

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 10, 2014

AGENDA NO. 7

PROPOSAL: Legislative and Public Affairs Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the November 2013 outreach activities of Legislative and Public Affairs, which include: Environmental Justice Update, Community Events/Public Meetings, Business Assistance, and Outreach to Business and Federal, State, and Local Government.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  
Receive and file.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.  
Executive Officer

LBS:DJA:MC:DM

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## **BACKGROUND**

This report summarizes the activities of Legislative and Public Affairs for November 2013. The report includes four major areas: Environmental Justice Update; Community Events/Public Meetings (including the Speakers Bureau/Visitor Services, Communications Center, and Public Information Center); Business Assistance; and Outreach to Business and Federal, State, and Local Governments.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE**

The following are key environmental justice-related activities in which staff participated during the month of November. These events involve communities that may suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

### November 3

- Staff represented the SCAQMD at the American Lung Association's Inland Empire Fight for Air Walk in Ontario. Staff provided information on air quality and its health impacts to event participants.

### November 6

- Staff met with representatives from Assembly Member Anthony Rendon's office to provide information on Exide, a lead acid-battery facility located in Vernon.

### November 13

- Staff participated in the Inland Empire Asthma Coalition meeting. Staff provided information on the Clean Communities Plan programs, including the gas log incentive program, and SCAQMD's Technology Forum on Near-Road Mitigation Measures and Technologies.
- Staff provided a presentation to the Coachella Unified School District and participated in a discussion on Rule 444 – Open Burning for Agriculture.

### November 19

- Staff participated in a planning meeting for future American Lung Association's Fight for Air Walks. Staff provided information on SCAQMD's Technology Forum on Near-Road Mitigation Measures and Technologies and Check Before You Burn program.

### November 20

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the Riverside County Department of Health Healthy City Resolutions Working Group meeting. Staff provided information on the Check Before You Burn and Leaf Blower Exchange programs.

### November 23

- Staff represented SCAQMD at the WE Connect Health Care Enrollments & Resource Fair in Thermal. Staff informed participants about the AB 1318 weatherization program, and provided information on air quality and its health impacts to event participants.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS/PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Each year, thousands of residents engage in valuable information exchanges through events and meetings that SCAQMD sponsors either alone or in partnership with others. Attendees typically receive the following information:

- Tips on reducing exposure to smog and its health effects.
- Clean air technologies and their deployment.
- Invitations or notices of conferences, seminars, workshops and other public events.

- Ways to participate in SCAQMD's rule and policy development.
- Assistance in resolving air pollution-related problems.

The events that SCAQMD staff attended and/or provided information and updates include:

November 1

- Coachella Valley Economic Summit, hosted by the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, JW Marriot Desert Springs Resort, Palm Desert.

November 2

- City of Diamond Bar's Eco Expo, SCAQMD's Diamond Bar Headquarters.

November 4

- Los Angeles Current Affairs Forum, hosted by Council Member Felipe Fuentes, Los Angeles City Hall.

November 6

- Green California Schools Summit and Expo, Pasadena Convention Center.
- Senior Health and Wellness Fair, Stanton Community Civic Center.

November 7

- Seventh Annual Environmental Youth Summit, hosted by the Western Riverside County Council of Governments, Diamond Valley Lake Visitors Center, Hemet.

November 8

- H2 Fuel Cell Ribbon Cutting Event, hosted by California State University, San Bernardino.
- Senior Health and Information Fair, hosted by the City of Santa Ana and Assembly Member Tom Daly, Santa Ana Senior Center,.

November 9

- Solarthon 2013 Eco-Wellness Fair, hosted by GRID Alternatives, Rotary Park, Temecula.
- La Palma Days Event, hosted by the City of La Palma, La Palma Central Park.

**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.

November 7

- Provided an overview presentation on the SCAQMD, air quality, and a tour of the agency's headquarters in Diamond Bar, to 11 students and staff from Hope International University, Fullerton.

November 14

- Provided an overview presentation on the SCAQMD, air quality, and a tour of the agency's headquarters in Diamond Bar, to ten Girl Scouts and two Girl Scout leaders from Diamond Bar.

November 19

- Provided presentations on the SCAQMD, air quality, and a tour of the agency's headquarters in Diamond Bar to five members of the Jiangsu Environmental Protection Public Relations Department from China.

November 22

- Provided an overview presentation on the SCAQMD and air quality to 225 community members from the Robert F. Kennedy Institute of Community and Family Medicine, at Banning's Landing Community Center in Wilmington.
- Provided an overview presentation on the SCAQMD, air quality, and a tour of the agency's headquarters in Diamond Bar (including the laboratory) to 40 Civil Engineering Students from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
- Provided an overview presentation on the SCAQMD, air quality, and a tour of the agency's headquarters in Diamond Bar (including the laboratory and an air monitoring station) to 12 delegates from the National Environmental Agency from Singapore.

**COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS**

The Communication Center handles calls on the SCAQMD main line, 1-800-CUT-SMOG® line and Spanish line. Calls received in the month of November 2013 are summarized below:

Main Line Calls	1,961
1-800-CUT-SMOG® Line	1,416
After Hours Calls*	437
Spanish Line Calls	<u>78</u>
<i>Total Calls</i>	3,892

\* Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and after 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS**

The Public Information Center (PIC) handles phone calls and walk-in requests for general information. Information for the month of November 2013 is summarized below:

Calls Received by PIC Staff	38
Calls to Automated System	<u>984</u>
<i>Total Calls</i>	1,022
Visitor Transactions	284
E-Mail Advisories Sent	3,994

**BUSINESS ASSISTANCE**

SCAQMD notifies local businesses of proposed regulations so they can participate in the agency’s rule development process of these rules. SCAQMD also works with other agencies and governments to identify efficient, cost-effective ways to reduce air pollution and shares that information broadly. Additionally, 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 128 companies
- Issued 15 clearance letters
- Provided assistance in filing one request for variance

**Types of business assisted:**

Restaurants	Property management company
Bariatric center	School
Auto body shops	Clothing manufacturer
Nursing home	Plastics manufacturer
Gas stations	Guitar manufacturer and repair
Cabinet manufacturer	Dry cleaners

**OUTREACH TO BUSINESS AND FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Field visits and communications were conducted with elected officials or staff from the following cities:

Alhambra	Bell	Canyon Lake	Corona
Agoura Hills	Bell Gardens	Carson	Costa Mesa
Aliso Viejo	Bellflower	Cathedral City	Covina
Anaheim	Beverly Hills	Cerritos	Cudahy
Arcadia	Big Bear Lake	Chino	Culver City
Artesia	Bradbury	Chino Hills	Cypress
Avalon	Brea	Claremont	Dana Point
Azusa	Buena Park	Coachella	Desert Hot Springs
Baldwin Park	Burbank	Colton	Diamond Bar
Banning	Calabasas	Commerce	Downey
Beaumont	Calimesa	Compton	

Duarte	La Palma	Norwalk	San Marino
Eastvale	La Puente	Ontario	Santa Ana
El Monte	La Quinta	Orange	Santa Clarita
El Segundo	La Verne	Palm Desert	Santa Fe Springs
Fontana	Laguna Beach	Palm Springs	Santa Monica
Fountain Valley	Laguna Hills	Palos Verdes Estates	Seal Beach
Fullerton	Laguna Niguel	Paramount	Sierra Madre
Garden Grove	Laguna Woods	Pasadena	Signal Hill
Gardena	Lake Elsinore	Perris	South El Monte
Glendale	Lake Forest	Pico Rivera	South Gate
Glendora	Lakewood	Placentia	South Pasadena
Grand Terrace	Lawndale	Pomona	Stanton
Hawaiian Gardens	Loma Linda	Rancho Cucamonga	Temecula
Hawthorne	Lomita	Rancho Mirage	Temple City
Hemet	Long Beach	Rancho Palos Verdes	Torrance
Hermosa Beach	Los Alamitos	Rancho Santa	Tustin
Hidden Hills	Los Angeles	Margarita	Upland
Highland	Lynwood	Redlands	Vernon
Huntington Beach	Malibu	Redondo Beach	Villa Park
Huntington Park	Manhattan Beach	Rialto	Walnut
Indian Wells	Maywood	Riverside	West Covina
Indio	Menifee	Rolling Hills	West Hollywood
Industry	Mission Viejo	Rolling Hills Estates	Westlake Village
Inglewood	Monrovia	Rosemead	Westminster
Irvine	Montclair	San Bernardino	Whittier
Irwindale	Montebello	San Clemente	Wildomar
Jurupa Valley	Monterey Park	San Dimas	Yorba Linda
La Cañada Flintridge	Moreno Valley	San Fernando	Yucaipa
La Habra	Murrieta	San Gabriel	
La Habra Heights	Newport Beach	San Jacinto	
La Mirada	Norco	San Juan Capistrano	

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

- Governor Jerry Brown
- U.S. Congressman Ken Calvert
- U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps
- U.S. Congressman Paul Cook
- U.S. Congressman Jeff Denham
- U.S. Congresswoman Janice Hahn
- U.S. Congressman Gary Miller
- U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher

- U.S. Congressman Ed Royce
- U.S. Congressman Raul Ruiz
- U.S. Congressman Bobby Rush
- U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps
- State Senator Barbara Boxer
- State Senator Dianne Feinstein
- State Senator Ben Hueso
- State Senator Richard Roth
- State Senator Mimi Walters
- State Senator Mark Wyland
- Assembly Member Tom Daley
- Assembly Member Diane Harkey
- Assembly Member Eric Linder
- Assembly Member Melissa Melendez
- Assembly Member Brian Nestande
- Assembly Member Anthony Rendon
- Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez
- Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Assembly Member Don Wagner

Staff represented SCAQMD and/or provided a presentation to the following groups:

American Breathmobile Association  
 American Lung Association in California  
 Bear Valley Government Affairs Council  
 Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council  
 California State University, San Bernardino  
 California League of Cities, Orange County Division  
 Chino Chamber of Commerce  
 Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
 Coachella Valley Economic Partnership  
 Coachella Valley Unified School District  
 Corona Chamber of Commerce  
 Five Mountain Communities Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce  
 Hemet/San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce  
 Indio Chamber of Commerce  
 Inland Empire Asthma Coalition  
 Inland Empire League of Cities  
 La Quinta Chamber of Commerce  
 League of California Cities, Inland Empire Division  
 Mission Springs Water District  
 Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce

Oasis Elementary School, Coachella Valley  
Neighborhood Connections, City of Pasadena  
Port of Long Beach  
Orange County Business Council  
Orange County Council of Governments  
Orange County Managers Association  
Orange County Transportation Authority  
Redlands Chamber of Commerce  
Riverside County Health Coalition  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
San Bernardino Association of Governments  
San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce  
San Gabriel Mountains Conservancy Group  
San Gabriel Valley City Managers Association  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Economic Partnership  
San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy  
Snow Valley/Running Springs Chamber of Commerce  
South Orange County Economic Coalition  
South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
Southern California Edison  
Southern California Association of Governments  
The Long Beach Children's Clinic  
Upland Chamber of Commerce  
Western Riverside County Council of Governments  
Western Riverside County Transportation NOW