

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 1, 2019

AGENDA NO. 11

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the December 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 Governments.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Receive and file.

Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer

DJA:LTO:DM:

BACKGROUND

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

December 10-12

SCAQMD sponsored the California Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Summit and California Hydrogen Business Council Member Day in Sacramento. The purpose of the summit was to advance the interests of hydrogen energy in California, and beyond, by exchanging information and addressing opportunities and challenges in key environmental, business, and market areas. Representatives from over 100 organizations attended this summit.

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:

December 1

- AB 2588 Air Toxic Hotspots Program Public Meeting for Aerocraft Corporation and Anaplex Heat Treating Company, Inc., Progress Park, Paramount.

December 6

- Robert F. Kennedy Institute, Annual Health Conference, Banning's Landing, Wilmington.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE

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

December 4

Staff participated in the "Your Life Now" conference hosted by California Safe Schools in Los Angeles. The conference was attended by students from Los Angeles Unified School District, as well as environmental health professionals, local community organizations, and government employees from agencies such as the Cal/EPA, U.S. EPA, and the City of Los Angeles. Board Member Joseph Lyu opened the conference and panelists discussed topics such as environmental health and local air quality.

December 6

Staff presented at the Fifth Annual Health and Environmental Conference hosted by the Robert F. Kennedy Institute of Community and Family Medicine in Wilmington. Community members and local community organizations attended. Some of the topics presented were: health planning for healthy homes and body; climate change; and environmental endocrine disrupting chemicals and reproductive health.

December 12

Staff attended a meeting in Los Angeles with SCAG regarding their Environmental Justice Working Group. The meeting focused on how SCAQMD and SCAG can work together on EJ initiatives and events moving forward. The Environmental Justice Working Group's purpose is to request feedback on SCAG's 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS or Plan). The Plan is a long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental and public health goals.

December 13

Staff attended the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Exide Advisory Group meeting in Bell. At the meeting, representatives from DTSC updated the public on clean-up efforts in areas affected by lead emissions from Exide and reported that over 200 properties have been cleaned up.

December 19

Staff attended the Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force meeting in Indio. There were 15 representatives in attendance from government agencies, community based organizations, and members of the public. Presentations included a general overview of the Transformative Climate Communities planning grant, plans to save the Salton Sea, and a presentation from SCAQMD's Health Effects Officer on air monitoring efforts and incentive programs in the Coachella Valley.

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.

December 13

- Staff presented information on SCAQMD, and its compliance and enforcement of air quality rules and regulations to improve public health, at the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health in Riverside.

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 December were:

Calls to SCAQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	3,011
Calls to SCAQMD's Spanish-language Line	<u>29</u>
Total Calls	3,040

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS

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

Calls Received by PIC Staff	101
Calls to Automated System	<u>794</u>
Total Calls	895

Visitor Transactions	142
Email Advisories Sent	6,130

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 157 companies
- Processed 60 Air Quality Permit Checklists
- Conducted 11 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: 44

No-Burn Alerts: 4

Press Releases/Air Quality Advisories Issued: 3

Major Media Topics for December

All inquiries closed unless noted as pending

- AB 617 – Random Lengths News requested updates on information shared at an October meeting regarding AB 617 efforts. The reporter inquired as to the basic premise of AB 617 and why certain communities were selected, as well as requesting more information regarding steering committees.
- Aircraft and Anaplex Health Risk Assessment (HRA) meetings – Long Beach Post and CBS-2 attended the HRA meetings. Staff spoke with both regarding the HRAs and the purpose of the meeting.
- Portable air monitors – New York Times fact-checked portions of their story on portable air monitoring with staff.
- Housing near freeways – KCET requested an in-person interview with SCAQMD staff regarding the issue of freeway pollution and the related health effects facing residents who live nearby. Interview is pending.
- RECLAIM – IWP news requested a status update on litigation against SCAQMD in regards to RECLAIM. Staff informed the reporter that the case is stayed until summer 2019, at which time both parties may agree to dismiss the case.
- Torrance Refinery – The Daily Breeze requested information regarding the Torrance Refinery flaring events on December 16, and 22, 2018. Staff provided information on our response.
- Emissions monitoring – KFI & KNX News requested an interview regarding fenceline emissions monitoring plans for South Bay refineries.
- Modified Hydrofluoric Acid – Staff conducted an interview on December 24 with KPCC regarding the status of Proposed Rule 1410.
- KORE Infrastructure project, Rialto – KCBS requested an update on the status of the KORE project in Rialto. Reporter also requested clarification of records of payments from SCAQMD to KORE.

No-burn alert – Spectrum News 1, KNX 1070, KPCC/NPR, KCRW and other local news stations requested interviews regarding the weather conditions that can contribute to no-burn alerts.

News Releases

- Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn Joins SCAQMD Board - December 7, 2018.
- SCAQMD Extends Comment Period for Refinery Monitoring Plans - December 21, 2018.
- SCAQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory - December 28, 2018.

Media Campaigns

The Right to Breathe

- The Google AdWords campaign received 4,634 clicks, 5.31 million impressions, 2.65 million views.

Check Before You Burn

- Ten No-burn days declared since November 1, 2018.
- The Google AdWords campaign received 17,223 clicks, 10,308,042 million impressions, 3,071 million views.

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
Anaheim
Arlington
Azusa
Big Bear
Claremont
Covina
Colton
Diamond Bar
Duarte
El Monte
Fountain Valley

Glendora
Highland
Irvine
Irwindale
La Cañada Flintridge
Laguna Beach
Laguna Niguel
Lake Forest
Los Angeles
Monrovia
Monterey Park
Newport Beach

Pasadena
Riverside
Rosemead
San Dimas
San Gabriel
South El Monte
Temple City
Tustin
Walnut
West Covina

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

- U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar
- U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán
- U.S. Representative Paul Cook
- Senator Steven Bradford
- Senator Bill Emmerson
- Senator Anthony Portantino
- Assembly Member Ian Calderon
- Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo
- Assembly Member Tom Daly
- Assembly Member Chris Holden
- Assembly Member Mike Gipson
- Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris
- Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
- Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva

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

Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Bear Valley Chamber of Commerce
Bear Valley Electric
Foothill Transit
Glendora Rotary Club
Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce
Omnitrans, San Bernardino County
Orange County Business Council
Orange County Community Relations Collaborative
Riverside Chamber of Commerce
Riverside Public Utilities
Riverside County Department of Environmental Health
Riverside County Transportation Commission
Riverside Transit Agency -Transportation Now, Greater Riverside Coalition
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce
Southern California Association of Governments

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

Healthy San Bernardino County
Inland Action, Inland Empire
Pasadena Neighborhood Connections
Robert F. Kennedy Institute, Wilmington