Southern California is known for its beautiful weather and range of outdoor activities from the beaches to the deserts to the mountains. It is also known for the air pollution which has improved, but still ranks among the worst in the nation. Many of us have experienced the sensation of burning eyes and lungs caused by breathing in smog during unhealthful air pollution days. The number one contributor to the formation of smog in our region is oxides of nitrogen better known as NOx. NOx is a key component in the formation of ground-level ozone that is the main ingredient in smog and a known lung irritant. Based on federal ozone standards, almost half of the U.S. population is affected by unhealthful levels of ozone air pollution. This type of air pollution is also related to premature death, respiratory disease, asthma and other common illnesses, and disproportionately affects our elderly and children.

The South Coast Air Basin which includes the urban portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties and all of Orange County is in extreme non-attainment of federal health standards for ozone. Motor vehicle exhaust, especially from heavy-duty trucks and engines, is a major source of NOx emissions in this region accounting for more than 80 percent of the air pollution. However, the jurisdiction to regulate mobile sources lies primarily with the federal government namely the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

In 2016, SCAQMD led a broad-based coalition of state and local government agencies and other organizations to petition the U.S. EPA to update a national NOx standard for heavy duty trucks, which is now almost 18 years old. The cooperative effort paid off in November 2018, when EPA announced the launch of the Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI) which starts the rulemaking process on heavy-duty truck emissions. It is expected that the existing NOx standard will be lowered to reflect the significant advancements in heavy-duty technologies since the last time that the standards were updated. In addition to updating the NOx standards, the CTI will address other related heavy duty truck issues including onboard diagnostics, compliance and testing.

“We're encouraged the U.S. EPA's Cleaner Trucks Initiative is moving forward in the direction of the petition we submitted 2 1/2 years ago to reduce emissions from big rig trucks,” said SCAQMD Executive Officer, Wayne Nastri.

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Inside the AB 617 Community Air Initiative

In November 2018, SCAQMD approved one of its largest-ever technology demonstration projects, a $60.7 million initiative to develop and deploy up to 23 battery-electric heavy-duty trucks, other off-road vehicles and stationary equipment. The project, known as Volvo LIGHTS, will provide zero emission freight transport between the local ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach, and Southland warehouse facilities located in Chino, Fontana, Ontario, La Mirada and Placentia. Approximately half of the funding for this project is a grant provided by CARB under the California Climate Investments program.

“We are pleased to be working with Volvo and their partners to help jump-start the green truck revolution in the South Coast Air Basin,” said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD’s Executive Officer. Earlier this year a $31.3 million project was launched with Daimler Trucks North America to develop and demonstrate 20 heavy-duty battery-electric trucks, seven of which will be deployed at the local ports and the remainder within environmental justice communities.

Securing major commitments from the two leading truck manufacturers, Daimler and Volvo for zero-emission truck demonstrations and eventual commercialization, is a crucial step to lower emissions from today’s polluting diesel trucks. Pollution from mobile sources, including heavy-duty trucks and equipment, account for the majority of the air quality issues in the region which affects public health.

For more information, please contact Joseph Impelliti, Technology Demonstration Manager, at 909-396-2025 or by email at jimpelliti@aqmd.gov or contact Ron Moskowitz, Chief Information Officer, at 909-396-3329 or by email at rmoskowitz@aqmd.gov.

Green Truck Revolution

On December 5, 2018, SCAQMD hosted its first Ocean Going Vessels (OGV) Retrofit Technology Forum. Over 100 people were in attendance to hear from industry professionals on topics such as OGV regulations and incentive programs, retrofit technologies to reduce emissions from ships and potential new opportunities to modernize the international fleet.

OGVs and commercial ships combined will represent the largest source of NOx emissions in the South Coast Air Basin by 2023. The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have made significant progress in reducing air pollution from goods movement related-activities, including incentivizing the use cleaner ships that visit our region and technologies to reduce emissions while they are berth. However, enhanced incentives and technology development to further reductions in NOx emissions from OGVs will be critical to our region to meet the federal 8-hour ozone standards by 2023 and 2031.

SCAQMD hosted the OGV forum as a step to facilitate much needed collaboration among stakeholders and technology providers from around the world to reduce NOx emissions. Furthering the dialogue is critical as the governance of international OGV emissions through the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) is too slow to address our regional air quality needs. Most of the air pollution reductions to-date from OGVs have to come from voluntary actions and collaboration with shipping lines, engine manufacturers, and local and international ports.

The forum represented the first step toward bringing together all of the stakeholders and technology providers to achieve air pollution reductions in OGVs. For more information, contact Brian Choe at bchoe@aqmd.gov.

Access to SCAQMD at Your Fingertips

Get Connected to Clean Air

Ocean Going Vessels Technology Forum

Get Connected to expert information on air quality, electric charging and alternative fueling stations, emergency air quality alerts, easy access to file complaints and more.

“We want to provide residents in the region with important information about air quality conditions that can impact their health so they can plan their outdoor activities accordingly,” said Wayne Nastri, SCAQMD’s Executive Officer. “We hope that doctors, patients and the general public will all use this application to help reduce the hazardous health effects of air pollution.”

Download SCAQMD’s free completely redesigned App for Apple iOS devices.

Add new features and improvements as well as the soon to be released Android version. Check out the SCAQMD Mobile App at www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp.
SCAQMD Teams #1 at American Lung Association Walks

Over 200 SCAQMD employees, their friends and family, participated in the three American Lung Association Lung Force Walks in Irvine, Ontario and Los Angeles in November. This year’s SCAQMD Walks at each of the three events were the largest in size out of all the participating groups which clearly demonstrated our employees’ commitment to supporting clean air, lung health and fighting lung cancer.

For more information, please contact Debra Ashby at 909-396-3199 or by email at dashby@aqmd.gov.

Nastri further stated “We will work with EPA to adopt tougher standards as soon as possible. Meanwhile, using incentive funding, we will continue accelerating the turnover of our region’s trucking fleet to zero and near-zero emission models.”

The state of California and SCAQMD have been forward thinking in turning over the heavy duty fleet proactively through incentive programs such as Carl Moyer, Prop 1B, and AB 134. Further, CARB adopted lower optional engine standards for NOx. During the CARB rulemaking process, they indicated that about 8% of the Model Year 2012 engines were already certified at levels of 65% to 85% cleaner than the current engine standard. For example, Cummins Westport Inc. has produced 8.9 and 12 liter natural gas engines that have been certified by CARB to meet a 0.02 g/bhp-hr NOx exhaust emission levels. Other engine technologies are on the same pathway to lower NOx emissions from heavy duty trucks.

In addition to reducing NOx pollution, which is a key to reaching healthful air quality in our region, the Cleaner Trucks Initiative will create a stable market for U.S. manufacturers of heavy duty trucks, engines and pollution control equipment creating jobs and economic growth.

For more information, please contact Derrick Alatorre, Deputy Executive Officer of Legislative, Public Affairs, and Media Relations, at 909-396-2432 or by email at dalatorre@aqmd.gov.

Cleaner Trucks Initiative

Take a Tour Day & Speakers Bureau

On the last Friday of every month, SCAQMD offers presentations and tours at our headquarters located in Diamond Bar, CA. The tours feature an overview of the agency and what we do, and could include a tour of SCAQMD’s state of the art laboratory and alternative fuel stations. On occasion, there are opportunities for a display and, potentially test drives, of alternative fuel vehicles as well. The monthly tours are free of charge and open to the public. Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis and must be made at least 4 weeks in advance due to the high demand.

If you can’t make it to SCAQMD, then let us come to you. SCAQMD’s Speaker’s Bureau could provide a presenter for your next meeting, school or community event. Based upon availability of our staff, SCAQMD will match a presenter from our diverse team to meet your organizations air quality interests. Speaker’s Bureau requests are confirmed on a first come, first served basis and depending on staff availability. Requests should be placed at least 4 weeks in advance.

Request a tour reservation or a speaker, by visiting www.aqmd.gov/nav/contact/speakers-visitors and completing the online form. Requests can also be emailed to speakersvisitors@aqmd.gov. For more information, please call 909-396-2432.

Check Before You Burn

During late fall and early winter, SCAQMD asks residents to participate in its “Check Before You Burn” program by not burning wood in fireplaces or outdoors when unhealthful air quality is forecast. Under the program, intended to help improve wintertime air quality, SCAQMD may issue mandatory no-burn alerts from November 1 through the end of February. No-burn alerts are issued for 24-hour periods for residential wood-burning fireplaces, backyard fire pits, and wood stoves when emissions and stagnant weather conditions raise fine particulate pollution to unhealthy levels. Alerts are typically issued for the entire South Coast Air Basin, which encompasses all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

There are three ways you can Check Before You Burn:

• E-Mail Notification Program
  Sign up at www.AirAlerts.org to receive air quality forecasts and to be notified when a mandatory no-burn alert has been issued for your neighborhood.

• Check Before You Burn Map
  Visit the Check Before You Burn website at: www.aqmd.gov/cbyb

• Toll-Free Phone Number
  Call 866-966-3293 for daily Check Before You Burn information.

To file a residential complaint, please call 1-800-CUT-SMOG.
Rule 1106 would subsume the requirements of Rule 1065. Rule 1065, revise VOC content limits for several categories in order to align limits with U.S. EPA Control Techniques Guidelines and other California air districts, and add new limits for several new categories.

For more information, contact Dave De Boer at ddeboer@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-2329.

Rule 1407: Control of Emissions of Arsenic, Cadmium and Nickel from Non-Ferrous Metal Operations

Proposed Amended Rule 1407 will establish additional requirements to minimize point source and fugitive toxic air contamination emissions from non-chromium metal melting operations.

For more information, contact Michael Morris at mmorris@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3982.

Rule 1143: Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines

Proposed Amended Rule 1143 will update the NOx emission standard to reflect Best Available Retrofit Control Technology for RECLAIM and non-RECLAIM facilities. Proposed Rule 1143 will also establish an ammonia emission limit for pollution controls with ammonia emissions, and update monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements.

For more information, contact Michael Morris at mmorris@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3982.

Rule 1100: Implementation Schedule for NOx Facilities

Proposed Rule 1100 will establish the implementation schedule for NOx RECLAIM facilities that are transitioning to command and control.

For more information, contact Jillian Wong at jwong@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3176.

Rule 461 – Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing

Training (See Below for Specific Courses, Fees & Registration Information).

For more information, contact Jillian Wong at jwong@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3176.

Rule 1968 – UICs

For more information, contact Jillian Wong at jwong@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3176.

Rule 1969 – UICs

For more information, contact Jillian Wong at jwong@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3176.

Rule 1970 – UICs

For more information, contact Jillian Wong at jwong@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3176.
This bimonthly news publication is produced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s (SCAQMD) Legislative & Public Affairs Office. SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. SCAQMD does not endorse nor warrant any products, services or companies mentioned in this publication.

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