

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 5, 2019

AGENDA NO. 9

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the February 2019 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 Governments.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

DJA:FW:LTO:KH:DM:

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the activities of the Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Office for February 2019. 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.

February 21

SCAQMD hosted the Community Faith Based Leaders Breakfast and Panel Discussion in Los Angeles. The purpose of the event was to engage faith based community leaders on air quality and public health challenges in the community. There were approximately 75 people in attendance from diverse faith backgrounds.

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 rules 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 28

SCAQMD staffed an exhibit booth at the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) General Assembly. The theme for the SBCCOG's 2019 General Assembly was *Celebrating the Past - Shaping the Future*.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE

The following are key environmental justice-related activities in which staff participated throughout the month of February 2019. These events involve communities affected disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

February 7

Staff presented information to students in an urban pollution course at California State University, Los Angeles. The presentation covered background information on SCAQMD, air pollution and health effects, and environmental justice initiatives and programs.

February 9

Staff hosted an Environmental Justice Bus Tour with USC Environmental Health Sciences Division. The tour included a harbor tour of the Port of Long Beach and community tour of East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights. Participants saw first-hand environmental justice issues such as homes next to freeways, factories, and rail yards.

February 12

Staff held the third AB 617 Steering Committee meeting in Wilmington. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a prioritization of air quality concerns from the community members through a facilitated break out session and to receive community input to help guide SCAQMD's focus for the community emission reduction plans. Staff presented information on enforcement and strategies to address air quality concerns.

February 22

SCAQMD partnered with CARB and the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability to host a community identification meeting in the North Shore community of the Eastern Coachella Valley. There were approximately 50 community members in attendance. Staff presented information regarding AB 617 community selection process and incentives available to the community. The meeting ended with a Q&A session.

February 26

Staff participated in a community forum hosted by Madison Park Neighborhood Association in Santa Ana. This meeting was the second community forum to educate the community on air quality and recruit steering committee members for their Community Air Grant. There were approximately 40 community leaders and residents in attendance.

February 27

Staff participated in the Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force meeting which was attended by local community organizations, U.S. EPA Region 9, Department of Toxic Substances Control, staff from elected officials and other agencies. Staff shared information on the Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment program.

February 28

Staff held the third AB 617 Steering Committee meeting in East Los Angeles which was co-hosted with East LA Rising. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a prioritization of air quality concerns from the community members through a facilitated break-out session and to receive community input to help guide SCAQMD's focus for the community emission reduction plans. Staff presented information on enforcement and strategies to address air quality concerns.

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 22

Environmental science students from Montclair High School visited SCAQMD. Staff presented information on SCAQMD, the history of air quality, clean air technologies, and air monitoring. The visit also included a tour of the laboratory, and alternative fueling stations and vehicles.

February 27

Staff presented information to the City of Murrieta Building Safety Department, including plan reviewers and permit technicians. The presentation focused on SCAQMD regulations for residential, commercial, and industrial sources of air pollution, including outdoor wood-burning devices.

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	3,223
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>37</u>
Total Calls	3,260

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	156
<u>Calls to Automated System</u>	<u>547</u>
Total Calls	703

Visitor Transactions	218
Email Advisories Sent emails	12,764

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 onsite consultation, as summarized below:

- Provided permit application assistance to 168 companies
- Processed 72 Air Quality Permit Checklists
- Conducted 2 free onsite 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: 16

Total Web Updates: 127

Press Releases/Air Quality Advisories Issued: 1

Major Media Topics for February

(All inquiries closed unless noted as pending)

- Lawn Equipment Incentives – La Prensa and KPCC/NPR inquired regarding the lawn equipment incentives and how local landscapers could take advantage of the program. The Santa Clarita Signal published an article about the program during the final week of February.
- Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) Emergency Generator – ABC7 inquired regarding a reported incident at a LBUSD school in which an emergency generator may have been operated while school was in session.
- Refined Spots – requested an update on the Board’s actions or next steps regarding modified hydrofluoric acid.
- AQMP Incentive Funding – the L.A. Times requested clarification on the amount of incentive funds that SCAQMD has received from AQMP Incentive funding.
- Fire Ring Jurisdiction – a freelance reporter from Carmel requested clarification on SCAQMD’s jurisdiction over fire rings at beaches in the South Coast basin.
- Clean Air Shelters – Bloomberg Environment inquired about whether or not SCAQMD has set up “clean air shelters” during wildfires or “bad air” days.
- Facility Inspections – L.A. Times spoke to staff about their ongoing public records request related to SCAQMD’s inspection statistics.
- Voting District Authorization Bill – Long Beach Business Journal inquired about SCAQMD’s efforts to develop a voter district authorization bill.

News Releases

- SCAQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley – February 28, 2019

Media Campaigns**Check Before You Burn 2018/19**

- 13 total No-Burn Days called to date in current season

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	El Monte	Pasadena
Arcadia	El Segundo	Pomona
Aliso Viejo	Fullerton	Rialto
Anaheim	Glendora	Riverside
Azusa	Hemet	Rosemead
Banning	Irvine	Stanton
Baldwin Park	Laguna Hills	San Dimas
Beaumont	Lawndale	San Clemente
Burbank	La Palma	San Gabriel
Buena Park	La Puente	San Marino
Calimesa	La Verne	Sierra Madre
Claremont	La Cañada Flintridge	South El Monte
Colton	Los Angeles	South Pasadena
Covina	Los Alamitos	Temple City
Cypress	Mission Viejo	Walnut
Dana Point	Monrovia	West Covina
Diamond Bar	Monterey Park	Yucaipa
Duarte	Palm Springs	

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 Pete Aguilar
- U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán
- U.S. Representative Paul Cook
- U.S. Representative Lizzy Fletcher
- U.S. Representative Trey Hollingsworth
- U.S. Representative Mike Levin
- U.S. Representative Alan Lowenthal
- U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano
- U.S. Representative Joe Neguse
- U.S. Representative Katie Porter
- U.S. Representative Harley Rouda
- U.S. Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard
- U.S. Representative Norma Torres
- Senator Connie Leyva
- Senator Susan Rubio
- Assembly Member Autumn Burke
- Assembly Member Ian Calderon
- Assembly Member Ed Chau
- Assembly Member Laura Friedman
- Assembly Member Chris Holden

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

Black Chamber of Commerce, Orange County
Bureau of Automotive Repair
Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce, Long Beach
Inland Action
Inland Empire Conservation District, Redlands
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Oak Glen Apple Growers Association, Yucaipa
Riverside Chamber of Commerce
Riverside Citrus Growers Association
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Sunline Transit Agency, Riverside County
Transportation Now, San Geronimo Pass Area Chapter
Transportation Now, Moreno Valley / Perris
Western Community Energy, Riverside
Western Riverside Council of Governments
U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station, Mentone

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

Desert Sands Unified School District
Coachella Valley Unified School District
Loma Linda University
Orange County Community Relations Collaborative
Palm Springs Unified School District
San Bernardino County Department of Education
San Bernardino Valley College
San Gabriel Valley Community Conservation Corps
Wildlands Conservancy, Yucaipa