

Mild Summer Contributes to Cleanest Smog Season on Record

Thanks to cooler weather this summer and continued progress in air pollution control programs, the Southland experienced its cleanest smog season in 25 years.

"Unlike last year, when unusually hot weather brought poor air quality, this summer's moderate temperatures helped make this the cleanest smog season on record," said Barry Wallerstein, AQMD's Executive Officer. "Cleaner cars, businesses and industries also have helped drive a long-term trend of air quality improvement," he said.

This year, there were 27 days when ozone levels exceeded the federal one-hour standard, compared to 68 days last year.

Several factors contributed to this year's milder smog season including "June gloom" conditions that lasted until early July, weak high-pressure systems and record rains in late October, said Joe Cassmassi, AQMD's senior meteorologist. This year's weather and air quality was in sharp contrast to last year, when record-strength high-pressure systems brought high temperatures, strong atmospheric inversions and as a result, the worst smog season in six years.

"Although the weather gave us a major assist this year, we still face a significant challenge in achieving our air quality goals," Wallerstein said, noting that there were 88 days this year exceeding the federal 8-hour ozone standard. In addition, the average number of days exceeding the 8-hour standard shows no substantial improvement during the past five years, he said.

"We continue to need the state and federal governments to do their fair share by tackling under-regulated, highly polluting mobile sources including trains, planes, ships and construction equipment," he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently enacted an eight-hour ozone standard, exceeded when ozone levels rise above 0.08 parts per million (ppm) during an eight-hour average. It is tougher and more health protective than the one-hour standard, exceeded when ozone levels are above 0.12 ppm during a one-hour average. Southern California must meet the eight-hour standard by 2021.

Comparison to Other Areas

Two other areas with historically severe ozone problems – the San Joaquin Valley and Houston – had worse air quality than Southern California this year by certain measures. But the Southland had the worst air in the nation as measured by its peak 8-hour ozone level.

2004 Comparison of Ozone Levels for Top Three Smoggiest Areas in US

Area	Days Exceeding 1-Hour Standard	Days Exceeding 8-Hour Standard	1-Hour Peak (Parts per million)	8-Hour Peak (parts per million)
South Coast Air Basin	27	88	0.163	0.148
San Joaquin Valley	9	104	0.155	0.126
Houston	36	51	0.192	0.135

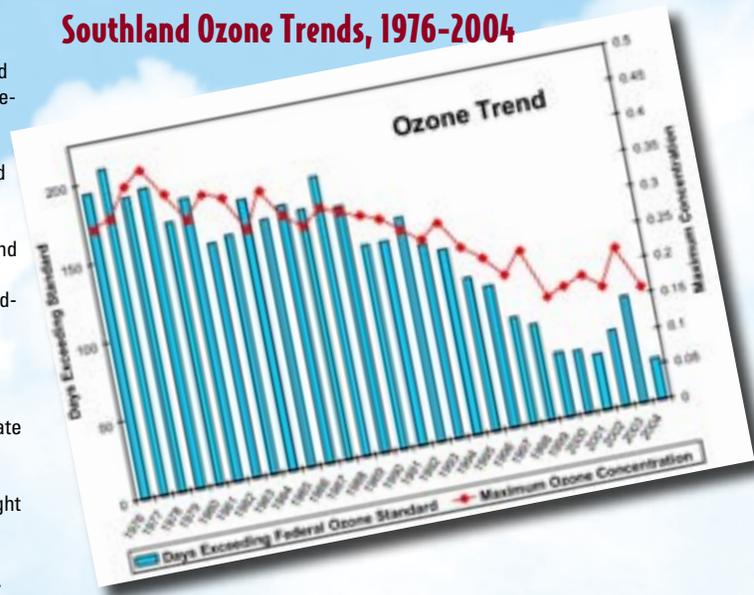
Numbers in bold indicate peak 2004 level in United States as of Nov. 1

Ground-level ozone, a colorless and pungent gas, damages lung cells and may be linked to permanent lung damage. (Ozone in the stratospheric "ozone layer," several miles above Earth, protects people from the sun's harmful radiation.) Ground-level ozone can cause short-term effects including chest pain, coughing, and nose and throat irritation, and is linked to increased symptoms for those with asthma and bronchitis.

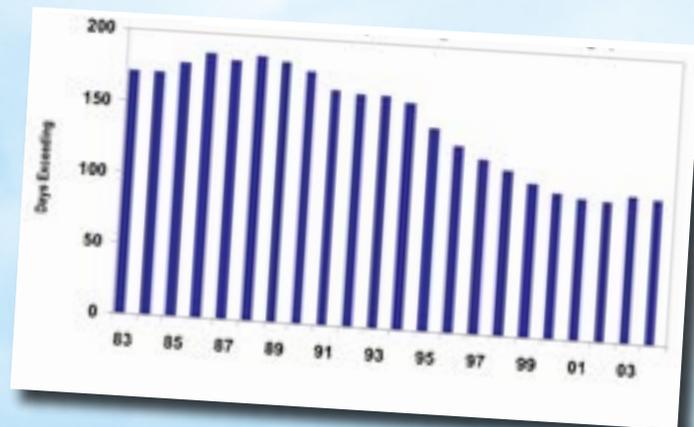
Smog season officially starts on May 1 and ends on Oct. 31. AQMD has monitored ozone at more than 30 stations across a four-county network since 1976.

For more information, contact Joe Cassmassi at (909) 396-3155.

Southland Ozone Trends, 1976-2004



Southland Ozone Trends, 1981-2004 8-Hour Standard (Running 3-Year Average)



Santa Monica Is Final Addition to Five-City Project

At the December Governing Board meeting, the fifth and final city, Santa Monica, was added to the station demonstration sites supporting AQMD's hydrogen internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle and fueling program.

Santa Monica joins Burbank, Ontario, Riverside, and Santa Ana as local advanced-technology champions, each supporting a fueling station and five hydrogen hybrid-electric vehicles. The project will help demonstrate that hydrogen powered ICE vehicles are a technically and commercially viable bridge between conventional vehicles and zero-emission fuel cell vehicles.

These five sites join nine other AQMD-funded hydrogen stations and lead the emerging deployment of vehicles and stations that advance California's Hydrogen Highway Network.

AQMD's Technology Advancement program is a fuel-neutral program that conducts a wide array of projects to demonstrate performance and reliability of a variety of clean-fuel vehicles under real-world fleet conditions.

For more information, contact Gary Dixon at (909) 396-2238.



Cleaning the air that we breathe...



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BOARD ACTIONS

2004 Year in Review

Following are quarterly highlights of AQMD Governing Board actions in calendar year 2004. A record-breaking summer of low ozone levels was a reminder that clean air efforts can bring real progress toward meeting public health goals.

1st QUARTER

- Approved implementation of two initiatives proposed by Chairman William Burke, directing: a) \$12 million from the Rule 1309.1 Priority Reserve Fund toward school bus cleanup (including new CNG buses and retrofit of existing diesel buses with exhaust particulate traps), and b) \$1.5 million from a penalty settlement fund to expand the Brain Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation for research into possible links between air pollution and brain cancer.

- Adopted Rule 1148.1 – Oil and Gas Production Wells, reducing ozone-forming emissions and addressing community concerns about localized venting of natural gas from approximately 3,500 oil wells operating in the South Coast region, and imposing additional controls on operations active near schools.

- Awarded more than \$2 million in funding for development of a demonstration fleet of transitional hydrogen-fueled vehicles in five participating cities.

2nd QUARTER

- Adopted Rule 1470 – Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines, to reduce air toxic emissions from engines typically used as back-up generators, with stricter requirements for equipment on or near school grounds.

- Amended Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust; Rule 1186 – PM10 Emission Reductions from Paved and Unpaved Roads, and Livestock Operations; and Rule 403.1 – Supplemental Fugitive Dust Control Requirements for Coachella Valley Sources, increasing the stringency of current Best Available Control Measure (BACM) requirements for construction, road, and agricultural sources.

- Adopted a resolution formally requesting CARB to submit the AQMD's seven Clean On-Road Fleet Rules to U.S. EPA for a waiver from federal pre-emption under the Clean Air Act. Such waivers are currently in effect for a number of state-directed emissions reduction programs.

3rd QUARTER

- Adopted Rule 1127 – Emission Reductions from Livestock Waste, the nation's first regulation to cut emissions from dairy-cow manure, reducing three tons per day of ammonia which contributes toward violations of ozone and particulate standards.



- Approved \$2.7 million in funding to enhance natural gas refueling infrastructure and \$2.3 million in funding to install hydrogen fueling stations.

4th QUARTER

- Approved more than \$13 million in funding to replace and retrofit dirty diesel school buses and provide for fueling infrastructure for compressed natural gas fleets.

- Adopted Rule 312 – Permitting and Associated Fees for Agricultural Operations, and amended existing rules necessary to implement requirements of SB 700 (Florez) to initiate the issuance of permits for large agricultural sources previously exempt from air district permits.

- Amended Rule 1145 – Plastic, Rubber, Leather and Glass Coatings, to set more stringent VOC limits and future compliance dates for several coating categories.



Southland Residents Take Action on Waiver for Fleet Rules

This fall, in an effort to help AQMD retain a key strategy to reduce toxic and smog-forming emissions under the agency's Fleet Rules, Southland residents sent comment cards and letters to California Air Resources Board (CARB) in support of keeping the rules in place.

The Fleet Rules, adopted in 2000 and 2001, are a set of seven rules designed to shift vehicle fleets to readily-available, lower-emission vehicles when public agencies and certain private entities with 15 or more vehicles purchase or lease new vehicles.

The federal Clean Air Act prohibits states and local governments from adopting or enforcing motor vehicle emission standards. However, the Clean Air Act provides that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator shall grant California a waiver for standards that the State of California finds are as protective of public health as the federal standards.

The AQMD had requested CARB to make such a finding and then submit all of the Fleet Rules, as they apply to both public and private fleets, to the EPA for a waiver under the federal Clean Air Act.

The AQMD asked CARB to request a "waiver from federal pre-emption" from the fleet rules - similar to existing waivers that have been granted over the years for other California clean-air strategies. In October 2004, CARB sought comments from the public on whether AQMD's request should be approved. Southland residents and others showed their support by sending in over 1300 comment cards and letters to CARB requesting that they seek a waiver for the Fleet Rules.

For more information, contact Pom Pom Ganguli at (909) 396-3185.



Board Receives Status on Coatings, Perc

When a rule is adopted or amended, AQMD's Governing Board often directs staff to provide periodic status reports on compliance success, technology availability, and updated health risk information. Two such reports were presented at the Board's December 2004 meeting:

Rule 1421 – Control of Perchloroethylene Emissions from Dry Cleaning Systems

The number of non-toxic dry cleaning machines in the four-county region has tripled in two years, and an AQMD grant program has assisted more than 150 individual cleaners to move to alternative technologies such as professional wet cleaning, hydrocarbon or carbon dioxide systems.

Over a dozen manufacturers of wet cleaning equipment, over a dozen manufacturers of hydrocarbon equipment, and two manufacturers of carbon dioxide equipment are represented among the systems recently permitted by AQMD.

Recent reviews of applicable scientific literature have concluded that perc is hazardous to the adult nervous system and is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen, but that an association between perc and specific cancer types is inconclusive.

An ongoing assessment between Occidental College, Southern California Edison, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Gas company has found preliminary indications of energy savings when switching from perc to wet cleaning technologies.

Rule 1113 – Architectural Coatings

This rule has a compliance option that provides manufacturers flexibility to meet the rule emission limits by averaging the VOC content of coatings across a number of categories. Audits for the three manufacturers participating in the first year of the option showed all in compliance. A second phase of audits will be completed by July 2005.

While the number of compliant or super-compliant products on the market is ever increasing, the AQMD is proceeding with yet another study to verify and validate the performance of these new products in comparison to conventional higher-polluting products. In response to comments from the Technical Advisory Committee regarding test protocols, the number of coating formulations to be tested was expanded by 20%. Testing is expected to be completed by July 2005.

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



AQMD AWARDS

MORE THAN \$13 MILLION TO CLEAN UP DIESEL SCHOOL BUSES

Continuing its effort to establish the largest clean school bus fleet in the state, if not the nation, the AQMD awarded more than \$13 million in November to replace and retrofit dirty diesel buses in the four-county region.

"Thanks to the AQMD Board's long-standing commitment to clean up diesel-powered school buses, Southern California now has the largest fleet of clean school buses in the state," said Barry Wallerstein, AQMD's Executive Officer. "Diesel particulate pollution from school buses has serious health impacts, especially for children," he said.

The recent awards will provide funding for 70 new compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses and 830 emission reduction devices that will reduce particulate emissions from existing diesel school buses. Funding was also provided for related CNG fueling infrastructure.

Since 2000, the AQMD has provided more than \$55 million for 271 new CNG buses, 86 new lower-emitting diesel buses, 2,102 particulate retrofit traps and 49 diesel oxidation catalysts. Particulate traps reduce about 85 percent of particulate emissions, but are only available for use on post-1994 model year buses. Diesel oxidation catalysts are available for use on 1991-1993 model year buses and can reduce hydrocarbon emissions and approximately 25 percent of particulate emissions.

Funding for AQMD's school bus replacement program comes from the state's Lower-Emission School Bus Program; Proposition 40, passed by voters in 2002; the AQMD Chairman's School Bus Initiative; and U.S. EPA grant money.

Diesel particulate has the potential to cause cancer in humans and can aggravate chronic respiratory problems such as asthma. The AQMD's Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES II), completed in 2000, showed that approximately 70 percent of the cancer risk from air toxics in the South Coast Air Basin is due to diesel particulate.

For more information, contact Fred Minassian at (909) 396-2641.

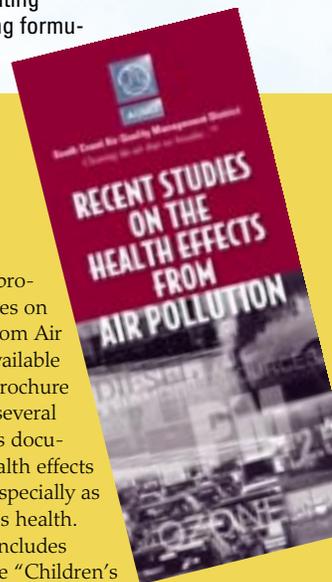
Health Effects Brochure Now Available

A new AQMD brochure "Recent Studies on the Health Effects from Air Pollution" is now available to the public. The brochure briefly summarizes several recent health studies documenting adverse health effects from air pollution, especially as it concerns children's health.

The brochure includes information from the "Children's Health Study," which found that children living in areas with elevated levels of ozone experience increased absences from school due to respiratory diseases. Many of these children also were susceptible to an increased risk for asthma. The study also found a higher percentage of children in communities with the highest levels of these pollutants had reduced lung function by the time they graduated from high school.

Several of the studies cited in the pamphlet stressed the importance of reducing vehicular emissions, which account for 90% of the toxic air risk. Train emissions were identified as a major source of toxic emissions in the California Air Resources Board's "Rail Yard Study."

For a copy of this pamphlet, please call the Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039.



2005 Compliance Deadlines

The following is a reminder for AQMD rule compliance deadlines that occur during 2005. 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/rulesreg.html.

Continuous Emission Monitoring (Rule 218)

CEMS owners/operators must:

- Certify in writing that existing CEMS meets the requirements of Rule 218, Section (c); or
- Submit an application with fees for CEMS modification; or
- Submit an application for waiver with supporting documentation.

Deadline: 5/14/2005

Contact: Steve Marinoff (909) 396-2243

Permitting and Associated Fees for Agricultural Operations (Rule 312)

To facilitate the permitting of existing agricultural sources, Rule 312 sets the special permitting fees for a transitional period.

Sunset ends: 6/30/2005

Contact: Shams Hasan (909) 396-2338

Visible Emissions (Rule 401)

Visible emission limit for commercial char-broilers is reduced from 2 Ringelmann (40% opacity) to 1 Ringelmann (20% opacity).

Deadline: 11/9/2005

Contact: Pamela Perryman (909) 396-3103

Fugitive Dust (Rule 403)

- Active operations with disturbed surface > 5 acres or 100+ cubic yard daily material transport must implement dust removal methods at egress to public road.
- Large operations require posted signage and an on-site dust observer.
- Agricultural operations > 10 acres beyond South Coast Air Basin boundaries must self-monitor.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Michael Laybourn, (909) 396-3066; or Patrick Hotra, (909) 396-2995

Sulfur Content of Liquid Fuels (Rule 431.2)

Refiners/Importers shall produce/supply only low-sulfur diesel fuel (<15 ppm) in the District.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Paul Wuebben (909) 396-3247

Dry Cleaners Using Solvent Other Than Perchloroethylene (Rule 1102)

A person shall not operate any transfer machine.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Mike Mills (909) 396-3103

Architectural Coatings (Rule 1113)

- VOC limits for Clear Wood Finishes - Lacquer, Clear Brushing Lacquer and Pigmented Lacquer all decrease to 275 g/L.
- VOC limits for Roof Coatings and Roof Coatings, Aluminum decrease to 50 g/L and 100 g/L, respectively [Table of Standards, Rule 1113(c)(2)].
- Coatings that are manufactured prior to January 1, 2005 that, do not comply with the new VOC limits but do comply with the previous applicable VOC limit may continue to be sold, supplied, offered for sale, and applied until December 31, 2007, provided the requirements in Rule 1113(c)(4) are met.
- Through December 31, 2006, roof coatings with a VOC content < 100 grams per liter that are certified under the USEPA Energy Star Program shall not be subject to the VOC limit in the Table of Standards.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Dan Russell (909) 396-2333

Control of Nitrogen Oxides from Residential-Type, Natural-Gas-Fired Water Heaters (Rule 1121)

Mitigation fee will be \$3.00 per water heater instead of the fee being based upon quantity of emissions forgone

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Ramon Patel (909) 396-2466

Solvent Degreasers (Rule 1122)

Vapor degreasing operations shall be performed using a solvent with a VOC content of no more than 25 g/L, as used.

Deadline: 1/1/2006

Contact: Rizaldy Calungcagin (909) 396-2315

Aerospace Assembly and Component Manufacturing Operations (Rule 1124)

VOC limit for fuel tank coatings now applies to non-spray rubber solution fuel-tank coating, containing less than 710 g/L of VOC per liter of coating, used on fuel tanks with maximum capacity of 35 gallons and where the total facilitywide usage of this coating is less than 150 gallons per year.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: William Milner (909) 396-2553

Emission Reductions from Livestock Waste (Rule 1127)

- Existing dairies shall submit a Rule 1127 notification to the Executive Officer in writing. Dairy operators shall:
- Clear any accumulated manure in excess of 3 inches in height in each corral at least 4 times per year with at least 60 days between clearings,

- Remove all on-dairy stockpiles within three months of the last corral clearing day and no more than three months after date that the previous stockpiles were last completely cleared, and
- Keep records of these activities.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Deadline: Contact: Mary Woods (909) 396-3094

Food Product Manufacturing and Processing Operations (Rule 1131)

Solvents used for sterilization of food manufacturing and processing equipment can contain no more than 200 grams of VOC per liter of material.

Deadline: 10/1/2005

Contact: William Milner (909) 396-2553

Wood Products Coatings (Rule 1136)

VOC limits for all coating categories except inks and mold-seal coatings are decreased [see rule for specific limits]. No longer in effect are:

- Alternative coating limits for shutters
- The 0.9 multiplier used in emissions averaging
- The exemption for classic guitars
- The exemption for touch-up and repair coatings

Deadline: 7/1/2005

Contact: William Milner (909) 396-2553

Polyester Resin Operations (Rule 1162)

Non-atomizing application techniques must be used to apply gel coat materials to an open molding surface.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Helmy Sultan (909) 396-2362

Adhesive and Solvent Applications (Rule 1168)

- VOC limits for PVC Welding, CPVC Welding, Plastic Cement Welding, Adhesive Primer for Plastic, and Top and Trim Adhesive are decreased [see rule for new VOC limits].
- Prohibitions of sales and use become applicable to solvent welding formulations containing methylene chloride used to bond hard acrylic, polycarbonate, and polyethylene terephthalate glycol plastic fabrications.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: William Milner (909) 396-2553

Solvent Cleaning Operations (Rule 1171)

VOC limits are reduced to 100 g/L

- In repair and maintenance cleaning of electrical apparatus components & electronic components
- To clean publication gravure printing equipment
- As roller wash - step 1, roller wash - step 2, blanket wash and to clean on-press components in lithographic or letter press printing
- To clean screen printing equipment
- To clean ink application equipment (except screen printing equipment) using ultraviolet ink/electron beam ink
- To clean specialty flexographic printing equipment

VOC limits are reduced to 25 g/L

- In the cleaning of coatings or adhesives application equipment
 - In the cleaning of ink application equipment used in inkjet printing
- Formerly exempt operations must comply with applicable rule requirements:
- Architectural coating application equipment
 - Cleaning of photocurable resins from stereolithography equipment and models
 - Cleaning of UV lamps used for curing of UV inks or coatings
 - Cleaning of electrostatic coating application equipment

Deadline: 7/1/2005

Contact: Louis D. Yuhus (909) 396-2475

PM10 Emissions from Paved and Unpaved Roads, and Livestock Operations (Rule 1186)

Contingency measures implemented for new road construction

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Michael Laybourn (909) 396-3066

Less-Polluting Sweepers (Rule 1186.1)

Extend sunset dates to allow acquisition of non-rule compliant vehicles where TICR issued based on unavailability of alt-fueling station within 5 miles. Also allow TICR issuance where alt-fuel platforms don't exist.

Deadline: 6/4/2005

Contact: Dean Saito (909) 396-2647

Clean On-Road Heavy-Duty Public Fleet Vehicles (Rule 1196)

Extend sunset dates to allow acquisition of non-rule compliant vehicles where TICR issued based on unavailability of alt-fueling station within 5 miles of where vehicle is domiciled.

Deadline: 6/4/2005

Contact: Dean Saito (909) 396-2647

Emissions from Metal Finishing Operations (Rule 1426)

Follow-up compliance report due for metal plating facilities.

Deadline: 2/1/2005

Contact: Sam Vergara, (909) 396-2318 or Tom Liebel, (909) 396-2554

Hexavalent Chromium Emissions from Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations (Rule 1469)

- Submit Ongoing Compliance and Status Emission Report.

Deadline: 2/1/2005

- Comply with applicable emission limitations [paragraphs (c)(8) or (c)(9)], if not opting to pursue an alternative compliance option.
- Use maximum installed controls (HEPA or equivalent plus certified fume suppressants), if opting to comply with the alternative compliance option specified in paragraph (d)(3).

Deadline: 5/1/2005

Contact: Sam Vergara, (909) 396-2318 or Tom Liebel, (909) 396-2554

Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines (Rule 1470)

- New emergency engines and new agricultural engines shall not emit PM at a rate greater than 0.15 g/bhp-hr.
- New emergency engines located within 100 meters (328 feet) of a school and new prime engines shall not emit PM at a rate greater than 0.01 g/bhp-hr.
- Engines of 50 bhp or less shall not be sold, offered for sale, or leased unless the engine meets the current ARB off-road standard.
- Engine operators shall keep records for emergency engines.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

- Owners or operators of engines greater than 50 bhp must submit engine/facility information.
- Owners or operators of four or more engines which will require installation of controls must submit a compliance plan to identify engine control strategies. Permit applications due for engines that must install controls by 1/1/06.

Deadline: 7/1/2005

Agricultural Operations Contact: Gary Turner (909) 396-2403

Non-Agricultural Operations Contact: Mike Mills, (909) 396-2578

On-Road Motor Vehicle Mitigation Options (Rule 2202)

Employers implementing an Employee Commute Reduction Program (ECRP) are required to meet a required average vehicle ridership (AVR) performance requirement. Employer can satisfy this requirement by meeting the AVR performance requirement; surrendering emission credits reduction credits to offset any shortfall; or, complying with the good faith effort determination elements as described in the ECRP Guidelines.

Deadline: 1/1/2005

Contact: Carol Gomez (909) 396-3264

2005 RECLAIM Deadlines

Editor's Note: Below are the 2005 compliance deadlines for all facilities that must comply with AQMD's NOx and SOx RECLAIM rules (Regulation XX). For more information, contact the RECLAIM Hotline at (909) 396-3119.

All Cycle 1 RECLAIM facilities must submit Compliance Year 2004 Annual Permit Emission Program (APEP) reports. Send original signed report by mail. (Rule 2004)

Daily emission reports for each major source are due, via remote terminal units, by 5 p.m. the next day. [Rule 2011 (c)(3)(A)] [Rule 2012 (c)(3)(A)]

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

Monthly aggregate emission reports for all SOx major sources are due, via modem, fifteen days after the end of each month. [Rule 2011 (c)(3)(B)] [(Rule 2012 (d)(2)(B))]

Quarterly emissions reports for process units, equipment exempt from 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. (Rule 2011 (d)(2)(B) and Chapter 5 of Appendix A to Rule 2011) [Rule 2012 (e)(2)(B) and Chapter 7 of Appendix A to Rule 2012]

January 1 - February 28. All RECLAIM facilities must submit a quarterly certification of emissions report summarizing emissions at the facility, during the quarter, 30 days after the end of each of the first three quarters of a compliance year. Send original signed report by mail. (Rule 2004)

June 30. Cycle 2 facilities must complete source tests on all NOx process units that are subject to RECLAIM NOx Concentration Limit by the due 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 process unit can operate within the permitted RECLAIM NOx Concentration Limit and is applicable once every five-year period. (NOx) Emissions [Rule 2012(j)(4)]

July 1 - August 30. All Cycle 2 RECLAIM facilities must submit Compliance Year 2004 Annual Permit Emission Program (APEP) reports. Send original signed report by mail. (Rule 2004)

December 31. Cycle 1 facilities must complete source tests on all NOx large sources by the due 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 NOx large source can operate within the permitted RECLAIM NOx Concentration Limit or emission rate and is applicable once every three-year period. (NOx) Emissions [Rule 2012(j)(2)]

NRDC Study – Latinos Disproportionately Vulnerable to Environmental Health Threats

A ccording to a recently released report by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Latino communities are disproportionately impacted from environmental health problems than the general population.

Latinos, who now comprise the majority in some of the nation's most polluted urban and agricultural areas, are particularly threatened by air pollution, agricultural pesticides, and other contaminants such as lead and mercury. These hazards can cause serious health problems, including an increased risk of asthma and cancer; waterborne diseases such as hepatitis and cholera; and neurological and developmental problems.

The October 2004 report, "Hidden Danger," underscores the urgent need for government action on these environmental health threats. The report found that too often government authorities, businesses, farm operators and landlords fail to provide warnings in Spanish about environmental health threats, while federal and state agencies have not collected relevant data or conducted studies assessing environmental health threats in Latino communities.

The report revealed that nearly 26 million of the 38.8 million Latinos in the United States live in areas that violate federal air quality standards. In addition, nearly 90 percent of U.S. farmworkers are Latino, with many of these laborers and their families routinely being exposed to toxic pesticides.

U.S. Latino communities can better protect themselves from pollution-related health problems, the report notes, but only with a concerted effort by government and industry. The report recommends more government funding for research to better identify the problems, as well as for broader outreach to the Latino community. It also calls for federal and state action to strengthen water and air quality safeguards, ban or restrict the use of hazardous pesticides, and tighten controls on polluters.

To download a copy of the report, visit www.nrdc.org/health/effects/latino/english/contents.asp. The web page provides links to the report in Spanish and English.

"Color My World With Healthy Air" Calendar Contest Winners

The 2005 AQMD Calendar Contest, "Color My World With Healthy Air" drew entries from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The kids ranging from grades k-12 created artwork depicting their ideas of a world that is healthy, with clean air. "Their efforts produced a beautiful calendar," stated William A. Burke, Chairman of the Governing Board. "However, the message that our children have sent us through their artwork is that clean air is very important to them. And if it is important to them, then we must continue to commit ourselves to attaining healthful air throughout our diverse region, for them."

The grand prize winner (cover artwork), Brittany Relf, 16, received a bicycle and a \$100 gift check. Twelve other winning artworks, each representing a month of the year, received a \$50 gift check. Those winners are Amanda

Woodhouse, 11; Eileen Lo, 13; Emily Henry, 14; Kristie Yang, 9; Georgiana Bortis, 8; Megan Tuyen Le, 14; Jamie Baniwas, 9; Jing Liu, 16; Laura Schmaeler, 8; William Yang, 7; Mariel De Pablos Vilez, 9; and Sarah Jung, 16. All of the contest winners were expected to be introduced at the January 7th Governing Board meeting.

If you would like to request a complimentary calendar, e-mail cleanaircongress@aqmd.gov or call Patrician Price at (909) 396-2690. Calendars are also available, while supplies last, at the Public Information Center at the AQMD headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar.



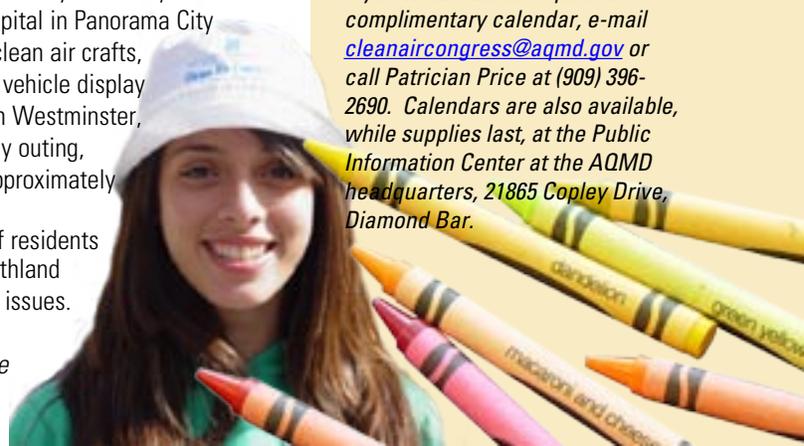
Recent Clean Air Congress Community Outreach Events

On October 13-14, the AQMD participated in the Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP 5) at the Riverside Convention Center. STEP provides a valuable link for students and teachers to the local science and high-tech community. Over 3,500 students visited AQMD's Clean Air Congress booth. AQMD also displayed a Honda FCX fuel cell vehicle, which attracted quite a bit of interest as well.

On November 13th, the Clean Air Congress participated in two events. The Employment and Health Fair hosted by Assemblymember Cindy Montañez at Mission Community Hospital in Panorama City offered attendees a chance to take part in clean air crafts, interactive experiments, a Clean Air Choice vehicle display and distribution of air quality information. In Westminster, Clean Air Congress participated in the family outing, Jingle Jam, hosted by Radio Disney with approximately 10,000 attending the event.

The Clean Air Congress is a network of residents and clean air advocates throughout the Southland who are concerned about critical air quality issues.

For more information, contact Patrician Price at (909) 396-2690



Clean Air PEOPLE

Meet the diversely talented people who work at the AQMD.



Ben Shaw

Our agency is really about people, relationships and communication. Without our exceptional staff, our rules and permitting system would not have achieved nearly as much," said Ben Shaw, Senior Enforcement Manager of the Western Industrial and Service Stations Branch, Engineering and Compliance Division. His team conducts inspections at about 13,000 sources, mostly west of the Long Beach freeway. Ben has been a manager at AQMD since October 1983, when he joined the agency. Prior to the AQMD, he spent 19 years at Shell Oil and Occidental Petroleum. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Chemical Engineering and has done post-graduate work at USC.

Ben stated that "over my 40-year career, I have seen how many government agencies operate. From what I have seen, AQMD is a standout in efficiently achieving its goals. All who live here are the beneficiaries of our success." He works closely with AQMD's District Prosecutor's office and, of course, his supervisors, Deputy Executive Officer Carol Coy and Assistant DEO Mohsen Nazemi.

A ball of energy and a constant thinker, Ben is an avid jogger, enjoys board and computer games, and thrives on adventures with his five grandchildren. He and his wife, Susan, celebrated their 40th year of marriage in December. Recently, he made the decision to move into the next stage of his life by retiring from the AQMD to teach at the high school level.

Asked what he likes best about his job, he answered "the people and the diversity of interesting challenges. I have never stopped being amazed by the abilities and creativity of my team's staff. Ninety plus percent of my job involves facilitating or helping people – and they pay me to do this! Wow!"



Laki Tisopulos

When Laki Tisopulos began work at the AQMD in February 1988 as an air quality engineer, he envisioned it as short-term employment. But these many years later, he holds the position of assistant deputy executive officer for Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources.

Born in Istanbul to Greek parents, Laki is tri-fluent among his background cultural threads of Turkey, Greece, and America. "I think one of the greatest gifts of my heritage is an acquaintance with both adversity and diversity," he says. "I learned early: people must find common ground to get along and make progress. That's been a tremendous reference point in my life and work."

Laki holds a doctorate and master's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Southern California and is a licensed California Professional Engineer. Prior to his AQMD career, he was a

research advisor and an assistant researcher in USC's Department of Chemical Engineering and also worked on research and product development for the biomedical and paint industries.

"I'm fortunate that working at the District has given me chances to keep my motivation along the way," he says. "Work can get very hectic, often demanding our weeknights and weekends. But knowing and seeing the positive results of our collective efforts is exhilarating."

Laki and his wife Tara are parents of two daughters, Alexa, age 6, and Kyra, age 4. Tara has authored a children's book on pet rescue of retired greyhound racing dogs and is an active elementary school volunteer. "The pace of life can get stressful," Laki admits, "but it helps to realize we are both working to make things better for the future."



Dory Kilgour

Prior to joining the AQMD in 1988, Dory Kilgour worked as a legal secretary and had her own commercial interior design company. She holds an environmental and interior design degree from UCLA. When she first started at the AQMD she held a secretarial position in the Technology Advancement Office and quickly moved into her Senior Administrative Secretary position that she has held ever since.

"I love the fast-paced atmosphere that this job offers, and the everyday challenges make it an interesting job," Dory stated. She is an admitted list maker and has a keen sense of organization, which shows in her immaculate desk and personal style.

In her leisure time, Dory collects and wears ethnic jewelry, designs individual greeting cards, dabbles in black and white photography and is an amateur landscape designer. She enjoys the company of her adult son and daughter and two grandchildren, who all live close by. Her grandson has suffered from asthma for several years. Her personal goal, she says, is to help make the air cleaner, so that other children won't experience this very scary disorder.

Dory stated that "the many diverse projects, the educated and motivated staff that I get to work with and the knowledge that I, in a small way, am part of the team that is helping to make the air healthier for the future, are all reasons that make this job so fulfilling to me personally!"



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Briefly...

RULE COMPLIANCE PROMOTION CLASSES

Upcoming Compliance classes will be held as follows:

Rule 1403-Asbestos Demolition/ Renovation Activities

- February 16
- March 16

The classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at AQMD headquarters. There is a \$30 class fee. To register call (909) 396-2381 or send e-mail to jmoore@aqmd.gov.

Rule 2202-Employee Transportation Coordinator Training

- January 27, AQMD Diamond Bar headquarters
- February 9, Riverside, location to be announced
- February 23 or 24, Metrolink, 700 South Flower St., 26th Fl., Los Angeles
- March 9, OCTA, 550 S. Main St., Orange

Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$54.37 per person. Enrollment is limited to 25 students and

classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, call Lisa Patterson at (909) 396-2283.

Rule 403-Fugitive Dust Control in the South Coast Air Basin Training

- January 19, 2005 at 8:30am
– 11:30 a.m.
- February 16, 2005 at 8:30am
– 11:30 a.m.
- March 16, 2005 at 8:30am
– 11:30 a.m.

Location: AQMD Headquarters, Conference Room GB

Rule 403-Fugitive Dust Control in the Coachella Valley Training

- January 20, 2005 at 1:00pm
– 4:30 p.m.
- February 17, 2005 at 1:00pm
– 4:30 p.m.
- March 17, 2005 at 1:00pm
– 4:30 p.m.

Location: 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conf. Room 119, Palm Desert

There is no fee for Rule 403 Dust control classes, but pre-registration is required. To register, call (909) 396-2183.

AQMDAdvisor

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