

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 5, 2026

AGENDA NO. 15

REPORT: Legislative, Public Affairs and Media Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the April 2026 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 Natri  
Executive Officer

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### **Background**

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

### **Inland Empire Sustainability Summit**

On April 8, South Coast AQMD sponsored the 2026 Inland Empire Sustainability Summit, a regional event attended by policymakers, innovators, and community

changemakers to address sustainability through collaboration, education, and practical solutions. Staff hosted a resource table to highlight technology advancement projects to transition to zero-emission vehicles and equipment including Empowering Local Environmental Change Through Replacing Internal Combustion with Battery Electric Class 6 or 7 Vehicles (ELECTRIC) and Infrastructure, Vehicles, and Equipment Strategy for Climate, Equity, Air Quality, and National Competitiveness (INVEST CLEAN). Additionally, staff shared information about South Coast AQMD, how to file an air quality complaint, and other incentive programs for residents and businesses.

#### Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network Enforcement Symposium

On April 15, South Coast AQMD co-sponsored the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network Enforcement Symposium & Workshops, which focused on strengthening community-agency collaboration to reduce air pollution impacting communities. Staff hosted a resource booth featuring information on the Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden (eL&G) program; what to do before, during, and after a wildfire; how to file an air quality complaint; and the Mobile App.

#### Annual Children's Water Education Festival

On April 15 and 16, South Coast AQMD sponsored the Orange County Water District's (OCWD) 29th Annual Children's Water Education Festival to educate third, fourth and fifth grade students about air quality issues and the environment. Staff utilized the Clean Air Program for Elementary Students (CAPES) to educate students on South Coast AQMD and air quality issues.

#### Southern California E-Commerce and Logistics Summit

On April 23, South Coast AQMD sponsored the 2026 Southern California E-Commerce and Logistics Summit. The event brought together industry leaders and practitioners to discuss supply chain operations, logistics infrastructure, workforce considerations, and the evolving role of technology in moving goods efficiently and sustainably.

#### **Community Events/Public Meetings**

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

- Tips on reducing their exposure to smog and its negative health effects;
- How to file an air quality 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 April events and meetings:

San Fernando Valley Business Resource Fair

On April 2, staff participated in the San Fernando Valley Business Resource Fair to share information on South Coast AQMD's Small Business Assistance program, INVEST CLEAN, how to file an air quality complaint, the Mobile App, and the Residential and Commercial eL&G Program.

Buena Park Sustainability Fair

On April 4, staff participated in the city of Buena Park's Sustainability Fair to share information on how to file an air quality complaint, the Mobile App, Residential and Commercial eL&G Programs, and how to prepare for a wildfire.

Paramount Earth Day

On April 4, staff participated in the city of Paramount's Annual Earth Day to share information regarding South Coast AQMD's Small Business Assistance, Residential EV Charging Program, residential and commercial eL&G Programs, how to file an air quality complaint, and Mobile App.

South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

On April 8, staff participated in the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee meeting to provide information on Small Business Assistance services and the Mobile Source Review Reduction Committee (MSRC) Zero-Emission Transit Bus Incentive Program.

Orange County Business Council

On April 10, staff participated in the Orange County Business Council Government Affairs Committee meeting to share information on the Balboa Ferry Electrification project, introduction to Governing Board Member appointee, Cedric "Jamie" Rutland, M.D., and how to sign-up for rule updates and training opportunities.

Paramount Chamber of Commerce

On April 14, staff participated in the Paramount Chamber of Commerce's event to provide information on Small Business Assistance resources and the Community Air Protection Program Regional Clean Community Conversations virtual meetings.

Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce

On April 16, staff attended the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting to share information on the Community Air Protection Program Regional Clean Air Community Conversations virtual meetings.

### Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

On April 17, staff participated in the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee meeting to provide information on the Community Air Protection Program Regional Community Conversations virtual meetings.

### California Heat Pump Partnership

On April 18, staff participated in the California Heat Pump Partnership's Inaugural Heat Pump Week Community Fair to provide information on the eL&G programs, Air Quality Index (AQI), Replace Your Ride (RZR), how to file an air quality complaint, the Mobile App, and what to do before, during, and after a wildfire.

### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

On April 22, staff participated in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Long Beach Annual Earth Day event to provide information on South Coast AQMD's Mobile App, Small Business Assistance, residential EV Charging Program, residential eL&G, and how to file an air quality complaint.

### EF Academy, Pasadena

On April 22, staff participated in the EF Academy's Earth Day event to provide information on programs such as the Why Healthy Air Matters (WHAM), residential eL&G, what to do before, during, and after a wildfire, how to file an air quality complaint, and the Mobile App.

### Corona Chamber of Commerce

On April 24, staff participated in the Corona Chamber of Commerce Legislative Action Committee meeting to share information on the Community Air Protection Program Regional Community Conversations virtual meetings.

### Diamond Bar

On April 25, staff participated in the city of Diamond Bar's annual Earth Day to display eL&G equipment and to share information on residential and commercial eL&G Programs, what to do before, during, and after a wildfire, how to file an air quality complaint, and the Mobile App.

### Chino

On April 25, staff participated in the city of Chino's Corn Feed Run to provide information on the residential and commercial eL&G programs, how to file an air quality complaint, and the Mobile App.

### San Bernardino

On April 25, staff participated in the city of San Bernardino Arbor-Earth Day to share information on residential and commercial eL&G programs, how to file an air quality complaint, and the Mobile App.

### University of California Riverside

On April 28, staff participated in the University of California, Riverside Public Service Career Fair to provide information on programs such as INVEST CLEAN, RYR, Residential EV Charging, and Residential eL&G, information on career opportunities, how to file an air quality complaint, and the Mobile App.

### **Specialized Outreach**

The Community Relations and Small Business Assistance units have been collaborating to expand outreach with local cities and counties to share South Coast AQMD resources throughout our jurisdiction. Staff are meeting with city manager offices, permitting staff, and other stakeholders to highlight how Small Business Assistance can help determine whether a permit is required prior to occupancy using the Air Quality Permit Checklist, and to clarify the distinction between asbestos and demolition notifications. Staff has also shared how community members can file air quality complaints and provided information on current funding opportunities, such as AB 2766 and MSRC.

- Compton – Wednesday, April 1, 2026
- Moreno Valley – Wednesday, April 8, 2026
- Eastvale – Wednesday, April 8, 2026
- Rialto – Wednesday, April 8, 2026
- Downey – Thursday, April 9, 2026
- Torrance – Tuesday, April 14, 2026
- Fontana – Wednesday, April 15, 2026
- San Fernando – Thursday, April 16, 2026
- Long Beach – Tuesday, April 21, 2026
- Riverside – Wednesday, April 22, 2026

### **Environmental Justice Update**

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

#### Sylmar Charter High School

On April 7, staff visited Sylmar Charter High School to provide information regarding the WHAM program, wildfire safety, Mobile App, how to file an air quality complaint, and our upcoming Earth Day events.

#### Rowland Heights High School and Esperanza High School

On April 8, staff visited Rowland Heights High School and Esperanza High School (Anaheim) to provide information regarding the WHAM program, wildfire safety, Mobile App, how to file an air quality complaint, and our upcoming Earth Day events.

### Pacoima Community Initiative

On April 10, staff participated in the Pacoima Community Initiative's monthly meeting to share information on the CAPES and WHAM programs, and how to report an air quality complaint.

### 2026 Children's Water Festival

On April 15 and 16, staff attended the 2026 Children's Water Festival to provide information regarding the CAPES program as well as the upcoming Earth Day events. The event was held at Oak Canyon Park in Anaheim with approximately 145 students visiting South Coast AQMD's exhibit.

### Walnut High School

On April 21, staff participated in the Walnut High School Career Day to share information on South Coast AQMD's career paths, WHAM, wildfire safety, Mobile App, and how to file an air quality complaint.

### Earth Day Webinars

On April 22, staff conducted Earth Day webinars for the WHAM and CAPES education programs. The presentations focused on South Coast AQMD, career pathways, and ways students could get involved in helping to clean the air. A combined total of 18 classrooms registered for the events.

### **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.

### Santa Fe High School

On April 22, staff attended Santa Fe High School's Earth Day fair to provide general information on air pollution in Los Angeles County.

### Cal Poly Pomona

On April 23, staff presented an overview on air pollution and control methods to approximately 48 mechanical engineering students.

### California Environmental Health Association

On April 23, staff attended California Environmental Health Association's Annual Educational Symposium to present on how wildfires affect air quality.

### Hope International University (HIU) and California State Fullerton (CSU Fullerton)

On April 23, students from HIU and CSU Fullerton visited South Coast AQMD for a general overview of our agency and a tour of the lab.

### Communication Center Statistics

The Communication Center handles 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 April are summarized below:

Calls to South Coast AQMD's Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG®	2321
Calls to South Coast AQMD's Spanish Line	34
Clean Air Connections	7
Total Calls	2,362

### 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 April is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC	38
Calls to Automated System	86
Total Calls	162
Visitor Transactions	101
Email Advisories Sent	41,760

### 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 April.

- Provided permit application assistance to 263 companies, and
- Processed 118 Air Quality Permit Checklists.

Types of businesses assisted:

Architecture Firms  
Auto Body Shops  
Beauty Salons  
Construction Firms

Engineering Firms  
Manufacturing Facilities  
Offices  
Printing Facilities

Restaurants  
Retail Facilities  
Warehouses

## 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 April report is listed below:

Major Media Interactions	239
Press Releases	28
News Carousel	11

### Major Media Topics:

- **Ethylene Oxide:** Participated in an interview with the New York Times discussing medical sterilizer exemptions and ethylene oxide limits.
- **Air Quality and Health:** Oxford Academy requested information on how air pollution negatively impacts human health. Response was provided.
- **Cathedral City Odor Complaints:** NBC Palm Springs requested information regarding cannabis-related odor complaints and air monitoring in Cathedral City. Response was provided.
- **Air Quality Index (AQI) Data:** The Guardian is seeking AQI data for comparison with other air districts. Pending more details from the reporter.
- **Landfill Data:** The Los Angeles Times is looking for raw monthly wellhead data for all South Coast landfills. Referred reporter to the local enforcement agency.
- **Landfill Methane Regulation:** Inside Washington Publishers requested our comments in response to CARB’s proposed amendments to the Landfill Methane Regulation. Response was provided.
- **Wind Advisory:** Newsweek inquired about the windblown dust advisory and whether it would be extended. Response was provided.
- **State of the Air Report:** KESQ requested information about the air quality progress and efforts related to the American Lung Association’s 2026 State of the Air report. Response was provided.
- **Vernon Air Quality:** A King Drew High School student requested information regarding Vernon/Los Angeles, including major pollutant sources, current conditions, and how it affects human health. Response was provided.
- **Air Quality in Relation to Health Disparities:** A USC Student requested information for a project regarding the relationship between historical redlining and present-day asthma disparities in Black and Brown communities across Southern California. Response was provided.
- **Colorado Lagoon:** The Long Beach Post inquired about the status of the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project investigation. Response was provided. Reporter had follow-up questions. Working on a response.

- **Symbio Pilot Project:** Waste Drive inquired about the project of hydrogen fuel cell electric refuse truck. Response was provided. Reporter has requested an interview. Pending more information from the reporter.
- **Smoke Advisories:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.
- **Statement in Response to ALA State of the Air Report:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.
- **Windblown Dust Advisories:** Pitched to media outlets resulting in media coverage.

#### News Releases:

- Press Release: South Coast AQMD Highlights Air Quality Progress Despite Wildfires and Other Challenges. To view, click [here](#).
- Air Quality Advisory: Windblown Dust Advisories issued. To view, click the following: [4/1](#), [4/9](#), [4/10](#), [4/12](#), [4/15](#), [4/20](#), [4/21](#), [4/24](#) & [4/26](#).
- Air Quality Advisory: Smoke Advisories issued. To view, click the following: [4/3](#), [4/7](#) & [4/8](#).

#### Social Media Posts:

[Windblown Dust Advisory \(4/1\)](#): 1,335 Instagram Views

[Smoke Advisory \(4/7\)](#): 21,017 Instagram Views

[AQ Forecast \(4/10\)](#): 4,465 Instagram Views

[Santa Monica Clean Air Event \(4/21\)](#): 863 Instagram Views

[CAPP Regional Clean Air Conversations \(4/24\)](#): 1,435 Facebook Views

#### News Carousel:

- **Celebrate National Walking Day — walk, boost your health, enjoy cleaner air, and check air quality with our app. (4/1)** - Linked to our mobile app webpage.
- **Expand EV charging access with more than 90 ports installed at South Coast AQMD headquarters in partnership with ChargePoint (4/1)** - Linked to ChargePoint press release.
- **Apply for AB 617 Clean Community School Initiative funding to replace older school buses with zero-emission models — deadline Apr. 7 (4/2)** - Linked to Clean Community School Initiative webpage.
- **Walk instead of drive this Walk to Work Day — stay active, help keep the air clean, and check the Air Quality Index! (4/3)** - Linked to Facebook reel on how to check the AQI Index.
- **On World Health Day, stay informed about air quality — small actions can make a big impact on your health (4/7)** - Linked to educational video.
- **Stay informed! Join CARB for a virtual community meeting on Apr. 21 to learn about updates on Clean Transportation Incentives (4/9)** - Linked to community meeting registration page.

- **Join the Community Air Protection Program (AB 617) Virtual Regional Clean Air Community Conversations (4/15-5/14) to share your air quality concerns (4/14)** - Linked to virtual conversations flyer.
- **Apply for Clean Community School Initiative funding to replace older school buses with zero-emission models — deadline May 7 (4/16)** - Linked to Clean Community School Initiative webpage.
- **Explore our Sensor Library Program to better understand air quality and bring air monitoring tools into your community (4/21)** - Linked to AQ-SPEC webpage.
- **Celebrate Earth Day by making a difference — explore easy steps you can take today to support cleaner air and healthier communities (4/22)** - Linked to “Do One Thing” video.
- **Get involved! Join the virtual INVEST CLEAN Public Benefits Steering Committee Meeting on May 7 to hear updates (4/28)** - Linked to Invest Clean webpage.

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

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

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|---|--|
| • U.S. Senator Alex Padilla                 | • Senator Eloise Gómez Reyes           |
| • U.S. Senator Adam Schiff                  | • Senator Laura Richardson             |
| • U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar          | • Senator Kelly Seyarto                |
| • U.S. Representative Nanette Diaz Barragán | • Senator Tony Strickland              |
| • U.S. Representative Ken Calvert           | • Assemblymember Anamarie Avila Farias |
| • U.S. Representative Lou Correa            | • Assemblymember Leticia Castillo      |
| • U.S. Representative Robert Garcia         | • Assemblymember Laurie Davies         |
| • U.S. Representative Ted Lieu              | • Assemblymember Diane B. Dixon        |
| • U.S. Representative Jay Obernolte         | • Assemblymember Robert Garcia         |
| • U.S. Representative Mark Takano           | • Assemblymember Mike Gipson           |
| • U.S. Representative Maxine Waters         | • Assemblymember John Harabedian       |
| • Senator Sabrina Cervantes                 | • Assemblymember Natasha Johnson       |
| • Senator Steven Choi                       | • Assemblymember Tom Lackey            |
| • Senator Lena Gonzalez                     | • Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal        |
| • Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh              | • Assemblymember José Luis Solache     |
| • Senator Sasha Renée Pérez                 | • Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur      |

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

Agoura Hills	Glendale	Rancho Cucamonga
Alhambra	Grand Terrace	Redlands
Anaheim	Hidden Hills	Redondo Beach
Arcadia	Highland	Rialto
Azusa	Huntington Beach	Riverside
Baldwin Park	Indio	Rosemead
Banning	Irvine	San Bernardino
Beaumont	Irwindale	San Dimas
Beverly Hills	Jurupa Valley	San Fernando
Big Bear Lake	La Cañada Flintridge	San Gabriel
Bradbury	La Puente	San Jacinto
Brea	La Verne	San Marino
Burbank	Lake Forest	Santa Ana
Calabasas	Lawndale	Santa Clarita
Calimesa	Loma Linda	Santa Fe Springs
Canyon Lake	Lomita	Santa Monica
Carson	Long Beach	Seal Beach
Cathedral City	Los Alamitos	Sierra Madre
Chino	Los Angeles	South El Monte
Chino Hills	Lynwood	South Gate
City of Industry	Malibu	South Pasadena
Claremont	Manhattan Beach	Stanton
Colton	Mission Viejo	Temple City
Commerce	Monrovia	Torrance
Compton	Montclair	Upland
Corona	Monterey Park	Walnut
Covina	Moreno Valley	West Covina
Culver City	Newport Beach	West Hollywood
Dana Point	Ontario	Westlake Village
Diamond Bar	Orange	Whittier
Downey	Palm Springs	Yorba Linda
Duarte	Paramount	Yucaipa
Eastvale	Pasadena	
El Monte	Placentia	
Fontana	Pomona	

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

Big Bear Chamber of Commerce  
Burbank Chamber of Commerce  
Carson Chamber of Commerce  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Colton Chamber of Commerce  
Corona del Mar Chamber of Commerce  
Crestline Chamber of Commerce  
Durham School Services  
EV Realty  
First Student  
Fontana Chamber of Commerce  
Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority  
Foothill Transit  
Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
Glendale Chamber of Commerce  
Grand Terrace Area Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Ontario Business Council  
GRID Alternatives  
Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce  
Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Highland Area Chamber of Commerce  
Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce  
Inland Empire Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Inland Valley Development Agency  
Inland Empire Regional Chamber  
Lake Arrowhead Communities Chamber of Commerce  
League of California Cities  
Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce  
Lomita Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Mountain Transit  
Omnitrans  
Ontario International Airport Authority  
Orange County Business Council

Orange County Council of Governments  
Orange County Transportation Authority  
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce  
Paramount Chamber of Commerce  
Rancho Cucamonga Chamber of Commerce  
Redlands Chamber of Commerce  
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Riverside County Farm Bureau  
San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce  
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority  
San Bernardino International Airport Authority  
San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce  
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District  
Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce  
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Southern California Association of Governments  
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
TCI Transportation  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce  
Upland Chamber of Commerce  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District  
Valley Industry and Commerce Association  
Western Riverside Council of Governments

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

California Botanic Garden  
California State University, Dominguez Hills  
California State University, Los Angeles  
California State University, San Bernardino  
Inland Action  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice  
City of Hope  
Clean Power Alliance  
Coalition for Clean Air  
Congregation Emanu El – Redlands  
Earthjustice

Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles  
Inland Congregations United for Change  
Inland Empire Fire Safe Alliance  
Kiwanis Club of Chino  
Loma Linda University  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Pacoima Beautiful  
People's Collective for Environmental Justice  
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools  
San Bernardino Valley College  
San Antonio Regional Hospital  
Sustainable Claremont  
University of California, Riverside  
University of Redlands  
U.S. Green Building Council  
Walnut High School  
Women's Club of South Pasadena