AQMD Adopts Phase-Out Of Toxic Chemical At Dry Cleaners

In an historic move that could set a widespread precedent, AQMD has adopted the nation’s first gradual phase-out of the toxic chemical used at dry cleaners by 2020.

“As dry cleaners switch to alternative technologies, we will be removing a significant cancer risk to Southland residents,” said Barry Wallerstein, AQMD’s executive officer.

AQMD’s Board also approved $2 million in grants for dry cleaners that switch to a non-toxic alternative.

Following nearly two years of public meetings and a six-hour public hearing in November, AQMD’s Governing Board voted unanimously in December to phase out the use of perchloroethylene -- the toxic solvent commonly known as “perc.”

As of Jan. 1, any new dry cleaning business or any facility installing an additional machine must use a non-perc technology. Dry cleaners can continue to operate one perc machine until 2020 under the following conditions:

- Dry cleaners must comply with AQMD’s Rule 1402, which limits the lifetime cancer risk from a facility to no more than 25 in 1 million;
- By Nov. 1, 2007, all dry cleaners using perc must have state-of-the-art air pollution controls;
- By July 1, 2004, facilities with the oldest and highest-emitting equipment (there are less than 20 in the region) must convert to dry cleaning machines with state-of-the-art air pollution controls.

AQMD staff will report back to the Board in two years on any new information available regarding the toxicity of perc and the state of alternative technologies.

In place of perc machines, dry cleaners can choose from several non-toxic alternatives including wet cleaning, hydrocarbon or silicone-based solvent cleaning.

The rule will eliminate the 850 tons of perc emitted each year by the region’s 2,100 dry cleaners.

For more information, contact Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.

– Sam Atwood

Ninth Circuit Court Upholds Fleet Rules

On October 24, 2002, the United States Court of Appeals upheld the six fleet rules adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District in 2000 against a challenge brought by the Engine Manufacturers’ Association and the Western States’ Petroleum Association. A number of environmental groups joined the AQMD’s side, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Coalition for Clean Air, Communities for a Better Environment, the Planning and Conservation League and the Sierra Club.

The State of California also supported the AQMD.

The challenged fleet rules required various public and private fleet operators when procuring or leasing additional vehicles to choose alternative-fueled vehicles, defined to exclude the use of gasoline or diesel. These alternative-fueled vehicles had already been established by the California Air Resources Board as the least-polluting of its CARB-certified available vehicles.

continued on page 8 >>
Composting and Related Operations-General Administrative Requirements; Chipping and Grinding Activities; Emission Reductions from Composting Facilities (Rules 1133; 1133.1; 1133.2) This series of proposed rules will establish requirements for controlling ammonia and VOC emissions from composting and related operations. For more information call Zorik Pirveysian at (909) 396-3133.

New Source Review of Air Toxic Contaminants (Rule 1401) An update to the list of compounds under Rule 1401 is proposed. For more information call Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.

Emissions from Electroplating Processes (Rule 1426) This amended rule will require information collection and reports to AQMD to determine if controls are warranted. For more information call Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.

Hexavalent Chromium Emissions from Chrome Plating and Chrome Acid Anodizing Operations (Rule 1469) This proposed source-specific rule amendment will decrease emissions from plating operations. For more information call Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.

In addition to the budget crunch and the lingering state energy crisis, the 2001-02 Legislative Session addressed significant policy issues. During 2002, the AQMD was involved in legislation addressing greenhouse gas emissions, diesel emissions in ports, funding for local environmental justice efforts, indoor air pollution, asthma and lung disease research, and incentives for low-emission vehicles. Governor Davis signed into law numerous bills concerning air pollution control programs.

In July, Governor Davis signed the first law in America to substantively address the reduction of greenhouse gases to combat global warming. Other significant air quality legislation from 2002 includes:

- Assembly Bill 1493 (Pavley), which requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regulations to achieve maximum feasible, cost-effective and technologically attainable reductions in greenhouse gases. The new regulations are to be aimed at 2009 model-year vehicles introduced in the California market;
- Assembly Bill 2650 (Lowenthal), which encourages marine terminals to help reduce emissions from idling diesel trucks by extending operating hours or implementing a truck arrival appointment system. Under the new law, the AQMD is responsible for issuing citations to marine terminals that cause trucks to idle for more than 30 minutes;
- Assembly Bill 1173 (Keeley), which directs CARB to study ways to reduce indoor air pollution;
- Assembly Bill 2127 (Matthews), which allows taxpayers to direct a portion of their tax returns to asthma and lung disease research;
- Assembly Bill 2312 (Chu), which establishes a new grant program at Cal EPA to help community organizations address environmental justice concerns; and
- Assembly Bill 2461 (Keeley), which extends a vehicle registration fee exemption for alternative fuel vehicles certified as ultra low-emission or better.

At the December meeting, AQMD’s Governing Board readopted one of the most significant clean air measures in its arsenal to guarantee continued emission reductions from paints and other coatings.

The Board readopted amendments to its Rule 1113 – Architectural Coatings, which will reduce approximately 21.8 tons per day of smog-forming volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from paints and other architectural coatings.

The Board originally adopted amendments to Rule 1113 in May 1999, but they were challenged in court by paint manufacturers. AQMD prevailed in trial court but the appellate court ruled the amendments were improperly adopted and ordered the rule vacated. The court’s ruling was based on AQMD’s procedure for adopting the rule.

For more information, contact Laki Tisopulos at (909) 396-3123.

– Sam Atwood

AOQMD Readopts Architectural Coatings Rule
Following are quarterly highlights of AQMD Governing Board actions in calendar year 2002. In addition to the actions below, in 2002 the Board allocated significant incentive funding each quarter toward clean-up of heavy-duty diesel vehicles, including new and retro-fitted school buses, construction vehicles, back-up power generators, and marine port equipment.

1st QUARTER
The Board adopted a workplan to carry out Chairman Norma Glover’s Strategic Alliance Initiatives to further reduce air pollution while improving the regional business climate. Initiatives included:
- Modernization of the emission reduction credit (ERC) system;
- Development of recommendations for U.S. EPA to review outdated policy interpretations of the Clean Air Act;
- Formation of new alliances to accelerate introduction of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure;
- Collaborative efforts to increase the number of natural gas powered vehicles on the road in Southern California;
- Development of a three-year coordinated scientific research plan;
- Test of the “negotiated rulemaking” process; and
- Strengthening of the agency’s environmental justice program.

2nd QUARTER
The Board adopted a more stringent dust control plan for the Coachella Valley, aimed at addressing recent exceedances while avoiding stifling construction activity and other economic growth. The adoption prevents the federal government from imposing strict growth-limitation actions in the area.

3rd QUARTER
Following an extensive community consultation process, the Board adopted 23 enhancements to its Environmental Justice Program to further reduce health risks from air pollution and to improve community access and involvement with AQMD.

To address neighborhood cancer risks while following jurisdictional boundaries, AQMD focused an additional $8 million in incentive funding to help clean up diesel exhaust pollution from one of the area’s largest single emission sources: the Los Angeles/Long Beach marine port complex.

4th QUARTER
- Amended Rule 1421 – Control of Perc Emissions from Dry Cleaning Systems to gradually phase out the use of the toxic solvent perchloroethylene by 2020. As cleaners replace or add machines, they can choose from several non-toxic alternatives including wet cleaning, hydrocarbon or silicone-based systems. The Board action included approval of a $2 million grant program to assist operators in making the transition.
- Amended Rule 1113 – Architectural Coatings to re-adopt sequentially lower-emission formulation limits which will reduce nearly 22 tons per day of VOCs from paints and other building coatings.
- Amended Regulation XIII – New Source Review to increase the availability of emission reduction credits for regional projects. The changes will enable the use of short-term credits and create an emissions offset pool funded by, and accessible through, a mitigation fee.

Departing Chairman Norma J. Glover
Selected Thoughts On Air Quality Answers

“In Southern California, public support for clean air goes beyond political party affiliations. Today’s greater emphasis on energy supply does not have to mean abandonment of air quality gains and public health safeguards. When we in the public and private sectors collaborate with mutual respect and awareness, we can achieve a mutual goal of strong and healthful communities anchored by sustainable economic growth.”

“We must recognize the potential of low-emission vehicles to significantly reduce the health risk imposed on our residents. Making an early transition to cleaner-running vehicles is an absolute essential so that our region can meet national and state clean air standards.”

“We are in the midst of illustrating how a regional air quality agency can make a difference through its individual actions to kick-start cleaner technologies – and at the same time avoid placing unmanageable burdens on the business sector, especially small businesses, which are essential to a strong economy.”

“Our transition to cleaner fuels is based on the conviction that our entire urban infrastructure will be stronger and more livable because we took informed steps toward lower-pollution and pollution-free technologies.”

“Our agency is fuel-neutral, but we are not health-neutral. When it comes to the health of our residents and the well-being of our economy, we strongly favor near-term answers, crafted with foresight.”
Leadership in Government

Assembly Majority Floor Leader
Marco Antonio Firebaugh

Assembly Member Firebaugh was a key sponsor of the Breathmobile®, a mobile asthma treatment clinic that provides free screenings and treatment for children in Southeast Los Angeles area schools. He partnered with AQMD and the Allergy & Asthma Foundation to provide funding for the Breathmobile® project. There are now four Breathmobiles® in operation in Los Angeles county.

Assemblyman Firebaugh also introduced and successfully moved AB 1390 through the Legislature.

Leaner air in Western Riverside county is a top priority for the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA). It is so important that the RTA Board of Directors decided to take action to convert its entire fleet of diesel-fueled buses to cleaner burning buses powered by compressed natural gas, ahead of any regulatory requirements.

This exemplary leadership was highlighted when the board boldly declared its commitment to improving air quality and the environment by voting to change a recommendation for purchasing 47 diesel and 47 CNG buses -- to an order for all CNG buses.

2002
Robert M. Zweig, M.D.,
Memorial Award Winner

Daniel M. Hays, M.D.

A pediatric and surgical specialist, Dr. Hays has served in a variety of capacities for the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles for the past 43 years. To educate policymakers and fellow Southern California residents on the health effects of poor air quality, in particular on children, he has given numerous talks to community groups and task forces. In the early 1970s, he testified in the state capitol on air pollution issues. Dr. Hays was a member of the Coalition for Clean Air for more than 20 years, and has been a member of Clean Air Now since 1985.

His work with air quality is also reflected in his participation on the American Lung Association’s Air Quality Advisory Committee for Southern California. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Inland Counties Section, and is a member of the Air Quality Committee. Dr. Hays also serves on AQMD’s Children’s Air Quality Advisory Board, and served a two-year term on a committee to evaluate the health effects of fine particulates.

His academic medical career has spanned 58 years since receiving his medical degree from Cornell University.

Dr. Hays is the first-ever recipient of the Zweig Memorial Award, and thereby establishes a tradition of excellence that honors the legacy of Dr. Zweig.

First-Ever Robert M. Zweig, M.D., Memorial Award

In 2002, the AQMD Board established an award commemorating Dr. Robert M. Zweig, M.D., to recognize the contributions of physicians who are deeply committed to reducing the impacts of pollution on public health. Before passing away in 2002, Dr. Zweig had become a noted proponent of the use of hydrogen fuel and fuel cell technology as tools for achieving clean air. In addition to his long service as a physician in family practice in Riverside, Dr. Zweig was also the co-founder of anti-pollution research groups Clean Air Now and the Clean Air Institute.
Innovative Transportation Projects
City of Anaheim &
Anaheim Transportation Network

The Anaheim Electric Transportation Program is a collaborative effort by the City of Anaheim, the Anaheim Transportation Network and other partners such as Coach USA, who have developed new electric transportation programs to serve mobility needs of Anaheim guests, residents and businesses. It is estimated that up to 67 pre-1982 diesel and gasoline buses/shuttles were replaced with alternative fueled and electric fleets.

Local businesses incorporated 10 Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) into their operations and provided an opportunity to employees to use them. Residents in two low-income residential neighborhoods, had an opportunity to use NEVs to assist with such transportation needs as medical appointments, grocery shopping, job training, and childcare responsibilities.

Innovative
Transportation
Projects
CALSTART,
Bikestation Coalition,
Flexcar

In April 2002, the nation’s first Clean Mobility Center (CMC) was launched at the Bikestation, a public bike-transit center located in downtown Long Beach. The CMC provides three types of zero-emission vehicles for convenient short trips around town and from a transit stop to a commuter’s final destination. Vehicles include electric city cars, motor scooters and bicycles. The new service called City Wheels also includes Bikestation, Long Beach’s free valet bicycle parking and cycling commuter services, and automated bicycle lockers for after-hours storage.

Advancement of
Air Pollution Technology
J.P. Turgeon & Sons, Inc.

The small family-run company operates in Bell Gardens, with 21 employees who polish steel, stainless steel, zinc die cast and aluminum parts for their customers. Historically the company used a vapor degreasing process based on 1,1,1-trichlorethane (TCA) for cleaning the parts.

With the pending TCA ban, Turgeon could have converted to a toxic alternative. Instead, they purchased a conveyerized cleaning system that uses a water-based cleaner, which produces non-hazardous wastewater.

One result of the conversion was that Turgeon reduced their annual costs by $40,000. They also eliminated the use and emissions of TCA amounting to 2,400 gallons or 13.2 tons per year. Through a conversion to a safer water-based cleaner, the company no longer has to have permits from the sanitation district and AQMD. They have also avoided emission fees and annual permit fees.
Public Education on Air Quality Issues

Robert Franz

Robert Franz is the advisor and teacher of the Academy of Engineering Program at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights. Under his guidance and direction the program has expanded over the years and educated hundreds of students about air quality. Recently, Mr. Franz’s program was recognized by the State of California for its outstanding education and is now used as a model program by the State Office of Education. Mr. Franz is the driving force behind the academy, which provides hands-on training for students in the field of alternative-fueled vehicles.

Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship

Angelo Logan

Angelo Logan is 30 years old and has lived in the same neighborhood most of his life. Many in this modest neighborhood of small homes and manicured lawns see Mr. Logan’s efforts to reduce residential exposure from idling trains in the City of Commerce’s East Yard as futile.

His community is surrounded by manufacturing firms and intermodal equipment, heavy truck traffic on Washington Boulevard, and the constantly congested Long Beach and Santa Ana Freeways. But, as the head of the East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, he refuses to let these factors deter his efforts to clean up the air in his neighborhood. He conducts environmental justice workshops for companies, public agencies and community groups. He has walked the neighborhood conducting surveys and distributing fliers, urging residents to call the AQMD to report nuisance odors.

The results of his efforts are increasingly evident. The AQMD has increased its monitoring of the train yards and is working with the railroad on reducing its impact on the neighborhood.

Model Community Achievement

City of West Covina

The City of West Covina has become a model within the region for promoting comprehensive environmental and good air quality programs. The City has established its own Environmental Management Department, which is used to promote good air quality involving the public, businesses and government. It does this through enhanced transportation programs, established recycling centers, improved energy conservation and environmentally sensitive zones. The City has also adopted an ordinance that links land use, transportation, and air quality decisions to minimize the number of peak period vehicle trips generated by additional land development, and to promote alternative transportation and improved air quality.
ast October 21, AQMD sponsored an all-day Small-Business Assistance Conference at Diamond Bar headquarters.

The conference featured presentations and panel discussions to summarize compliance assistance programs as well as available financial and informational resources, all crafted to meet the specific

Opportunities were also provided for question-and-answer sessions with field experts, along with individual problem-solving related to sanitation and water quality compliance issues, toxics controls, and technology acquisition.

The conference opened with comments from AQMD Board member Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta, Governor’s appointee to the Board. Other keynote speakers included Maria Contreras-Sweet, Secretary of the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, and Alberto G. Alvarado, district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Los Angeles office.

For more information, contact Pom Pom Ganguli at (909) 396-3185.
The following is a reminder of AQMD rule compliance deadlines that occur during the 2003 calendar year and on January 1, 2004. (2003 RECLAIM deadlines are listed separately.) This is a reference AQMD provides annually through the AQMD Advisor and is subject to change. New rules and regulations may be adopted and current rules may be amended or rescinded throughout the year. Such decisions may impact your business. For the most current rule information call 1-800-CUT-SMOG® or check AQMD’s Rule Book on the web at www.aqmd.gov/rules/rules.html.

**Usage of Solvents (Rule 442)**
The VOC emissions from all VOC-containing materials, equipment or processes not subject to Regulation XI rules shall not exceed 833 pounds per month per facility.

**Deadline:** January 1, 2004
**Contacts:** Lee Lockie (909) 396-2390; Louis Yuhas (909) 396-2475

**Emissions from Gaseous- and Liquid-fueled Engines (Rule 1110.2)**
Owners/operators of internal combustion engines subject to (e) (1) (B) are required to submit applications for permits to construct and operate for engines and/or controls if they choose to comply with NOx, VOC and CO emission limits by engine modification or add-on controls rather than replace the engines with electric motors.

**Deadline:** April 20, 2003
**Contact:** Mike Mills (909) 396-2578

**Solvent Degreasers (Rule 1122)**
The VOC content limit of cleaning materials used in batch-loaded or conveyorized cold cleaners is lowered to 25 g/l. Any solvent degreasing using NESHAP halogenated solvents shall be performed using an airless/air-tight cleaning system or approved alternative equipment.

**Deadline:** January 1, 2003
**Contacts:** Lee Lockie (909) 396-2390; Louis Yuhas (909) 396-2475

**Polyester Resin Operations (Rule 1162)**
(c)(1)(B) requires that gel coat cannot be applied to an open mold surface unless it is done using the nonatomizing application techniques in (c)(1)(A).

(c)(2)(A) sets new monomer content limits for polyester resins used in open molding systems.

**Effective date:** July 1, 2003
**Contact:** Fred Lettice (909) 396-2576
2003 RECLAIM Deadlines

**Editor’s Note:** Below are the 2003 compliance deadlines for all facilities that must comply with AQMD’s NOx and SOx RECLAIM rules (Regulation XX). For more information on these deadlines contact the RECLAIM Hotline at (909) 396-3119.

- **Daily emissions reports** – for major sources are due, via remote terminal unit, by 5 p.m. the next day.

- **Monthly emissions reports** – for large NOx sources are due, via modem, fifteen days after the end of each month.

- **Monthly aggregate emission report** – for major sources is due, via modem, fifteen days after the end of each month.

- **Quarterly emission reports** – for process units, equipment exempt from permit, equipment operating under a various location permit, equipment operating with temporary permit and quarterly aggregate emissions reports are due, via modem, 30 days after the end of each quarter, except for the last quarter of each compliance year when reports are due 60 days after the end of the quarter.

- **Quarterly certification of emissions reports** – an aggregate total of emissions for all equipment in the facility – are due 30 days after the end of each of the first three quarters of a Compliance Year. Send original signed report by mail.

### Solvent Cleaning Operations (Rule 1171)

The VOC content limit is lowered from 50 g/l to 25 g/l for the following solvent cleaning activities: general product cleaning and surface preparation; general repair and maintenance cleaning; general cleaning of ink application equipment; cleaning of flexographic and gravure printing ink application equipment; cleaning of removable press components in lithographic or letterpress printing; and cleaning of polyester resin application equipment.

**Deadline:** January 1, 2003  
**Contacts:** Lee Lockie (909) 396-2390; Louis Yuhas (909) 396-2475

### Control of Toxic Air Contaminants from Existing Sources (Rule 1402)

Subdivision (n) requires that the industries listed in Table II will be subject to Rule 1402 if a source-specific rule is not adopted before the deadline. This may affect metal plating and wood furniture stripping, pending outcomes of those rule development efforts.

**Deadline:** March 17, 2003  
**Contact:** Jill Whynot (909) 396-3104

### Film Cleaning and Printing Operations (Rule 1425)

Printing equipment, such as optical wet-gate printing equipment, must comply with the 85% total perc reduction, pursuant to subparagraph (d)(1)(B), or comply with the alternative facility-wide emission level equal to or less than that specified in Table I, pursuant to subparagraph (e)(2)(B). Applications for either option should have been submitted by June 18, 2002.

**Deadline:** March 18, 2003  
**Contact:** Fred Lettice (909) 396-2576

### January 1 - March 1.

All Cycle 1 facilities must submit Compliance Year 2002 Annual Permit Emission Program (APEP) reports.

### May 31.

- **Cycle 2 facilities that are required to submit forecast reports under Rule 2009.1 (e) must submit an annual update forecast report to the District no later than this date.**

- **Cycle 2 power producing facilities subject to Rule 2009 must submit an annual update forecast report to the District no later than this date.**

### June 30.

- **Cycle 1 facilities must complete source tests on all NOx large sources by this date. Results of the source tests must be submitted within 60 days of the last date of the source test. Note: this requirement is to verify each large source can operate within the permitted RECLAIM NOx concentration limit and is applicable once every three-year period (2000-2002 in this case).**

### July 1 - August 29.

- **All Cycle 1 facilities must submit Compliance Year 2002 Annual Permit Emission Program (APEP) reports.**

### November 30.

- **Cycle 2 facilities that are required to submit forecast reports under Rule 2009.1 (e) must submit an annual update forecast report to the District no later than this date.**

- **Cycle 2 power producing facilities subject to Rule 2009 must submit an annual update forecast report to the District no later than this date.**
Last month, AQMD Governing Board Chairman William Burke participated in a news conference announcing the delivery of the first fuel cell vehicles for daily use from Honda to the City of Los Angeles. On the same day, AQMD Governing Board member Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta participated in a news event marking Toyota’s delivery of fuel cell vehicles to the University of California, Irvine and UC Davis.

Honda will lease five of its four-passenger FCX fuel cell vehicles to the city and Toyota will lease six fuel cell-hybrid vehicles, based on its Highlander sport utility vehicle, as part of a long-term research project. Fuel cell vehicles, which convert hydrogen to electricity and have very low or no polluting emissions, are considered a key transportation technology to enable the Southland to achieve clean air.
Jim Clouet joined the AQMD in 1981 as an Air Pollution Inspector to help the agency implement its then-new rule requiring vapor recovery nozzles at service stations.

“Back then both the public and the gas station operators were extremely frustrated with these new-fangled nozzles,” recalls Jim. “But this represented 65 tons per day of hydrocarbons and everyone knew that we had to make it work, and together, we found ways. I really learned my public relations skills through this project.”

Twenty-one years later, Jim now serves as a Senior Public Information Specialist. Along the way, he has performed inspector training, video production, photography, event design and coordination, small business assistance, public relations, and outreach on financial assistance programs.

Currently working in AQMD’s Government Affairs office, Jim works with elected officials and staff from state and local legislative offices, cities, county governments, and other special districts. “It’s rewarding to see how much different public agencies can accomplish when they work as partners.”

Jim lives in Rosemead with his wife and teenage daughter. They share their home with their dog, three cats, and four goldfish.

Jim enjoys researching, and visiting the more interesting places in the South Coast region. “This is a wonderful area, I could give some great tours,” he says.

He is also active in his church helping new members find their place in the many volunteer ministry programs.

Dr. Chung Liu serves as AQMD’s Chief Scientist and Deputy Executive Officer for science and technology advancement, having worked his way up through supervision and management ranks over the past two decades from his initial position as an Air Quality Specialist in 1981.

Dr. Liu received his B.S. in chemistry from Fu Jen University in Taiwan, and then earned three successive degrees from UCLA: an M.S. in organic chemistry, an M.B.A. in finance and management science, and a doctorate in environmental science and engineering.

Before joining AQMD, Dr. Liu performed as a technical consultant in air pollution modeling and impact assessment for five years in the Bay area, serving clients such as the California Energy Commission and the U.S. EPA.

During his career at AQMD he has overseen the AQMD’s programs for emission source testing and ambient monitoring, led the certification effort for continuous emissions monitoring systems, and served as director of Planning and Policy.

Dr. Liu’s current role is to oversee the agency’s program to bring innovative low-emission technology into reality, including advancing alternative-fuel vehicles, fuel cells, and non-toxic industrial products.

Away from work, Dr. Liu enjoys seeing movies with his wife, and for many years he coached basketball for Chinese-American youth groups.

Dr. Liu’s two daughters may have followed in his path by attending UCLA, but the academic similarity ends there, he says. “One daughter is a first-year undergraduate interested in law and political science,” he says, “and the other is a senior interested in engineering and structural design.”

How does he sum up his impression of his AQMD years thus far? “There’s always something interesting going on,” he says, smiling.

Vanessa Rodriguez

“I work in a small office. We all get along so well that it’s almost like a little family. Which is nice, because you almost spend more time together here than with your own family,” said Vanessa Rodriguez of her close-knit group of officemates at AQMD.

Vanessa came to work in AQMD’s District Counsel’s office in 1989, and has been here ever since. She started as a Legal Secretary and later became an Administrative Legal Secretary. Her duties include supporting the legal staff, preparing the departmental budget, managing supplies, tracking Board letters, and serving in a supervisory role for the District’s legal secretaries.

Prior to AQMD, she worked for 4 years as a legal secretary for Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company. Before that she worked for a year as a receptionist in a law office where she says she received an excellent foundation in legal pleadings and how courts work, plus valuable experience in a wide range of cases.

In her off hours, Vanessa spends her time on home improvement and decorating projects and playing with her children. Since the District is closed on Mondays, she also works part-time as an office manager handling bookkeeping, payroll and taxes for her husband’s architectural drafting business.

Vanessa was born in Cuba and raised in Huntington Park; however, her parents and siblings have since moved to Miami. She, her husband, their two children Melanie, 11, and Daniel, 8, and their dog, 2 birds and a Beta fish live in Moreno Valley.
Forthcoming Compliance classes will be held as follows:

**Rule 403-Fugitive Dust**
- January 15, AQMD Diamond Bar Headquarters
  - There is no fee, but pre-registration is required.
  - To reserve a space, call Sharon Fujimoto at (909) 396-2183.

**Rule 461-Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing**
- Pre-registration is required for the following two classes.
  - To reserve a space, download the registration form at [http://www.aqmd.gov/comply/compclass.html](http://www.aqmd.gov/comply/compclass.html) or call Michele Martinez at 909-396-3058.

**Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Annual Periodic Inspection**
- March 13-14

**Rule 463-Storage of Organic Liquid**
- April 2003, date to be determined.
  - $100 registration fee; $35 for re-certification.
  - This two-day class will be held at AQMD Headquarters.
  - For more information, contact Marianne Adams at (909) 396-2261 or complianceclasses@aqmd.gov.

**Rule 1403-Asbestos Demolition/Renovation activities**
- January 15
- February 12
- March 12
- April 16
- May 14
- June 11
  - The classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at AQMD Headquarters. There is a $30 class fee. Registration can be arranged by calling 909-396-2381 or by sending e-mail to jmoore@aqmd.gov.

**EMPLOYEE COMMUTE REDUCTION PROGRAM TRAINING CLASSES**
- January 15 & 16, Los Angeles County
- February 5 & 6, AQMD Diamond Bar Headquarters
- February 26 & 27, Inland Empire
- March 19 & 20, Orange County
  - Employee Commute Reduction Program Training classes for new Employee Transportation Coordinators are held for two full days from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is a $50 registration fee. To reserve a space, call Lisa Patterson at 909-396-2283.