beach. The Commission has drafted an Environmental Justice Policy and Implementation Plan and are seeking community input throughout the State on how to better identify and address environmental justice concerns impacting communities.

### **October 9**

Staff organized and participated in conference calls to provide updates on Health Risk Assessments for two companies operating in Paramount. One was with representatives of elected officials and the other was with government agencies, including the U.S. EPA, Cal/EPA, State Regional Water Control Board, Los Angeles County Public Health, City of Paramount, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

### **October 9**

A kickoff community meeting was held in San Bernardino for the AB 617 program, which focuses on reducing air pollution in environmental justice communities. The purpose of the meeting was to seek members for the Community Steering Committee to help guide program implementation in the San Bernardino/Muscoy AB 617 communities.

### **October 11**

Staff participated in the second California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting for Quemetco at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. There were about 150 attendees including federal, state and local government representatives, residents, stakeholders, and environmental justice organizations.

### **October 16**

A kickoff community meeting in Commerce for the AB 617 program, which focuses on reducing air pollution in environmental justice communities. The purpose of the meeting was to seek members for the Community Steering Committee to help guide program implementation in the West Commerce, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles AB 617 communities.

### **October 18**

Staff attended the Environmental Justice Summit hosted by Comite Civico del Valle in Heber, CA. The Summit was a networking opportunity for conference attendees. There were about 100 attendees including CARB staff, Eastern Coachella Valley and Imperial County community-based organizations, community members, and academia.

### **October 19**

Staff attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Health Leadership Summit hosted by Comite Civico del Valle in Heber, CA. There were approximately 200 attendees, including a group of high school students. The conference included a panel on the Salton Sea Air Basin District's Emission Reduction Efforts including SCAQMD staff and staff from the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.

### **October 24**

Staff participated in an Environmental Justice tour led by the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability of a Polanco Park in Eastern Coachella Valley. The mobile home park has unpaved roads which leads to airborne dust affecting the air quality and health of residents, especially children.

### **October 24**

Staff participated in the Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force meeting hosted by Comite Civico del Valle and the Colorado River Basin Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board. Staff from the California Department of Public Health presented information regarding the current California Regional Exposure (CARE) Study. The CARE Study measures some of the potentially harmful chemicals in people's bodies and investigates how people in California come into contact with the chemicals.

### **October 30**

Staff held the first AB 617 Steering Committee meeting in Wilmington. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Steering Committee members with more information about their role in providing program guidance for the Wilmington, Carson and West Long Beach AB 617 communities.

## **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 11**

- Staff presented information on SCAQMD Rule 1403 - Asbestos Emissions from Demolition/Renovation Activities, to 70 members of the Indoor Air Quality Association at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Orange.

### **October 19**

- Staff hosted 15 automotive repair professionals and instructors from Rio Hondo College in Whittier. The visit included a tour of SCAQMD's laboratory, alternative fueling stations, and a display of various types of clean air 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 October were:

Calls to SCAQMD’s Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	3,565
Calls to SCAQMD’s Spanish-language Line	<u>37</u>
Total Calls	3,602

**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS**

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

Calls Received by PIC Staff	150
<u>Calls to Automated System</u>	<u>723</u>
Total Calls	873

Visitor Transactions	290
Email Advisories Sent	41,209

**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 164 companies
- Processed 54 Air Quality Permit Checklists
- Conducted 6 free on-site consultations

**Types of businesses assisted**

Auto Body Shops	Dry Cleaners	Furniture Refinishing Facilities
Plating Facilities	Gas Stations	Manufacturing Facilities
Auto Repair Centers	Restaurants	Printing Facilities
Engineering, Construction, & 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: 68

Press Releases Issued: 6

### **Major Media Topics for October**

#### **All inquiries closed unless noted as pending**

- **Summer Ozone Exceedances:** L.A. Times requested information regarding ozone exceedances during the summer smog season. Staff conducted telephone interviews with the reporter.
- **Coastal Odors:** Two reporters from the Orange County Register inquired about weekend odor events including the number of complaints, whether a source was identified, ongoing SCAQMD efforts to identify coastal odors, and the presence or absence of H<sub>2</sub>S in coastal odor events.
- **Air Pollution Science Under the Administration:** A reporter from Reveal News requested information on what measurable public health improvements have resulted from air quality improvements in Southern California, including any studies or data showing the positive health impacts from ozone and PM reduction. Staff provided references to two publications from the Children's Health Study and referrals to the study's authors at USC.
- **Air Quality Trends:** A reporter from KPCC/LAist requested general information on early air pollution efforts in the Southland, and a spreadsheet showing peak ozone levels in PM from 1955 - present. Staff directed the reporter to data and charts on the SCAQMD website and in the AQMP.
- **Clean Air Awards:** Staff received and fulfilled requests for quotes from the Executive Officer for the Los Angeles World Airport and Metrolink for press releases, which the respective agencies issued upon receipt of their awards.
- **Process Failure at Chevron Refinery in El Segundo:** Staff provided information to a reporter for Easy Reader newspaper about results from SCAQMD's sampling and analyses of catalyst dust during recent flaring/catalyst dust release incidents at Chevron's El Segundo refinery. Bloomberg News sought information about a possible process failure at the refinery and was informed that the SCAQMD is investigating the incident.
- **Fresno EPA Meeting:** The Fresno Bee inquired about the SCAQMD's participation in a Fresno-based U.S. EPA meeting on the proposed federal "SAFE" rule to roll back vehicle fuel efficiency standards. Staff issued a statement regarding SCAQMD's attendance and testimony. Staff also conducted an interview with Valley Public on the same topic.
- **Aliso Canyon Gas Leak:** The Los Angeles Daily News interviewed SCAQMD's Health Effects Officer regarding the SCAQMD health study on the Aliso Canyon gas leak. Staff also provided an update on the study to KPCC.

- **Autonomous Vehicles:** Staff conducted an interview with KPCC on autonomous vehicles and what impact they might have on emissions.
- **Mira Costa High School Asbestos Cleanup:** A Reporter with Easy Reader Newspaper inquired about the status of cleanup at the high school.
- **Smog Emissions from Commercial Cooking:** Bloomberg Environmental News inquired about SCAQMD rule proposals related to commercial cooking on underfired charbroilers.
- **Petition for Ultra-Low NOx Heavy-Duty Engine Rule:** IWP News requested a status update on the 2016 SCAQMD petition to the U.S. EPA.
- **Mitigation Fees:** The Daily Breeze requested a list of all violations, Supplemental Environmental Projects and mitigation fees paid to SCAQMD by ExxonMobil and PBF for the Torrance Refinery. A Public Records Request was submitted on behalf of the reporter.
- **Air Quality:** Staff conducted an interview with KPCC on the week's air quality and the possible causes of hazy conditions.
- **Westways Infographic:** Westways Magazine invited SCAQMD to provide a short quote for inclusion in a special article pertaining to alternative fuel vehicles and U.S. EPA stickers/labels.
- **Metrolink:** Staff responded to a request from the Southern California Newspaper Group for two NOV's issued to Metrolink for operating contrary to permit conditions.
- **Anaplex and Aircraft:** Following the issuance of the October 30, 2018 press release on hexavalent chrome risks relating to Anaplex and Aircraft facilities in Paramount, the Long Beach Post requested more information on the specific local communities to be notified in the AB 2588 process.
- **Asbestos:** The Boyle Heights Beat requested a status update on the issue of asbestos reported on Friday, October 26, 2018 at Roosevelt High School. Staff provided a summary of SCAQMD's activities.

## Media Campaigns

### Check Before You Burn:

- Video production and post-production underway for short video vignettes for social media
- Season kickoff press release issued on October 31, 2018

### News Releases & Media Advisories Issued

- Anaplex in Paramount Ordered to Temporarily Suspend Operations - October 4, 2018
- SCAQMD to Honor Clean Air Heroes at Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon - October 5, 2018
- SCAQMD Takes Rapid Action to Protect Public Health Following Disturbance of Asbestos at Roosevelt High School - October 26, 2018

- SCAQMD Sets Public Meetings to Review Risks from Anaplex Corp. and Aerocraft Heat Treating Co. in Paramount - October 30, 2018
- SCAQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory - October 31, 2018
- Check Before You Burn This Season to Help Improve Air Quality - October 31, 2018

**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	Fontana	Pomona
Anaheim	Fountain Valley	Rosemead
Arcadia	Glendora	San Bernardino
Azusa	Huntington Beach	San Dimas
Baldwin Park	Laguna Niguel	San Gabriel
Brea	La Cañada Flintridge	San Marino
Carson	La Puente	Sierra Madre
Claremont	La Verne	South El Monte
Chino	Los Angeles	South Pasadena
Covina	Mission Viejo	Temple City
Cypress	Monrovia	Tustin
Diamond Bar	Monterey Park	Walnut
Duarte	Ontario	West Covina
El Monte	Paramount	

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

- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- U.S. Senator Kamala Harris
- U.S. Representative Judy Chu
- U.S. Representative Ken Calvert
- U.S. Representative Ted Lieu
- U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano
- U.S. Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard
- U.S. Representative Mark Takano
- U.S. Representative Mimi Walters
- Senator Ben Allen
- Senator Steven Bradford
- Senator Ling Ling Chang
- Senator Ricardo Lara
- Senator Connie M. Leyva
- Senator Mike Morrell
- Senator Anthony Portantino
- Assembly Member Autumn Burke
- Assembly Majority Floor Leader Ian Calderon
- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Steven Choi
- Assembly Member Ed Hernandez
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Member Jose Medina
- Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
- Assembly Member Eloise Reyes
- Assembly Member Jay Obernolte

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

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce  
Bear Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Clean Cities Coalition  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Metropolitan Water District, Southern California  
Omnitrans, San Bernardino  
Orange County Council of Governments  
Orange County Business Council  
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority  
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce  
San Bernardino International Airport  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Southern California Gas Company  
Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce  
Western Riverside Council of Governments  
Wilmington 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  
California Conference of Carpenters  
California State Council of Laborers  
Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Task Force  
Coalition for Clean Air, Los Angeles  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Long Beach  
Inland Action, San Bernardino  
IBEW  
Five Mountain Communities, San Bernardino County  
Jobs to Move America  
Loma Linda University  
Riverside County Department of Education  
San Bernardino Valley College  
San Bernardino Department of Education  
State Lands Commission, Long Beach  
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce