

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 2, 2016

AGENDA NO. 16

REPORT: Legislative and Public Affairs Report

SYNOPSIS: This report highlights the June and July 2016 outreach activities of Legislative and Public Affairs, which include: an 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.

Wayne Natri  
Acting Executive Officer

DJA:MC:DM

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## **BACKGROUND**

This report summarizes the activities of Legislative and Public Affairs for June and July 2016. 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 June and July 2016. These events involve communities which suffer disproportionately from adverse air quality impacts.

#### **June 9**

- Staff organized the logistics, conducted outreach and assisted with the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Town Hall Meeting at Van Gogh Charter Elementary School in Granada Hills.

### June 15

- Staff participated in the Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Taskforce meeting. A presentation was given by SCAQMD staff on illegal dumping issues in and around Eastern Coachella Valley to multiple agencies as well as other interested parties.

### June 16

- Staff organized the logistics and facilitated the joint Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and SCAQMD Exide Technologies Community Advisory Group meeting at Bishop Mora Salesian High School in Boyle Heights. The meeting focused on the upcoming DTSC CEQA scoping meetings related to the continued residential clean-up in affected communities.

### June 21

- Staff met with representatives from Southern California Edison (SCE), to share information about SCAQMD's environmental justice initiatives, and to learn about SCE's efforts to implement electric vehicle chargers in disadvantaged communities.

### June 23

- Staff organized the logistics and outreach for a meeting under AB 2588 Air Toxics Hot Spots requirements related to Quemetco, Inc. (City of Industry) at La Puente High School. The meeting was well attended by over 250 residents and other interested stakeholders.

### June 30

- Staff hosted the Environmental Justice Community Partnership event "Our Voices, Our Lives, Our Air: A Community Conversation on Air Pollution and Health." SCAQMD partnered with San Bernardino Valley College, KVCR/NPR 91.9 FM, and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, to improve local community participation.

### July 12

- Staff met with a representative from the Delhi Center of Santa Ana, to discuss the possibility of hosting a workshop in the surrounding community, for the Environmental Justice Community Partnership. Participants discussed potential dates, outreach strategies, and topics to address during the community event.

### July 26

- Staff attended a community meeting hosted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Environmental Justice Committee, regarding the State's Climate Plan. Staff networked with individuals from CARB and multiple environmental justice community groups, including the Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sierra Club, SCOPE, Liberty Hill, and Pacoima Beautiful.

July 28

- Staff met with the Environmental Justice Community Partnership Advisory Council, to discuss the possibility of hosting an environmental justice workshop in Orange County. Participants included members of the Delhi Center, Oakview Comunidad Group, and Unite Here Local 11, discussed potential dates, outreach strategies, and topics to address during the community event.

July 28

- Staff attended the 15th Anniversary event for the California Environmental Justice Alliance at the Plaza de Cultura y Artes in Downtown Los Angeles. Staff networked with multiple environmental justice community groups and organizations, as well as elected officials.

**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 rule and policy development; and
- Assistance in resolving air pollution-related problems.

SCAQMD staff attended and/or provided information and updates at the following events:

June 1

- Replace Your Ride CarMax Event, Los Angeles.

June 2

- Vehicle Vender Expo, County of Riverside, Southern California Fair Grounds, Perris.
- Today's Fresh Start Charter School Annual Career Day Event, Los Angeles.

June 4

- Torrance Disaster Preparedness Expo & Environmental Fair.
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life Event, Ontario.

#### June 5

- The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Region 10 & City of Palm Springs, Fourth Annual World Environmental Day Event, Palm Springs.

#### June 23

- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Riverside County Council of Governments (WRCOG) General Assembly & Leadership Address Meeting, Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, Cabazon.

#### June 25

- American Cancer Society Relay for Life Event, Suzanne Middle School, Walnut.
- Replace Your Ride: Smog Less Event, CarMax, Inglewood.
- Robert F. Kennedy Institute Health Fair, Wilmington Waterfront Park.

#### June 29

- CleanTech Orange County – Driving Mobility 3 Event, Applied Innovation Program, University of California Irvine.

#### July 9

- SCAQMD Hearing Board Meeting related to SoCalGas Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, CSUN Plaza de Sol Concert Hall, Northridge.

#### July 14

- SCAQMD Public Workshop on Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Palm Desert.
- SCAQMD Public Workshop on Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan, SCAQMD Headquarters, Diamond Bar.

#### July 16

- City of Glendale Cruise Night 2016 Event.

#### July 20

- SCAQMD Public Workshop on Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan, Buena Park Community Center.
- SCAQMD Public Workshop on Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan, Carson Community Center.

#### July 21

- SCAQMD Public Workshop on Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan, Norton Regional Events Center, San Bernardino.
- SCAQMD Public Workshop on Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan, Riverside.

July 23

- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Health & Family Festival, Los Angeles Coliseum.

July 30

- 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District Block Park, Pasadena.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 62<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District Back to School Wellness & Health Fair, Jane Adams Park, Lawndale.
- Puente Family Fun Fest, Puente Learning Center, Los Angeles.

**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.

June 2

- Fifteen elected members and staff from the South Bay Cities Council of Governments located in the Greater Los Angeles area visited SCAQMD. The visit included an overview on SCAQMD, air quality, clean alternative fuel vehicles, as well as a tour of the SCAQMD facility.

June 14

- Six architects and chemists from the Harley Ellis Devereaux environmental organization in Los Angeles visited SCAQMD. The visit included an overview of SCAQMD’s laboratory.

July 8

- Twenty-two officials and policy leaders from eastern region cities in Los Angeles County participated in a hosted luncheon and tour with Board Member Michael Cacciotti. The visit included an overview of SCAQMD, a tour of the laboratory, and clean alternative fuel lawnmower equipment. They also participated in a “Ride and Drive” of a variety of alternative fuel vehicles.

**COMMUNICATION CENTER STATISTICS**

The Communication Center handles calls on SCAQMD’s main line, 1-800-CUT-SMOG<sup>®</sup> line, the Spanish line, and after-hours calls to each of those lines. Total calls received in the months of June and July 2016 were:

Calls to SCAQMD’s Main Line and 1-800-CUT-SMOG <sup>®</sup> Line	7,433
Calls to SCAQMD’s Spanish-language Line	<u>53</u>
Total Calls	7,486

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER STATISTICS**

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

Calls Received by PIC Staff	294
<u>Calls to Automated System</u>	<u>2,882</u>
Total Calls	3,176
Visitor Transactions	461
E-Mail Advisories Sent	7,506

## **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 218 companies
- Issued 44 clearance letters

### **Types of businesses assisted**

Auto Body Shops	Dry Cleaners	Furniture Refinishing Facilities
Engineering Firm	Gas Stations	Coffee Roasting Facilities
Construction Firm	Restaurants	Printing Facilities
Architecture Firm	Auto Repair Centers	Manufacturing Facilities
		Plating Facilities

## **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:

Arcadia	Industry	Perris
Alhambra	Irvine	Pomona
Azusa	Irwindale	Rosemead
Banning	La Cañada	Riverside
Baldwin Park	La Puente	San Jacinto
Beaumont	La Verne	San Gabriel
Burbank	Lake Elsinore	San Dimas
Canyon Lake	Los Angeles	San Marino
Claremont	Lomita	Sierra Madre

Chino Hills	Menifee	South El Monte
Covina	Monrovia	South Pasadena
Corona	Monterey Park	Temecula
Diamond Bar	Moreno Valley	Temple City
Duarte	Murrieta	Tustin
El Monte	Newport Beach	Van Nuys
Flintridge	Norco	Walnut
Glendora	Pasadena	West Covina
Hemet	Paramount	Woodland Hills
		Wildomar

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

- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (CA)
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA)
- U.S. Senator Cory Booker (NJ)
- U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (WA)
- U.S. Senator Tom Carper (DE)
- U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)
- U.S. Senator James Inhofe (OK)
- U.S. Senator Ed Markey (MA)
- U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (KY)
- U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (OR)
- U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)
- U.S. Senator Rob Portman (OH)
- U.S. Senator Harry Reid (NV)
- U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (NY)
- U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)
- U.S. Congressman Pete Aguilar (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA)
- U.S. Congressman G.K. Butterfield (NC)
- U.S. Congressman Ken Calvert (CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Paul Cook (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (OR)
- U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Steve Knight (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Nita Lowey (NY)
- U.S. Congressman Kevin McCarthy (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerny (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler (NY)
- U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone (NJ)
- U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (CA)
- U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Ed Royce (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman (CA)
- U.S. Congressman Bill Shuster (PA)

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

Anaheim Chamber of Commerce  
Arcadia Chamber of Commerce  
Banning Chamber of Commerce  
Beaumont Chamber of Commerce  
Bear Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Corona Chamber of Commerce  
Gateway Council of Governments  
Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce  
Hemet/San Jacinto Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Lomita Chamber of Commerce  
Metropolitan Transit Authority  
Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Orange County Business Council (OCBC)  
Redlands Chamber of Commerce  
Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
San Bernardino Associated Governments  
San Bernardino Valley Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership  
San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District  
San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)

- WRCOG Clean Cities Coalition

Western Riverside County Transportation NOW (RTA)

- Greater Riverside Chapter
- Moreno Valley/Perris Chapter
- Northwest Chapter
- Southwest Chapter

Yucaipa Chamber of Commerce

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

American Lung Association in California, Inland Empire  
Banning Unified School District  
Beaumont Unified School District



Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council  
California Communities Against Toxics  
Chinese American County Foundation, Los Angeles  
Clean Air Coalition of North Whittier & Avocado Heights  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, San Bernardino  
Communities for a Better Environment, Huntington Park  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, City of Commerce  
Fresh Start Charter School, Los Angeles  
Healthy Jurupa Valley Community Group  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Banning  
Riverside County Health Coalition  
Riverside County Department of Public Health  
San Bernardino Valley College  
San Bernardino Neighborhood Transformation Committee  
University of California, Riverside