



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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DATE: February 18th, 2010

TO: Governing Board Delegates and Alternates

FROM: Mary Ann Lutz, Chair of Energy, Environment & Natural Resources (EENR) Committee

RE: EENR Committee Report

Major work activities and accomplishments achieved during the last two months include but are not limited to:

Stormwater Working Group Meets with Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Director

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG) Stormwater Working Group held its first quarterly meeting on Tuesday, February 9th. Participants met with Tracy Egoscue, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, to discuss total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements and local government compliance challenges and solutions. The working group also reviewed the GIS mapping tools developed by the COG's Watershed Coordinator that mapped stream segments to identify impaired water bodies, stormwater lines, and soft-bottom and channelized stream beds in the Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo watersheds.

AB 811 (Solar and Energy-Efficiency Financing)

AB 811 (Levine), which was signed into law in 2008, authorizes all cities and counties in California to designate areas within which willing property owners could enter into contractual assessments to finance the installation of distributed renewable generation, as well as energy efficiency improvements, that are permanently fixed to the property owner's residential, commercial, industrial, or other real property. These financing arrangements would allow property owners to finance renewable generation (including solar) and energy efficiency improvements through low-interest loans that would be repaid as an item on the property owner's property tax bill.

The County of Los Angeles is developing an AB 811 program, of which cities can participate without any cost. COG and city staff have been participating in the County's working groups to develop various elements of the program including marketing, eligibility requirements, and stakeholder coordination. The COG Energy Working Group has also been meeting to provide input to the County on various aspects of the program and to identify opportunities for collaboration as a subregion. In December the County submitted three grant applications at the federal and state level to support various elements of their AB 811 program including financing, marketing, education, and outreach, and pilot programs that demonstrate market transformation.

If awarded, the County has indicated that they will work with the cities through the COG to implement the program and associated resources.

It is anticipated that the County will adopt its AB 811 ordinance by March 2010, and cities will be able to adopt ordinances to participate in the program shortly thereafter. The County aims to begin offering loans in July 2010.

San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership

The San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership (SGVEWP) is a partnership between the COG and Southern California Edison (SCE) that provides funding for cities' direct energy savings through the installation of energy efficiency measures as well as education and outreach efforts for energy efficiency and conservation strategies. This program is funded by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Local Government Partnerships. Recently, the Partnership concluded its 2009 bridge funding cycle during which our member agencies achieved more than 1.5 million KWh savings in our city facilities by installing and upgrading their equipment.

In January, the COG began its next 3-year program cycle for this partnership (see Item 4.2.5 for more information). Already cities have identified and begun installation of energy efficiency projects eligible for enhanced rebates through SGVEWP. Staff seeks to coordinate the SGVEWP's educational workshop series with the roll out of the County's AB 811 program and the State's solar power initiative. In support of this planning effort, the EENR Committee recently previewed a "Home Energy Performance" presentation that will serve as the model for these educational workshops targeted at residents.

In addition, the COG will respond to SCE's Request for Proposals to fund local government activities that support the CPUC's California's Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan. If funded, this work plan would allow participating San Gabriel Valley cities to develop energy efficiency climate action plans, offer home energy performance workshops to residents, and participate in the County's energy management software system to monitor city facility energy usage (see Item 7.2 for more information).

CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Grant

In December, the COG began implementation of a household hazardous waste grant awarded by the California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery (CalRecycle). The program is intended to build knowledge and capacity among San Gabriel Valley local governments, retailers, producers, and other stakeholders to begin the transition from government-managed and financed product end-of-life (EOL) systems to producer-managed and financed EOL systems for products banned from trash under the universal waste disposal ban. To achieve this objective, the COG will utilize a regional approach to assist local businesses that sell compact fluorescent lamps to establish "take back programs" for disposing of CFLs at end-of-life.

The COG is working closely with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) to implement this grant over the next two and a half years. CPSC is a coalition of local governments and their associations related to solid waste, recycling, resource conservation, environmental protection, water quality, and other cross-media issues. In partnership with non-government organizations, businesses, and individuals across California, CPSC has been

working to promote product stewardship and extended producer responsibility in California. Over the coming months, CPSC will give presentations to local governments and business communities to introduce product stewardship and the grant's pilot take back programs. In conjunction with these efforts, the COG has recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct a consumer survey focusing on the financial and publicity benefits provided to retailers for offering a battery and/or Compact Florescent Light Bulb take-back program in the San Gabriel Valley. It is anticipated that results from this survey effort will be available in May.

Watershed Coordinator Grant

The COG continues to implement its Watershed Coordinator grant awarded by the Department of Conservation in May 2008. This grant is undertaken in partnership with the RMC, and Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Rivers Watershed Council. The purpose of this grant is to implement watershed goals established in the comprehensive Rio Hondo Watershed and Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plans. These efforts support EENR Committee-related goals and are a function of the SGVCOG's efforts to improve the environment.

Due to the State's fiscal crisis, the COG received a stop work notification on December 17, 2008. This June, as a result of bonds sales in March, the COG was given a notice to proceed and has identified a RMC staff person to serve in this capacity. Work on this grant was re-started in August. This month, COG staff is proposing to add an additional partner to the Memorandum of Understanding. The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) will now act as the employing entity for the Watershed Coordinator and all COG responsibilities will stay the same (see Item 4.1.3 for more information).

Recently, the Watershed Coordinator has completed a number of GIS mapping tools that will: (1) help coordinate watershed improvement efforts between potential project proponents and funding sources; and (2) identify and promote projects that meet multiple project objectives, and identify where policy and land use alteration will be beneficial. These resources were presented to the COG Water Working Group at its January meeting and the COG Stormwater Working Group in February. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator has completed trail head improvements and public space for River Wilderness Park at El Encanto in Azusa (shown in Figures 1 – 4 below).

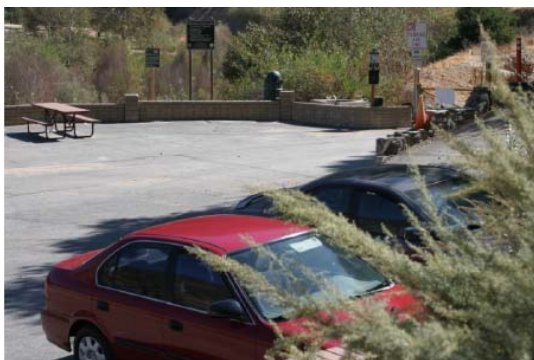


Figure 1.
Parking Lot Before Project.

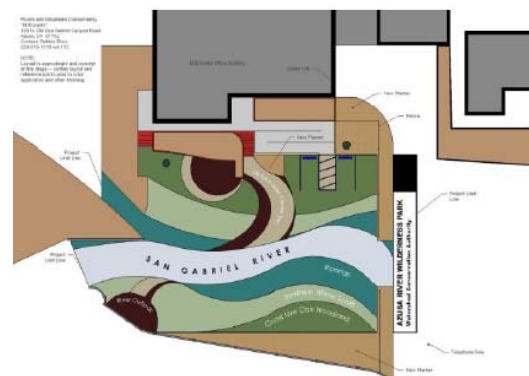


Figure 2.
Conceptual Design of Project.



Figure 3.
Revealing Graphics Hidden Under Paint.



Figure 4.
Finished Project.

The Watershed Coordinator continues to work with city staff and other stakeholders to identify additional opportunities to improve watershed conditions.