

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 5, 2025

AGENDA NO. 13

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the July 2025 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, Small Business Assistance, Media Relations, and Outreach to Community Groups and Governments.

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 July. The report includes Major Events, Community Events/Public Meetings, Environmental Justice (EJ) Update, Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, Public Information Center, Small Business Assistance, Media Relations, and Outreach to Community Groups and Governments.

### **Major Events Hosted and Sponsored**

Each year, staff engage in hosting and sponsoring several major events throughout South Coast AQMD's four-county jurisdiction to promote, educate, and provide important information to the public regarding reducing air pollution, protecting public health, and improving air quality while minimizing economic impacts.

There were no major events hosted or sponsored in July.

## **Community Events/Public Meetings**

Staff engaged with residents and stakeholders of diverse communities to provide information about the agency, incentive programs, and ways individuals can help reduce air pollution through events and meetings sponsored by South Coast AQMD or in partnership with others. Attendees typically receive information regarding the following:

- Tips on reducing their exposure to smog and its negative health effects;
- How to file a complaint;
- Clean air technologies and their deployment;
- Invitations to or notices of conferences, seminars, workshops, and other public events;
- South Coast AQMD incentive programs;
- Funding/grant opportunities by South Coast AQMD and partner agencies;
- Ways to participate in South Coast AQMD's rules and policy development; and
- Assistance in resolving air pollution-related problems.

Staff attended and/or provided information and updates at the following July events and meetings:

### Paramount Chamber of Commerce

On July 8, staff attended the Paramount Chamber of Commerce's "Coffee at the Chamber" to provide information regarding our Small Business Assistance program.

### Inland Empire Fire Safe Alliance

On July 9, staff attended an Inland Empire Fire Safe Alliance meeting to provide updates on air monitoring and a current smoke advisory.

### South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

On July 9, staff participated in the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Affairs committee meeting to share an update on the Infrastructure, Vehicles, and Equipment Strategy for Climate, Equity, Air Quality, and National Competitiveness (INVEST CLEAN) project and the 2025 Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer) grant application deadline.

### Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council

On July 9, staff participated in a Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting to provide information on an evaluation of particulate matter pollution in the area and how to file air quality complaints.

### Upland Chamber of Commerce

On July 10, staff attended the Upland Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee meeting to share a smoke advisory and an update on the public hearing for Proposed Amended Rules 1111 – Reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> Emissions from Natural-Gas-Fired

Furnaces; and 1121 – Reduction of NOx Emissions from Residential Type, Natural-Gas-Fired Water Heaters related to space and water heating.

#### Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

On July 11, staff attended the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs committee meeting to provide updates on the INVEST CLEAN project and the Carl Moyer Program.

#### Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, South Bay Cities Service Council

On July 11, staff attended the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's South Bay Cities Service Council meeting to share information on how to file air quality complaints and our Mobile App.

#### Tustin Chamber of Commerce

On July 23, staff met with the Tustin Chamber of Commerce to discuss South Coast AQMD resources such as our Small Business Assistance program, Mobile App, Advisor newsletter, and the Residential and Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment (eL&G) programs.

#### Anaheim Chamber of Commerce

On July 24, staff met with the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce to share information about South Coast AQMD resources such as our Small Business Assistance program, the Mobile App, Advisor newsletter, and eL&G programs.

#### Greater Ontario Business Council

On July 24, staff attended the Greater Ontario Business Council Government Affairs Committee meeting to provide information regarding eL&G programs and the upcoming CARB One-Stop Truck event.

#### **Environmental Justice Update**

The following are key environmental justice related activities in which staff participated during July. These events and meetings involve communities affected disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

#### Air Quality Education Programs

In July, South Coast AQMD Governing Board student interns engaged in several projects for the Clean Air Program for Elementary Students and Why Healthy Air Matters (WHAM) programs. The interns updated presentation materials for WHAM and created educational kits that will be distributed to teachers beginning in August.

#### **Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services**

South Coast AQMD 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. South Coast AQMD also hosts visitors from around the world who meet with staff on a wide range of air quality issues.

#### Orange County Health Care Agency

On July 22, South Coast AQMD staff delivered a virtual presentation to the Orange County Health Care Agency and provided an overview of the agency's mission, programs, and services to approximately 12 participants.

#### Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), China

On July 24, South Coast AQMD hosted the Director General of the MEE in China. Staff presentations were on several topics including an overview on South Coast AQMD, air quality planning, strategies for emission control, permitting and enforcement, and air toxics evaluation. The delegation also toured the Laboratory.

#### **Communication Center Statistics**

The Communication Center handles phone calls on South Coast AQMD's main line, 1-800-CUT-SMOG®, the Spanish line, and after-hours calls to those lines. Total calls received in the Month of July are summarized below:

Calls to South Coast AQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG®	1,959
Calls to South Coast AQMD's Spanish Line	8
Clean Air Connections	3
Total Calls	1,970

#### **Public Information Center Statistics**

The Public Information Center (PIC) handles phone calls and assists individuals who walk in for general information. Email advisories provide information on upcoming meetings and events, program announcements and alerts on time-sensitive issues. Information for the Month of July is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC	64
Calls to Automated System	109
Total Calls	173
Visitor Transactions	91
Email Advisories Sent	20,194

#### **Small Business Assistance**

South Coast AQMD notifies local businesses of proposed regulations so they can participate in the agency's rule development process. South Coast AQMD works with other agencies and governments to identify efficient, cost-effective ways to reduce air pollution and shares that information broadly. Staff provided personalized assistance to

small businesses over the telephone, at South Coast AQMD headquarters and via virtual on-site consultation, as summarized below for July.

- Provided permit application assistance to 301 companies.
- Processed 137 Air Quality Permit Checklists.

Types of businesses assisted:

Architecture Firms	Gas Stations	Schools
Auto Body Shops	Manufacturing Facilities	Warehouses
Construction Firms	Offices	
Dry Cleaners	Restaurants	
Engineering Firms	Retail Facilities	

### Media Relations

The Media Office handles all South Coast AQMD outreach and communications with television, radio, newspapers and all other publications, and media operations. The July report is listed below:

Major Media Interactions	127
Press Releases	10
News Carousel	6

### Major Media Topics:

- **Air Quality Advisories:** Staff participated in an interview with KESQ News Channel 3 to discuss the ozone advisory. KESQ News Channel 3 and Newsweek requested information on the smoke advisory. Responses were provided.
- **Space and Water Heater Rules PARs 1111 and 1121:** California Environmental Insider inquired about the June 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Response was provided.
- **Beryllium:** San Francisco Chronicle inquired about the beryllium detected after the Los Angeles wildfires. Response was provided.
- **Colorado Lagoon Restoration:** Long Beach Post inquired about our investigation into the Colorado Lagoon Restoration project. Response was provided.
- **History of Smog Podcast:** Los Angeles Times is working on a podcast about the history of smog. They are looking for archival information and potential interviews. Working on identifying information to provide.
- **Van Nuys Airport:** LA Daily News inquired about the effectiveness of a 15-foot noise wall and a commercial building at Van Nuys Airport in reducing nearby residents' exposure to jet exhaust emissions. Response was provided.

- **Asbestos in Torrance:** Fox News requested a statement regarding an investigation at an USPS facility in Torrance. Response was provided.
- **EtO & Sterigenics:** LAist (NPR) requested information on the Administration's ethylene oxide proclamation and the current compliance of Sterigenics. Responses were provided.
- **Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL):** Inside Climate News inquired about the FIND tool emissions data for CCL and greenhouse gas emissions regarding landfills. Response was provided.
- **Air Monitoring Update Press Release:** Pitched to media outlets.
- **Particle Advisory:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.
- **Smoke Advisories:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.
- **Ozone Advisory:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.

#### News Releases:

- Smoke Advisory issued due to wildfires. To view, click here: [here](#).
- Particle Advisory Issued Due to July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks. To view, click [here](#).
- Press Release issued on Eaton and Palisades Air Monitoring Update. To view, click the following: [7/3](#) & [7/11](#).
- Ozone Advisory Issued Due to Heat Wave. To view, click [here](#).

#### Social Media Posts:

[Juniper Fire Smoke Advisory \(6/30\)](#): 4,375 Twitter Impressions

--RT by @NWSSanDiego, @CodeRed001Blue, @CaliforniaEPA, @AirResources

[Ozone Advisory \(7/7\)](#): 5,700 Twitter Impressions

--RT by @LongBeachCity, @SoCal\_RedCross, @ReadySBCounty, @SBCounty, @LAFDTalk, @NWSSanDiego

[AQ Forecast \(7/12\)](#): 5,358 Twitter Impressions

--RT by @CodeRed001Blue, @NWSLosAngeles

[AQ Forecast \(7/17\)](#): 3,411 Twitter Impressions

--RT by @NWSSanDiego

[AQ Forecast \(7/25\)](#): 3,125 Twitter Impressions

--RT by @NWSSanDiego, @CodeRed001Blue

#### News Carousel:

- **Apply now for Carl Moyer funding to replace older heavy-duty diesel engines and equipment - deadline extended to July 15 (7/1)** - Linked to Carl Moyer Program webpage.

- **Multi-Family Housing Owners: Learn how to apply for EV charger funding at a virtual workshop on July 17 (7/8)** - Linked to webinar registration webpage.
- **Apply now for funding through the INVEST CLEAN program for Battery Electric Switcher Locomotives. Deadline: Sept. 30, 2025 (7/15)** - Linked to Governing Board meeting agenda.
- **Apply for EV charger funding through the Fast Charge California Project from Aug. 5 to Oct. 29. First-come, first-served (7/22)** - Linked to project overview webpage.
- **Sign up for Clean Air Program for Elementary Students to bring air quality science to life in your classroom - space is limited! (7/29)** - Linked to CAPES information webpage.
- **Attend CARB's virtual public workgroup meeting regarding funding plan for clean mobility investments on July 31 (7/30)** - Linked to registration webpage

### **Outreach to Community Groups and Federal, State and Local Governments**

Communication was conducted in July with elected officials and/or staff from the following state and federal offices:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • U.S. Senator Alex Padilla                | • U.S. Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz         |
| • U.S. Senator Adam Schiff                 | • U.S. Representative Linda Sánchez         |
| • U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar         | • U.S. Representative Brad Sherman          |
| • U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán     | • U.S. Representative Mark Takano           |
| • U.S. Representative Julia Brownley       | • U.S. Representative Norma Torres          |
| • U.S. Representative Ken Calvert          | • U.S. Representative Derek Tran            |
| • U.S. Representative Judy Chu             | • U.S. Representative Maxine Waters         |
| • U.S. Representative Gilbert Cisneros Jr. | • U.S. Representative George Whitesides     |
| • U.S. Representative Lou Correa           | • Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire |
| • U.S. Representative Judy Chu             | • Senator Ben Allen                         |
| • U.S. Representative Laura Friedman       | • Senator Bob Archuleta                     |
| • U.S. Representative Robert Garcia        | • Senator Catherine Blakespear              |
| • U.S. Representative Jimmy Gomez          | • Senator Sabrina Cervantes                 |
| • U.S. Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove | • Senator Steven Choi                       |
| • U.S. Representative Young Kim            | • Senator María Elena Durazo                |
| • U.S. Representative Ted Lieu             | • Senator Lena Gonzalez                     |
| • U.S. Representative Dave Min             | • Senator Shannon Grove                     |
| • U.S. Representative Jay Obernolte        | • Senator Caroline Menjivar                 |
| • U.S. Representative Luz Rivas            | • Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh              |

- Senator Steve Padilla
- Senator Sasha Renée Pérez
- Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes
- Senator Laura Richardson
- Senator Susan Rubio
- Senator Kelly Seyarto
- Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
- Senator Henry Stern
- Senator Tom Umberg
- Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
- Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
- Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens
- Assemblymember Steve Bennett
- Assemblymember Mia Bonta
- Assemblymember Isaac Bryan
- Assemblymember Lisa Calderon
- Assemblymember Jessica Caloza
- Assemblymember Juan Carrillo
- Assemblymember Leticia Castillo
- Assemblymember Phillip Chen
- Assemblymember Damon Connolly
- Assemblymember Laurie Davies
- Assemblymember Diane Dixon
- Assemblymember Sade Elhawary
- Assemblymember Stan Ellis
- Assemblymember Mike Fong
- Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
- Assemblymember Robert Garcia
- Assemblymember Mike Gipson
- Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez
- Assemblymember Mark González
- Assemblymember Matt Haney
- Assemblymember John Harabedian
- Assemblymember Gregg Hart
- Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
- Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson
- Assemblymember Ash Kalra
- Assemblymember Tom Lackey
- Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal
- Assemblymember Tina McKinnor
- Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
- Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco
- Assemblymember Gail Pellerin
- Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris
- Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Assemblymember James Ramos
- Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez
- Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez
- Assemblymember Chris Rogers
- Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
- Assemblymember Kate Sanchez
- Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo
- Assemblymember Nick Schultz
- Assemblymember José Luis Solache, Jr.
- Assemblymember Tri Ta
- Assemblymember Avelino Valencia
- Assemblymember Greg Wallis
- Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
- Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur



Outreach was conducted personally and virtually in July to communicate with elected officials or staff from the following cities:

Agoura Hills	Diamond Bar	Loma Linda
Alhambra	Downey	Lomita
Aliso Viejo	Duarte	Long Beach
Anaheim	Eastvale	Los Alamitos
Arcadia	El Monte	Los Angeles
Artesia	El Segundo	Lynwood
Avalon	Fountain Valley	Malibu
Azusa	Fullerton	Manhattan Beach
Baldwin Park	Garden Grove	Maywood
Banning	Gardena	Menifee
Beaumont	Glendale	Mission Viejo
Bell	Glendora	Monrovia
Bell Gardens	Hawaiian Gardens	Montclair
Bellflower	Hawthorne	Montebello
Beverly Hills	Hermosa Beach	Monterey Park
Big Bear Lake	Hidden Hills	Moreno Valley
Bradbury	Huntington Beach	Murrieta
Brea	Huntington Park	Newport Beach
Buena Park	Indian Wells	Norco
Burbank	Indio	Norwalk
Calabasas	Inglewood	Ontario
Calimesa	Irvine	Orange
Canyon Lake	Irwindale	Palm Desert
Carson	Jurupa Valley	Palm Springs
Cathedral City	La Cañada Flintridge	Palos Verdes Estates
Cerritos	La Habra	Paramount
City of Industry	La Habra Heights	Pasadena
Claremont	La Mirada	Perris
Coachella	La Palma	Pico Rivera
Colton	La Puente	Placentia
Commerce	La Quinta	Pomona
Compton	La Verne	Rancho Mirage
Corona	Laguna Beach	Rancho Palos Verdes
Costa Mesa	Laguna Hills	Rancho Santa Margarita
Covina	Laguna Niguel	Redlands
Cudahy	Laguna Woods	Redondo Beach
Culver City	Lake Elsinore	Rialto
Cypress	Lake Forest	Riverside
Dana Point	Lakewood	Rolling Hills
Desert Hot Springs	Lawndale	Rolling Hills Estates

Rosemead	Santa Monica	Upland
San Bernardino	Seal Beach	Vernon
San Clemente	Sierra Madre	Villa Park
San Dimas	Signal Hill	Walnut
San Fernando	South El Monte	West Covina
San Gabriel	South Gate	West Hollywood
San Jacinto	South Pasadena	Westlake Village
San Juan Capistrano	Stanton	Westminster
San Marino	Temecula	Whittier
Santa Ana	Temple City	Wildomar
Santa Clarita	Torrance	Yorba Linda
Santa Fe Springs	Tustin	

Staff represented South Coast AQMD in July and/or provided updates or a presentation to the following governmental agencies and business organizations:

American Green Zone Alliance  
 Anaheim Chamber of Commerce  
 Association of California Cities, Orange County  
 B&M Lawn and Garden  
 Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.  
 Beaumont Chamber of Commerce  
 Big Bear Chamber of Commerce  
 Big Bear Fire Department  
 Big Bear Mountain Resort  
 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
 CALSTART  
 CARB  
 Carson Chamber of Commerce  
 Clean Power Alliance  
 Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
 Coalition for Clean Air  
 Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce  
 EGO Power+  
 El Segundo Chamber of Commerce  
 Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Ontario Business Council  
 Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce  
 Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce  
 Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce  
 Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity  
 Inland Empire Fire Safe Alliance

Inland Empire Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
International Emergency Response Coordination Center  
Lomita Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles World Airports  
Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce  
March Joint Powers Authority  
Mean Green Mowers  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Mountain Transit  
Omnitrans  
Ontario International Airport Authority  
Orange County Business Council  
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce  
Paramount Chamber of Commerce  
Penske  
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Riverside County  
Riverside Transit Agency  
SCAG  
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce  
San Bernardino County  
San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association  
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District  
San Bernardino International Airport Authority  
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce  
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
Southern California Edison  
Southwest Gas  
Stihl  
Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council  
SunLine Transit Agency  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
Tustin Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Forest Service  
Upland Chamber of Commerce  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District  
Valley Industry and Commerce Association  
WattEV  
Western Riverside Council of Governments  
World Energy Paramount

In July, staff represented South Coast AQMD and/or provided updates or a presentation to the following community and educational groups and organizations:

American Lung Association  
American Red Cross  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
California Safe Schools  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice  
Coalition for Clean Air  
Desert Sands Unified School District  
Discovery Cube Los Angeles  
Earthjustice  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice  
Fontana Unified School District  
Inland Congregations United for Change  
Long Beach City College  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Orange County Health Care Agency  
Pasadena City College  
Reach Out  
The IMPACT Project  
The People's Collective for Environmental Justice  
The Salvation Army, Long Beach Red Shield  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Riverside  
Upland Unified School District