CARB Directs its Staff to Strengthen Clean Air Plan

On June 22 the California Air Resources Board (CARB) delayed adoption of its Statewide Implementation Plan (SIP) and, instead, directed its staff to strengthen it by working closely with the AQMD. The Board made its decision after hearing witnesses for almost 8 hours urging CARB to do more to protect the health of Southern California residents.

Previously, the AQMD Governing Board adopted the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), a far-reaching clean air blue-print to address the public health crisis resulting from the nation’s worst air pollution affecting almost 17 million residents in the region. To attain the federal clean air standards by the statutory deadlines, the AQMP relies on the successful implementation of dozens of air pollution control measures – primarily by CARB, but also by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), AQMD, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the Southern California Association of Governments. The AQMP was submitted for inclusion in the SIP; however, CARB unexpectedly decided to delay the adoption hearing until September or October 2007.

In a daylong hearing, the CARB board heard from elected officials, AQMD Board Members and senior staff, health advocates, environmentalists, clergy and residents that CARB’s SIP would not sufficiently cut air pollution to meet the federal PM 2.5 fine particulate standard by 2015 and the 8-hour ozone standard by 2024. Over 400 people attended the meeting with approximately 95% of the attendees supporting tougher control measures.

“Air pollution has created a silent epidemic responsible for up to 5,400 premature deaths, 2,400 hospitalizations and 980,000 lost work days each year,” said William Burke, Ed.D., AQMD’s Governing Board Chairman. “We must go beyond business-as-usual solutions to achieve healthful air for Southern California residents.” It is estimated that approximately 80 percent of Southern California’s smog problem is caused by vehicles and other mobile sources and 70 percent of the airborne cancer risk is directly attributed to diesel-fueled engines.

Burke urged the CARB Board to add 63 tons of additional NOx reductions to the SIP on a schedule to achieve these reductions by December 2014. In the alternative, Burke urged them to at least delay approval of the SIP until a hearing is held to consider the additional reductions proposed in the AQMD’s Air Quality Management Plan.

CARB’s decision to delay adoption of the SIP until it could be strengthened with the assistance of the AQMD was considered a victory by both health and clean air advocates. The AQMD staff will work closely with CARB staff in this effort and will keep the public informed of future progress on this important issue.

For more information contact the Public Advisor at (909) 396-3185.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CUT SHIP EMISSIONS

On May 24, U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein along with U.S. Rep. Hilda Solis introduced landmark legislation that would require the federal government to adopt tougher pollution controls for ocean-going ships.

The new legislation would require EPA to:

- Sharply reduce the sulfur content of fuel used by domestic and foreign ocean-going ships calling at U.S. ports and marine terminals, from an average 27,000 parts per million (ppm) to a maximum of 1,000 ppm, beginning Dec. 31, 2010. Ships calling on West Coast ports would have to use the low-sulfur fuel within 200 miles of the West Coast; and
- Set standards effective Jan. 1, 2012 requiring the maximum degree of emission reductions achievable in new and existing engines for all domestic and foreign ocean-going ships calling on U.S. ports.

In spite of a 1990 federal Clean Air Act mandate to adopt “maximum feasible controls” for ships and other off-road pollution sources, EPA to date has not adopted any significant emission control measures for ocean-going ships. In April, EPA announced that it would delay until December 2009 the adoption of new regulations for such ships.

Ships calling on the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are responsible for more than 30 tons per day of sulfur oxide emissions – roughly half of the total emitted by all sources in the region. Sulfur oxide emissions contribute to the formation of PM2.5 pollution. Southern California cannot achieve the federal health-based standard for PM2.5 unless sulfur emissions from ships are greatly reduced.

Ships also are a major source of smog and particulate forming nitrogen oxides, as well as diesel particulate matter, a toxic air contaminant. Due to the lack of current regulations, ships are virtually the only source category for which emissions are projected to increase in the future. If rules are not adopted, nitrogen oxide emissions from ships in the region are projected to grow from about 48 tons per day in 2005 to about 90 tons per day in 2020.

For more information contact Peter Greenwald at (909) 396-2111.
AQMD to Appeal Federal Court Decision on Railroad Rules

AQMD officials are appealing the federal court’s ruling striking down three AQMD rules aimed at reducing toxic diesel emissions from idling locomotives.

“Southland residents are still being subjected to toxic diesel pollution from unnecessary locomotive idling,” said William Burke, Ed.D., AQMD Governing Board Chairman, noting that during the week of May 13, Lakewood residents reported a locomotive idling in their neighborhood for more than 20 hours.

“We believe we have the authority to protect public health with our railroad rules, and we look forward to the opportunity to demonstrate this to the appeals court,” he said.

At a special meeting held on May 18, AQMD’s Governing Board voted unanimously to appeal the court decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco.

The decision resulted from a lawsuit (#CV06-1416) filed by Union Pacific Railroad Co., BNSF Railway Co. and the American Association of Railroads against AQMD in March 2006.

While railroad attorneys have argued that AQMD’s railroad rules are preempted by federal law, AQMD attorneys and outside legal experts have maintained that the agency’s regulations are within its legal authority under state law, and are not preempted by federal law because they do not interfere with rail operations.

Locomotives are a significant source of air pollution in the Southland, responsible for more than 32 tons per day of smog- and particulate-forming nitrogen oxides. That is equivalent to the emissions from about 1.4 million cars, pickups and SUVs. Locomotive pollution in the region also exceeds the combined emissions from the Southland’s 350 largest facilities. In addition, idling locomotives spew toxic diesel soot into neighborhoods, backyards and school yards, posing a health risk to residents.

AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

For more information, contact Kurt Wiese at (909) 396-3460.

EPA Proposed Regulations on Locomotive and Marine Engine Air Emissions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its proposed Locomotive and Marine Rule in February without prior notification to air districts and stakeholders. AQMD staff has reviewed the proposed rule and has determined that it does not provide anything close to the level of help needed by Southern California to attain federal clean air standards by statutory deadlines. More importantly, every year of continued unhealthful air means thousands of deaths, hospitalizations, lost work and school days, and other preventable impacts.

In a letter written to U.S. EPA, AQMD Executive Officer Barry Wallerstein has requested the U.S. EPA to conduct an additional public hearing in the Southern California region on the proposed new regulations. “It is critical that U.S. EPA hear from the residents who live in the region that has the worst fine particulate and ozone air quality problem in the nation,” said Dr. Wallerstein. Dr. Wallerstein urged the U.S. EPA “to propose emission standards in such a manner that non-attainment areas can meet federal ambient air quality standards in an expeditious and timely manner.”

The proposed U.S. EPA regulations would apply to all line-haul, passenger, and switch locomotives that operate extensively within the United States, including newly manufactured locomotives and remanufactured locomotives originally manufactured after 1972. Although the proposed regulations will provide significant emission reductions, most reductions will occur after the 2015 PM2.5 deadline.

For more information, contact Peter Greenwald at (909) 396-2111.

Dr. Joseph K. Lyou

Dr. Joseph K. Lyou has been appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger as the newest member of the AQMD Governing Board and will begin serving his term this July. Dr. Lyou is the Executive Director of the California Environmental Rights Alliance, a public interest organization dedicated to achieving environmental justice and improving community health. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the California Environmental Protection Agency’s Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice and serves on several other state and regional regulatory agency advisory and stakeholder groups. Dr. Lyou specializes in issues related to research methods, statistics, open-government laws, and environmental policy.
$19 Million School Bus Replacement Program Announced

In continuing its efforts toward establishing a diesel-free school bus fleet in the region, the AQMD Governing Board announced a new round of funding opportunities for the “Lower-Emission School Bus Program” in the South Coast Air Basin.

This program, which supplements earlier AQMD programs, is designed to assist public school districts and joint power authorities in purchasing new alternative fuel school buses to transport school children in the Basin.

The Program Announcement, whose application deadline is July 31, 2007, makes approximately $19 million available in Carl Moyer AB923 funds for the replacement of pre-1987 diesel school buses. The retired buses must be crushed.

A pre-1987 bus (1986 or older), with a currently valid CHP certificate indicating that the bus is currently operating, must be crushed for each new bus purchased. Only public school districts and joint power authorities are eligible to apply. The required matching funds for public school districts are:

- $25,000, if a pre-1987 bus is crushed, and
- $10,000, if a pre-1977 school bus is crushed.


For more information, contact Ranji S. George at (909) 396-3255.

New Online Refinery Flare Notification Process in Effect

Flares are used by refineries, sulfur recovery plants and hydrogen production plants to safely dispose of excess combustible gases during emergencies, plant over-pressurization, process upsets, startups and shutdowns, and to meet other operational and safety needs. AQMD Rule 1118 – Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares, requires that these facilities monitor, record and report related flaring activities and emissions data to the AQMD while minimizing flaring events and reducing criteria pollutant emissions.

Concerns about the possible health impacts from flare emissions led local community representatives to request prompt notification of flare events and access to flare emissions data reported by refineries and related facilities to AQMD. Pollutants in flare emissions may include Oxides of Sulfur (SOx), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), Reactive Organic Gases (ROG), Particulate Matter < 10 microns (PM10) and Carbon Monoxide (CO).

Effective June 1, 2007, facilities subject to Rule 1118 will now use a new method to notify AQMD of planned and unplanned flare events. The Flare Event Notification System (FENS) enables facilities to advise AQMD of planned and unplanned flare events online at www.aqmd.gov/comply/r1118_main.htm. A unique identification number and password is required for facility operators to enter or access data. Effective July 1, 2007, notifications to the AQMD reporting planned and unplanned flaring events will be sent via an e-mail message to AQMD list server subscribers to notify them of a particular flaring event. Interested individuals may subscribe to the list server for any or all of the facilities on the list. The FENS webpage also provides information on:

- Individual facilities, including a 24-hour public access telephone hotline, map, and permit and compliance information.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about flares and flare events.
- Quarterly flare emissions data reported to AQMD.
- Rule 1118 requirements.
- Information about technology demonstration projects.
- Links for reporting air quality problems to AQMD.

This online system has replaced the existing flare event telephone notification procedures. A demonstration workshop was held on May 29th to familiarize those responsible for notifications to AQMD with the features of the FENS.

For more information, contact Edwin Pupka at (909) 396-3332.
This summer is shaping up to be a very active fire season after the Southland suffered from its driest rain season on record. With the expected brush fires comes the challenge of how to protect your family from the toxic brew of gasses and particulates that can inundate a neighborhood even miles from a fire.

Following are some general tips to follow when you are experiencing the smoke effects of a brush fire:

- **Follow directions of all state and local authorities.**
- **Stay indoors.** Keep your windows and doors closed. Use your air conditioning system and place it on recirculation mode, if available.
- **Reduce outdoor activity.** Curtail outdoor activities and events that require prolonged exposure and strenuous exercise or sports participation.
- **Stay alert.** Listen to your local news and weather forecasts and air quality alerts provided by the South Coast Air AQMD. If the air quality in your area worsens take necessary precautions and plan your activities accordingly.

Children are especially sensitive to air pollution because their lungs are still developing and their immune system is not fully established. The following additional precautions should be taken to protect children from unhealthful air:

- **Play indoors.** Choose indoor options for children, who live and play in areas that have unhealthy pollution levels.
- **Consult their physician.** If your child suffers from a heart or lung ailment, talk with a doctor. Call the doctor immediately if your child’s condition worsens.
- **Have a plan.** Keep an adequate supply of your child’s medications (5 days or more) on hand. If your child suffers from asthma, have a written asthma management plan available.

If you or a family member suffer from a heart or lung ailment, talk with your doctor. He or she can advise you on treatment or whether and when you should leave the area. Always remember to keep an adequate supply of medicine on hand.

To download a fire safety alert fact sheet, visit [http://www.aqmd.gov/pubinfo/factsheets.htm](http://www.aqmd.gov/pubinfo/factsheets.htm).

**Leaf Blower Exchange Program for Professional Gardeners/Landscapers**

Trade in your current backpack blower (must be fully operational) and replace it with a new STIHL BR 500 leaf blower for the SCAQMD-subsidized price of only $200 (suggested retail price is $469.95). This low-noise blower features the STIHL 4-MIX® engine for increased power, lower emissions, and greater fuel efficiency. Supplies are limited. You must pre-register for one of the six exchange events listed. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Each gardening/landscaping business can exchange up to 10 working blowers. When you call to register, we will ask for your name, address, phone number, the exchange location/date of your choice, and the number of working blowers you intend to exchange. You will be given a confirmation number and a half-hour time slot to arrive at the event. Your reservation will only be good for the day and location of the event you choose. Cash, personal checks, major credit cards will be accepted at the events.

To qualify for the blower exchange, you must:

- Be a professional gardener/landscaper.
- Live and work within the SCAQMD’s 4-county jurisdiction. This includes most of Los Angeles county (excluding the Antelope Valley), all of Orange County, most of Riverside county, and nondesert San Bernardino county.

Registration began on June 26, 2007. SCAQMD does not warrant or endorse any product. Any warranties on the STIHL BR 500 leaf blower are limited to those provided by the manufacturer. The STIHL BR 500 is a gasoline-powered leaf blower, and may be subject to local restrictions. It is the user’s responsibility to comply with all local ordinances.

**Exchange Event Locations/Dates**

- **July 17th Masons Saw & Lawnmower,** 1724 Container Circle – Riverside, CA
- **July 18th Chino Mower & Engine Service** – 13546 A Central Ave. – Chino, CA
- **July 19th Temple City Lawnmower** – 9654 Lower Azusa Road – Temple City, CA
- **July 24th B & M Lawn & Garden** – 17672 Yorba Linda Blvd. – Yorba Linda, CA
- **July 25th Greenland Supply, Inc.** – 826 South La Brea Ave. – Inglewood, CA
- **July 26th Simon’s Power Equipment** – 12117 Vanowen St. – North Hollywood, CA

For more information, contact Shashi Singeetham at (909) 396-3298.
Respiratory Health of Port Community Children Study

At its June meeting, the AQMD Governing Board approved a $489,000 contract with the University of Southern California (USC) to study health effects in children exposed to primary and secondary exhaust products resulting from the transport of commercial goods along major transportation corridors near the ports.

The study is to determine if children’s asthma prevalence may be much higher among residents near the ports compared to other areas of the South Coast. Both community residents and public health researchers are concerned that emissions from the transport of goods through the ports of San Pedro Bay are increasing the risk of asthma in children who live and go to school near port transportation corridors.

To address these issues, USC will invite 500 kindergarten and 500 fourth-grade students in the communities of San Pedro, Wilmington, and West Long Beach to participate in the study. Parents and guardians will complete standardized health and residential history questionnaires to document children’s health status. The study will assess the incidence and prevalence of asthma among students. Children with potential undiagnosed or untreated respiratory disease will be directed to mobile or fixed-site medical clinics for follow-up medical care.

Linking existing exposure and proposed health efforts will provide significant benefit to public health, exposure research, and regulated communities.

For more information, contact Jean Ospital, Health Effects Officer at (909) 396-2582.

RECLAIM Program Update

AQMD staff is currently preparing a report for the Governing Board, California Air Resources Board, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the program’s status. As part of the Annual RECLAIM Audit Report for Compliance Year 2005, AQMD determined that the average annual price for Compliance Year 2010 NOx RTCs exceeded the program review threshold of $15,000 per ton set by Rule 2015(b)(6). A contributing factor for exceeding this threshold is the way trading prices for infinite-year block RTCs are reported. Infinite-year block RTCs are blocks or streams of RTCs that are traded as a group that begin as a single year and extend into perpetuity.

Three working group meetings with RECLAIM stakeholders have been held to seek input on preparation of the report, which will be submitted at the Governing Board meeting scheduled on September 7, 2007.

For more information, contact Danny Luong at (909) 396-2622.
The following proposed and amended rules and regulations are tentatively scheduled for hearing at upcoming Governing Board meetings. To verify whether scheduling changes have occurred, visit the AQMD Web site at www.aqmd.gov/hb/gb_cal95.html and check the Rule and Control Measure item on the Governing Board meeting agenda or call the Clerk of the Board’s Office at (909) 396-2500.

Copies of AQMD rules and regulations can be downloaded from the Web site at www.aqmd.gov/rules/rules.html or provided by AQMD’s Public Information Center, (909) 396-2039.

August

(No Governing Board Meeting in August)

October

Proposed Amended Rule 1110.2-Emissions from Gaseous- and Liquid-Fueled Engines
Changes to emission limits for stationary internal combustion engines and amendments to monitoring and testing requirements would improve compliance.
For more information, contact Marty Kay at (909) 396-3115 or mkay@aqmd.gov.

November

Proposed Amended Rule 1146 & 1146.1-Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Industrial, Institutional, and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters
Would add an alternate compliance option to demonstrate equivalent emission reductions and proposes to lower the NOx emission limits for boilers, steam generators and process heaters subject to Rule 1146 Rule 1146.1 may propose to lower limits in the 2 to 5 mm btu/hr range.
For more information, contact Joe Cassmassi at (909) 396-3155 or jcassmassi@aqmd.gov.

December

Proposed Rule 1903-Mitigation Program for General Conformity Projects (EGM-02)
Would specify how federal projects subject to general conformity could access an emission budget and/or pay mitigation fees for emissions from the project.
For more information, contact Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104 or jwhynot@aqmd.gov

Proposed Regulation XL-Port Facility Control Measures (MOB-03)
A series of backstop rules relating to emissions at the ports will address emissions from new and existing sources, and address toxic and criteria pollutant emissions.
For more information, contact Susan Nakamura at (909) 396-3105 or snakamura@aqmd.gov.

Proposed Amended Rule 1143-Reduction of VOC Emissions from Lacquer Thinners and Paint Thinners
Will establish VOC limits or other requirements for the use of lacquer thinners, paint thinners and other VOC-containing products that are not currently regulated.
For more information, contact Larry Bowen at (909) 396-2575 or lbowen@aqmd.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 22, 2007 – 11 am – 6 pm
Clean Air Car Show & Film Festival
Mission Oaks Parking Lot
South Pasadena, CA

Saturday, July 28 – Sunday, July 29, 2007 – 9-6 pm
12th Annual Central Avenue Jazz Festival
Between 42nd Street and 43rd Street
Los Angeles, CA
Lilia Miranda first joined AQMD’s staff in February 1991 as a fiscal assistant in Purchasing, and now serves as secretary for the Transportation Programs section in Planning. She also served for seven years as support staff for the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC), an independent entity which evaluates cleanup projects competing for AB 2766 discretionary funds. She is a SoCal native, born and raised in L.A. County, and now living in Chino. “From the beginning, I was intrigued by the clean air goals that we’re trying to achieve here at the District,” she says. “It’s rewarding to be part of a team to work towards those accomplishments.”

Lilia has graced different District staff functions with her singing. “Singing is a big part of who I am. I really enjoy it,” she says. Lilia also enjoys outdoor activities, such as riding her bike at the beach, gardening, and of course, playing with her grandbabies.

Lilia has three grown daughters and two granddaughters. Paula, 30, is a professional actress and model, as well as mother of Aires, 6; Luzinda, 27, has taken leave from nursing training to spend more time with new daughter Chloe, 10 months; and Danielle, 25, is entering fashion design. In learning her first words, granddaughter Aires gifted Lilia with the nickname “Bella,” her version of Abuela, Grandmother in Spanish. “I really believe that strong families make for a strong tomorrow,” says Lilia. “I want to stay as healthy, energetic, and positive as I can, for me and for my family,” she says, “and clean air is a natural fit with those goals.”

When one thinks of Linda Jenkins, the first thought for many turns to fried chicken and sweet potato pie. However Ms. Jenkins is known for that and a whole lot more. Hired right out of high school, Linda joined the Air Pollution Control District, before it became the AQMD, on May 29, 1974. She started as a Clerk Typist, was promoted to Intermediate Clerk, and then became a Sr. Clerk Typist, Supervisor and later Air Pollution Inspector.

Linda then went back to school to complete college units and was promoted to Air Quality Inspector. Now an Air Quality Inspector II, she works in the Engineering & Compliance Division in the Rule 461 group for Supervising AQ Inspector, Bobby Mendoza, and under Sr. Enforcement Manager, Danny Luong. Linda inspects gasoline dispensing facilities to ensure compliance. Linda has seen many major changes at AQMD during the past 32 years. She recalls there being only seven divisions (Engineering, Enforcement, Records, Radio Room, Print Shop, Lab, and Automotive). She looks back at how AQMD has really grown.

Linda stated, “I’m known as the ‘Gas Pump Police’ in some of my sectors.” But Linda readily explains that as a professional, it is important to educate the public about who we are and why we do, what we do for clean air. Her great smile and positive attitude makes Linda a great ambassador of AQMD.

If you want to catch up with this gal, you gotta move fast. She is in perpetual motion, both at work and home. She has three grown children, Eugene, Shanya and Khaila, and a 17 year old son, Brian, still at home. She is also blessed with five grand-children. She loves to sing, dance, bake and read. She helps her 86 year old mother, who she says, still plays a mean hand of poker. It’s easy to see that her beautiful zest for life is in the family.

Glenn Kasai joined the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) on January 2, 1990 as a Source Test Engineer. He liked the job so much that he remains there to this day, although the job title has changed slightly. Glenn is now an Air Quality Engineer II and is in the Monitoring/Source Testing, Science & Technology Advancement Division, working with Supervising Air Quality Engineer, Steve Marinoff and Sr. Enforcement Manager, Rudy Eden.

Glenn said he used to test stationary stacks out in the field, but now evaluates other source tests, reviews the method development that outside contractors use on tests, and rule development assistance, such as Rule 1118’s flare monitoring development protocol.

Glenn received his degree in Chemical Engineering at UCLA. Prior to coming to AQMD, Glenn worked for Bechtel as a plant designer – specifically on a nuclear power plant. He also worked for AC & S, doing asbestos inspection and removal.

Asked why he chose to work for the AQMD, Glenn answered “this was the first job that I could apply my chemical engineering degree, and the 4/10 work schedule was very attractive.” With two very active daughters, having a day off in the week has come in real handy. His oldest daughter, who next year is on her way to UC Davis, just set a new record in pole vaulting for her high school – 11 feet 2 inches, and his youngest daughter is a varsity tennis player. He has had time to really interact in their school schedules.
Rule Compliance Promotion Classes

Rule 2202-Employee Transportation Coordinator Training
- July 18, Burbank, location to be announced
- July 25, South Coast AQMD, Diamond Bar
- August 8, South Coast AQMD, Diamond Bar
- August 22, OCTA, 600 S. Main St., Orange
- Sept. 5, South Coast AQMD, Diamond Bar

Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration fee is $59.73 per person. Enrollment is limited to 20 students and classes will be held on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, call (909) 396-2777 or e-mail etctraining@aqmd.gov.

Rule 403-Controlling Dust in the South Coast Air Basin
- Every third Wednesday of the month
  This half-day class is held at the AQMD’s Diamond Bar headquarters from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. To register, call toll free 1-866-861-DUST (3878) or email dustcontrol@aqmd.gov.

Rule 403.1-Controlling Dust in the Coachella Valley
- Every third Thursday of the month
  This course is held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Room 119, 73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert, CA, 92260. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. To register, call toll free 1-866-861-DUST (3878) or email dustcontrol@aqmd.gov.

Rule 461-Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing

Daily Self-Inspection
- December 6, 2007
  This is a one-day class. $50.00 fee.

Annual Periodic Inspection
- November 29 & 30
  This is a two-day class. $150.00 fee.

Tester Orientation
- December 4
  This is a one-day class. $100.00 fee.