In February, AQMD released its draft 2003 clean air blueprint for achieving clean air standards in Southern California by the end of the decade.

“Our air in the South Coast region is dramatically cleaner today than it was a decade ago,” said Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast AQMD, “and it will continue to improve under this plan.”

The draft 2003 Air Quality Management Plan outlines the air pollution control measures needed to meet federal health standards for ozone by 2010, and for fine particulates, known as PM$_{10}$, by 2006. The air quality plan was last revised in 1997, with further amendments made in 1999.

Ozone and fine particulates are two of the region’s worst pollutants, responsible for a wide range of health effects including slowed lung growth in children, worsening of asthma symptoms, increased susceptibility to respiratory infections, increased hospital admissions and increased death rates.

Latest Science Used

The latest data from the California Air Resources Board shows that emissions from cars, trucks and other vehicles – particularly pre-1998 cars – are significantly higher than previously estimated. In addition, the most recent regional smog study and the latest computer models show that more emissions will have to be reduced than previously thought to reach federal clean air standards.

Fair Shares of Cleanup

Additional control measures above and beyond those identified will be needed, known as “black box” measures because they rely on future technology advances. In the latest plan, AQMD has proposed specific assignments of “black box” measures to AQMD, CARB and U.S. EPA. An alternate option, recommended by CARB staff, would not assign any
AQMD Adopts Measure To Reduce Composting Emissions

In January, AQMD’s Governing Board adopted the nation’s first regulation to reduce smog-forming emissions from composting facilities in the region.

“Composting facilities have benefited the environment by significantly reducing the amount of waste going into landfills,” said Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

“However, the region’s composting industry generally lacks air pollution controls and is a significant source of air pollution,” he said. “Each industry must do its part to help us achieve clean air.”

Together, composting facilities emit a total of 6.8 tons per day of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and 4.7 tons per day of ammonia, according to several studies conducted by AQMD and other agencies. In comparison, all Southland oil refineries emit a total of about 9 tons per day of VOCs.

Ammonia and VOCs contribute to the formation of ozone and particulate pollution, two of the region’s worst pollutants.

The rule will require:

- Chipping and grinding operations – which process green waste for use as a landfill cover, biomass fuel or composting feedstock – to limit the time they hold or process green waste to prevent unintentional decomposition;
- Existing co-composting facilities – which produce compost from sewage sludge or livestock manure and bulking agents such as green waste – to reduce their VOC and ammonia emissions by 70 percent. The rule will be phased in between 2007 and 2009 depending on the size of the facility; and
- New co-composting facilities to take steps to reduce their emissions by 80 percent.

The rule is expected to reduce VOC emissions by about 1.2 tons per day and ammonia by 1.9 tons per day.

AQMD will not require specific add-on controls for green waste operations at this time. Facilities such as community composting sites and plant nurseries will be exempt from the rule. For more information, call Laki Tsopoulos at (909) 396-3123.

Lawn Mower Exchanges Mow Down Air Pollution

AQMD hosted two sell-out lawn mower buy-back programs, called “Mow Down Air Pollution 2003.” Local residents had the opportunity to purchase a $449 electric, 24-volt, cordless rechargeable lawn mower for $150 provided they traded in a working, gas-powered mower. The events were held at the California Speedway in Fontana on March 25th and at Hollywood Park in Inglewood on April 12th. Mowers were available on a first-come, first-served basis to the first 1,000 people at each location. All mowers turned in are slated for scrapping to prevent them from being returned to service. The expected annual VOC emissions reduced from removing the 2,000 gas-powered mowers from operation is 9.7 tons.

Due to the excellent response to the first two events, staff will be proposing to the Governing Board that two more events be held soon in Orange and Riverside counties. For information on future exchanges, call the Lawn Mower Exchange hot-line at 1-888-425-6247 or check the news page on the AQMD website at www.aqmd.gov. For more information, call David Madsen at (909) 396-3194.

New Clerk of the Boards Named

Saundra McDaniel has been promoted to serve as AQMD’s new Clerk of the Boards. Among her duties, she is now responsible for the scheduling of all regular and special meetings and hearings, the preparation of the minutes and agendas, and publishing and/or posting of meeting and hearing notices. Saundra is also the official custodian of records for the District Governing Board and provides administrative and clerical support to both the Governing and Hearing Boards. Starting at AQMD in 1984 as a Deputy Clerk/Transcriber, McDaniel was later promoted to Senior Deputy Clerk. She fills the position vacated by one of AQMD’s longest-serving employees, Jackie Dix, who retired in January. Dix had been Clerk of the Boards since the formation of the AQMD in 1977.

Small Business Breakfasts Expand Partnerships

AQMD continued its outreach to Small Businesses and local communities across the South Coast Basin, hosting a series of five breakfast meetings during April and May. Events were held in Koreatown, Baldwin Park, Garden Grove, Riverside and Ontario. The morning sessions drew an average of 100 attendees, who came to learn the latest on AQMD programs and services to assist them in complying with air quality regulations.

The meetings were hosted by Governing Board Chairman William Burke, and members Michael Antonovich, Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta, Jim Silva, William Craycraft, Jane Carney, and Ron Loveridge. The events were co-hosted by area Chambers of Commerce in the communities of Los Angeles, Baldwin Park, Garden Grove, Riverside and Ontario.

As part of the presentations, attendees were invited to join the Clean Air Congress, AQMD’s new network of residents and businesspeople working to assist in improving the quality of air in the South Coast basin, and viewed an informational video describing the group. For more information, call David Madsen at (909) 396-3194.
Highly Toxic Chemical To Be Phased Out At Valero Refinery

AQMD has executed an enforceable agreement with the Valero oil refinery in Wilmington to phase out the facility’s use of concentrated hydrogen fluoride by 2006.

“We commend Valero for voluntarily phasing out this chemical, which will virtually eliminate the potential for a catastrophic accidental release of this compound in our region,” said Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast AQMD.

The agreement fulfills one of the 23 Environmental Justice enhancements adopted by AQMD’s Governing Board last fall.

Hydrogen fluoride (HF) is a pungent, highly corrosive acid used at oil refineries in a process called alkylation that boosts gasoline octane.

The chemical in concentrated form poses a risk to nearby residents and businesses because in the event of an accidental release, it can form a dense, fuming cloud capable of etching glass and causing severe damage to human skin and lung tissue.

Under terms of the agreement, the Valero facility, also known as the Ultramar refinery, will:

- Replace its use of concentrated HF by Dec. 31, 2005, with modified HF, which contains additives that significantly reduce the chemical’s ability to form a vapor cloud in the event of an accidental release;
- Enhance its existing safety systems to minimize the impact of an accidental HF release; and
- Pay a penalty of $1 million if it fails to meet the deadline for phasing out HF, barring unforeseen circumstances. In addition, if for any reason Valero does not phase out its use of HF, AQMD will seek to expeditiously adopt a rule requiring them to do so.

In the late 1980s, five facilities in the Southland used concentrated HF, but Valero is the only facility still using it today since two of the facilities shut down and two others phased out the chemical. For more information, call Pom Pom Ganguli at (909) 396-2434.

Environmental Justice Program Update

In addition to the phase out of hydrogen fluoride, other Environmental Justice enhancements also recently completed include:

- **Compliance History On-Line:**AQMD has launched an internet-based system which allows the public to research information regarding air pollution violation notices. The database contains information on Notices of Violation (NOVs) and Notices to Comply (NCs) issued by AQMD to facilities in its four-county jurisdiction. Separate web pages will list NOVs and NCs, with an explanation of each. A brochure explaining the website listing is in development, along with appropriate language that will be displayed to prevent its misuse or abuse. To view the database log on to http://ea1.aqmd.gov/nov.aspx.

- **Clean Air Depositories:**Mini resource centers have been established in seven communities as part of a pilot program to make often-requested air quality information easily accessible. The depositories include AQMD rules, manuals, rule workshops and meeting notices, emissions inventory data, forms and reference information. The depositories have been established at the Wilmington Main Library, City of Commerce Central Library, Paul Villasenor Library in San Bernardino, Pacoima Beautiful offices, American Lung Association offices in Santa Ana, Riverside Main Library and the Palm Desert Public Library.

- **Website Survey:**AQMD recently conducted a survey to receive input from the public on their information needs with a request for recommendations on how to better present information for accessibility and navigation through the site. This information is being used to improve the look and function of the AQMD website.

- **Cumulative Impacts:**A working group, comprised of key stakeholders from industry, environmental and community groups, has been established to explore the feasibility of rulemaking and assessment/mitigation tools regarding cumulative impacts of air pollution beyond the current AQMD requirements. The Cumulative Impacts Working Group held its first meeting in January, and continue to meet on a monthly basis to discuss key policy issues.

A status report was made to the Board in April regarding the 23 environmental justice action items approved previously for 2002-03. The Board is also expected to consider additional enhancements to AQMD’s program for 2003-04 by mid-year. For more information, call Pom Pom Ganguli at (909) 396-3185.

Board Approves Grants For Non-PERC Machines

An important new funding program will give many dry cleaners in Southern California as much as $10,000 apiece to replace equipment that relied on the use of the toxic chemical perchloroethylene (perc).

In December, 2002 the AQMD Governing Board amended the dry cleaning rule (Rule 1421) to gradually phase out the use of perc. At the same meeting, the Board approved a $2 million grant program to help dry cleaners switch to non-perc machines. Applications are being accepted for equipment as follows:

- **$10,000 grants are available for:**
  - Professional Wet Cleaning Machines (water-based system)
  - CO₂ Machines
- **$5,000 grants are available for:**
  - Hydrocarbon Machines (such as those using DF 2000)

Grants for Green-Earth (silicon-based) cleaners have been suspended due to toxicity concerns resulting from animal lab tests, pending further resolution.

Grants will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. To date, a total of 69 applications have been received. Thirteen grants totaling $65,000 have been issued so far. In keeping with the Board’s Environmental Justice considerations, half of the $2 million fund will be reserved for facilities in areas with high air toxics exposure, and low income.

For application forms and instructions visit the dry cleaning grant page on the AQMD web page at www.aqmd.gov/business/drycleaninggrants.htm. For further information, call Jackson Yoong at (909) 396-3125, or Greg Ushijima at (909) 396-3301.
Conditioned Burn Permit Aims to Prevent Wildfires

In response to an emergency risk of uncontrolled wildfires, the AQMD Governing Board in March approved controlled burning of an estimated 500,000 tons of wood from trees killed by drought and bark beetle infestation near Lake Arrowhead and Idyllwild.

“AQMD prohibits most open burning as it adds air pollution to our already smoggy region,” said Barry Wallerstein, AQMD executive officer. “However, due to the imminent threat of wildfire to thousands of homes, we are permitting the restricted burning of wood to mitigate the fire hazard.”

A drought and subsequent beetle infestation have killed millions of trees across more than 150,000 acres in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

After dead trees are cut down, useable lumber will be trucked to a saw mill. But the sheer volume of small branches, needles and wood waste cannot be practically disposed of in short order except by burning.

Following the Board’s action, the U.S. Forest Service will be permitted to use a maximum of eight special incinerators to burn waste wood from felled trees for up to two years. The incinerators, known as air curtain destructors, blow a curtain of air over an open pit or above-ground container to minimize smoke and increase combustion efficiency.

The devices have been used effectively in such areas as Los Alamos, N.M., to prevent further wildfires following a devastating blaze there in 2000. AQMD inspectors will regularly monitor the operation to ensure that smoke does not become a public nuisance.

Although the incinerators reduce smoke, the burning may impact visibility in localized areas. Incinerator emissions will be a fraction of those that could be created by uncontrolled wildfire if the dead trees are not felled and disposed of. For more information, call Lee Lockie at (909) 396-2390.

CARB Sets Course for ZEV Strategy

In April 24, press time for this article, voting was set to occur on proposed amendments to California’s ZEV program, with potential effects on South Coast’s air quality strategy.

Since the inception of the landmark zero emission vehicle (ZEV) rule in 1990, the implementation objective of the program has remained unchanged: to reduce health impacts of emissions from cars and light trucks, by methodically steering technology towards clean-running, zero-emission models.

Background

In June 2002, a federal district judge issued a preliminary injunction that prohibits the California Air Resources Board (CARB) from enforcing its 2001 ZEV amendments with respect to sale of new motor vehicles in the 2003 or 2004 model years. The issue at question was whether energy efficiency provisions were related to fuel economy standards and were thus preempted by federal law.

Pending appeal of the injunction, CARB staff developed a proposal early this year to amend the ZEV regulation to address litigation and consider recent technology developments.

CARB conducted its hearing on the proposed amendments on March 27-28, 2003 in Sacramento, and a vote on proposed amendments was set for the Board’s meeting on April 24, 2003.

AQMD’s Comments on CARB’s ZEV Program

- The Draft 2003 AQMP for the South Coast shows a large emission-reduction shortfall from mobile sources. The state’s ZEV regulation can perform a critical role in remedying this shortfall. Although air quality has significantly improved in the South Coast region, residents are still subject to unhealthful air.

- Strong, steady progress is vital if Southern California is to attain federal ozone standards by the 2010 deadline, and consequently avoid costly sanctions.
  - CARB’s ZEV “gold standard” requires a specific percentage of ZEVs be offered for sale by a specific date. This vital technology-forcing standard has already produced impressive technology advancements, and must be maintained.
  - The ZEV “gold standard” is crucial to help accelerate the transition to hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. AQMD also supports raising the amount of manufacturer credit for offering fuel cell passenger & light-duty vehicles in early years of the program.
  - CARB’s ZEV program should press forward even more strongly. AQMD feels that revisions to the ZEV program must aim to achieve higher emission reductions, through a combination of:
    - a) replacing compliance alternatives with firm requirements;
    - b) offering enhanced early credit incentives; and
    - c) focusing increased attention on the market potential of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. For more information, call Chung Liu at (909) 396-2105.

Pilot “Negotiated Rulemaking” Completed

A team of AQMD staff and about 15 stakeholders have wrapped up the District’s pilot Negotiated Rulemaking project. The group has met monthly for the past year to discuss proposed amendments to Rule 1426 and 1469, which would further cut air toxics emissions from metal finishing, chrome plating and chromic acid anodizing operations.

The goal of this pilot project was to bring together parties who would be affected by the rule, in order to seek a consensus before a rule is formally proposed for adoption. In addition to the typical rule development efforts, the process involved hiring a facilitator, developing ground rules for interaction within the group, and arranging for an independent observer from a local law school to capture the procedures for later review. The group formed smaller subcommittees to discuss pollution prevention and technical issues.

An additional subcommittee was formed in the last 4 months of the process to resolve final issues.

“The group successfully developed a proposal that the different stakeholders all agreed to,” said manager Jill Whynot. “It recognizes key interests of each group, will reduce chrome emissions and provides options for compliance,” she continued. It has not yet been determined which rules, if any, will undergo negotiated rulemaking in the future.

The next step for the rule proposals will be to continue the traditional public comment process. The proposed rules are scheduled for Governing Board consideration in May 2003. An evaluation report on the overall pilot process will go to the Governing Board one month after the public hearing. The Board will then consider use of this process for future rule development. For more information, call Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.
Southland Meets Another Critical Health Standard

The South Coast region has met the federal health standard for outdoor levels of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is the fourth criteria pollutant that has been brought under control in recent years, along with nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ambient levels of lead.

Southern California exceeded the federal health standard for CO on just a single day in 2002. Added to a perfect record in 2001, this fulfills the compliance requirement of no more than one day exceeding the standard during two consecutive years.

While the region continues to battle for reductions in ozone and fine particulate (PM10), meeting the CO standard is a very meaningful victory. The accomplishment confirms the trend of continued progress through strategic plan implementation, and signals that Basin residents are no longer being exposed to the unhealthy CO levels of the past. In the 1970’s, for example, violations regularly occurred 100 days a year. Coming mostly from tailpipe emissions, CO inhibits the body’s ability to transport oxygen. For more information, call Elaine Chang at (909) 396-3186.

Air Quality Plan...

continued from page 1

“black box” measures at this time.

To achieve the final emission reductions needed to meet federal health standards, AQMD’s Governing Board will also evaluate:

- The possibility of seeking expanded legal authority to regulate emissions from existing vehicles and consumer products;
- Broadening the use of mitigation fees to fund emission reductions from mobile sources.

Adoption Process

AQMD held a series of six public workshops in March to gather initial public input on the air quality plan, and AQMD’s Board heard a status report on comments in April. The plan’s CEQA analysis and socio-economic assessment documents are scheduled for release by May, and a public adoption hearing will be held this summer. The plan must then be approved first by CARB and then by U.S. EPA. For more information, call Zorik Pirveysian at (909) 396-3133.

Portuguese Program To Tap AQMD Expertise

The Portuguese Ministry of the Environment, the New University of Lisbon, and South Coast AQMD intend to enter into a cooperative agreement to help develop an air pollution forecasting and monitoring plan for the city of Lisbon and the urban areas of Portugal.

Dr. Francisco Ferreira, professor of environmental systems analysis at the New University of Lisbon, met with Joe Cassmassi, AQMD’s Senior Meteorologist at this year’s U.S. EPA National Air Quality Conference held in San Antonio, Texas. That meeting followed a preliminary visit by Dr. Ferreira to AQMD headquarters in April 2001, arranged by the International Visitors Council of Los Angeles.

Dr. Ferreira is under contract to the Lisbon air quality agency and is the former president of the non-governmental conservation organization “Quercus.” The new cooperative agreement will enable graduate students in environmental engineering to apply techniques observed at AQMD, using statistical analysis and meteorological data. The agreement will also include lecturer and student exchanges. For more information, please call Joe Cassmassi at (909) 396-3155.

Acknowledge Your Local Clean Air Heroes

Since 1988 AQMD has acknowledged individuals, small and large businesses, organizations and government agencies who have made extraordinary contributions that have helped clean the air in Southern California. The tradition continues as AQMD prepares for its 15th Annual Clean Air Awards ceremony this fall. The agency is currently seeking nominations of “Clean Air Heroes” who have excelled in the areas of:

- Advancement of Air Pollution Technology;
- Innovative Transportation Projects;
- Model Community Achievement;
- Public Education on Air Quality Issues, and

Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship.

All nominations received must be postmarked by Friday, May 30, 2003. To receive a nomination form and answers to questions concerning the event call AQMD’s Public Affairs Office at (909) 396-3214.

Cycling enthusiasts planning to pedal to work on May 16 as part of Bike To Work Day can now download street-by-street directions from a brand new bike mapping website at www.bikemetro.com. The website was funded by a grant from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC).

Bicyclists can plug in their origin and destination information, indicate their skill and comfort level dealing with road hazards such as traffic, and the site will generate a customized route complete with a map. An environmental calculator on the site determines the pollution reduced by biking to a destination instead of driving a car.

For more information, call Ray Gorski at (909) 396-2479.
**RULE UPDATE**

**May 2003**

**New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants (Rule 1401)** Staff is proposing to update the list of compounds in Rule 1401. For more information, call Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.

**Emissions from Metal Finishing Operations (Rule 1426)** This proposed 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 Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations (Rule 1469)** This proposed amended rule will decrease emissions from plating operations. For more information, call Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.

**Recordkeeping for Volatile Organic Compound Emissions (Rule 109)** This proposed amendment will address issues related to recordkeeping for super compliant materials. For more information, call Jill Whynot at (909) 396-3104.

**June 2003**

**Reduction of PM10 and Ammonia Emissions from Fluid Catalytic Cracking Units (Rule 1105.1)** This proposed rule will reduce ammonia, PM10 emissions and their precursors from petroleum refinery fluid catalytic cracking units. For more information, call Larry Bowen at (909) 396-2575.

**Fees (Regulation III)** This proposal will amend fee rules to fund FY2003-04 AQMD Budget and incorporate fee provisions from Rules 1309.1 and 1309.2. For more information, call Larry Bowen at (909) 396-2575.

**Food Product Manufacturing and Processing Operations (Rule 1131)** These proposed amendments will address SIP approval issues identified by U.S. EPA. For more information, call Larry Bowen at (909) 396-2575.

**On-Road Residential and Commercial Waste Collection Vehicles (Rule 1193)** Staff may propose amendments relative to the July 1, 2003 sunset provision for dual fuel engines. For more information, call Henry Hogo at (909) 396-3184.

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**Sub Regional Analysis**

The first-ever “mini Air Quality Management Plan” was conducted in Mira Loma to analyze the impact of diesel particulate emissions from warehouse/distribution center operations in this community. There was an observed increase in heavy duty diesel traffic and diesel particulate emissions that warranted this study to determine if there was increased risk associated with the diesel emissions from the warehouse/distribution centers.

The County of Riverside had 2,298 acres of open space in Mira Loma for potential buildout of warehouse/distribution centers. AQMD’s Multiple Air Toxics II study conducted in 1999 had estimated a cancer risk range of 760 – 1265 in a million without buildout. The mini AQMP study found that a full build-out would range of 760 – 1265 in a million without buildout. The study conducted in 1999 had estimated a cancer risk distribution centers. AQMD’s Multiple Air Toxics II study to determine if there was increased risk associated with the diesel emissions from the warehouse/distribution centers.

The results of the analysis were presented to the Riverside County Planning Commission. The Commission has used this information to carefully review proposed construction plans for warehouses in the County of Riverside. Most recently, they rejected two warehouse construction plans that had been submitted for the Mira Loma area. For more information, call Mike Nazemi at (909) 396-3187.

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**Agreements With Shipping Carriers To Reduce Port Emissions**

The AQMD has long supported maritime use of alternative dockside power, known as “cold ironing” in the shipping industry, as a sound approach to reduce unhealthful emissions from marine engines at local ports. “Cold ironing” entails conversion of ship equipment to use electricity rather than running their diesel engines or diesel-fueled generators for auxiliary power – and also requires the corresponding on-shore infrastructure to offer power hook-ups.

Recently, Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn negotiated memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with major carriers operating at the L.A. harbor and headquartered in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taiwan, and Tokyo, to perform a joint feasibility study of installing electrical conduits on shore and retrofitting container ships to receive power.

Such MOUs, if successfully implemented, could offer an innovative solution to a pollution problem that might otherwise entail negotiations under international law.

Similar electrical hook-ups are in place at airports and in Juneau, Alaska to service cruise ships, as well as at local Southern California ports to service tug boats. However, the Port of L.A. project would be first in the world to power in-service container vessels with shore-side electricity.

Under the MOU terms, a joint working group consisting of the carriers, the Port of Los Angeles, the L.A. Department of Water and Power, and local regulatory agencies would analyze capabilities and infrastructure needs, and identify ships to be converted.

AQMD has offered to work with the City of Los Angeles to make this happen and to improve the economics of this strategy, and stands ready to cooperate and contribute staff resources.

The Port of L.A.’s eight modern container-handling facilities make up the seventh busiest port in the world, and have been the focus of environmental justice concerns on behalf of nearby landside communities. For more information, call Zorik Pirrovsian at (909) 396-3133.
Dan Russell serves as an air quality specialist in the rule development section of AQMD’s planning division, working on control of volatile organic compounds.  
When he accepted a position as enforcement inspector in 1988, Dan was entering into a career “second wind” – after 22 years as a science instructor in Boise, Idaho.

After teaching high school biology for two decades, he moved to Southern California ready to embark on new challenges.  Dan’s attitude was well-matched to the wide scope of AQMD responsibilities.  “As an inspector in the industrial sector in the Anaheim area, I really enjoyed the immense variety of technologies we covered,” he remembers.

“I’m proud of the fact that even though I had to issue occasional notices of violation,” says Dan, “every incident ended positively with a handshake, because we worked together to resolve whatever the problem was.”

Over the years, he has also worked in areas related to air toxics, new source review, public facilities compliance, rule writing & implementation, and small business assistance.

Currently, Dan works on rule development and implementation for Rule 1113, Architectural Coatings, a key strategic component of the AQMP.

His two grown sons Jim and Bryan are both employed in the semiconductor field.  Now, Dan is getting his second wind as a parent, too, raising a second family with wife Tina, daughter Jessica, now age 7, and keeping up with his four grandchildren in Idaho.

He enjoys get-away family trips to the great outdoors in their motor home, and looks forward one day to spending retirement time on the 15 acres the family has bought in Idaho.  “I’ll still be able to handle the cold weather there, since it comes along with peaceful surroundings and beautiful country.”

When Ora McEwan’s son describes what his parents do for a living he says, “My dad sells houses and my mom helps clean the air.”

On August, 8, 1988 Ora began her career at AQMD, and entered the world of helping to clean the air.

Ora started as a Contract Programmer, and then worked her way up from a Technical Writer, to a Systems Analyst, to a Systems and Programming Supervisor. In 1997, she became the Technology Implementation Manager for the Information Technology Section. Here, she is charged with software development and maintenance of the custom suite of AQMD applications. She oversees twelve AQMD staff, supplemented with twelve hourly contractors and three contract firms of varying sizes.

Ora received her Bachelors of Science degree in Management Information Systems with a minor in Accounting from California State University, Los Angeles. Prior to coming to the AQMD, she worked at the phone company until they offered an early retirement package, which she took, went back to school, and then began her career with the AQMD.  Ora said “In my opinion, helping to make software solutions happen is essential to the success of the agency’s business.”

A Southern California native, Ora says that she has had a first-hand opportunity to see and appreciate air quality improvements over the years. Since being at the AQMD she has married and had a son. Her nine year old, Aaron, is into martial arts and is the reason Ora says she stays young.  Ora has an eclectic collection of antiques and collectables from a large Philco radio to old-fashioned hand-held models. She also collects African American artwork and 1984 Olympics and Coca Cola memorabilia.

Ora relaxes by spending time with her family, shopping for antiques, and tending a special rose garden she calls “Mama’s Garden” which is dedicated to her grandmother who passed away at 101 years old.

“I like what the District stands for,” says Dellena Floyd, AQMD’s Affirmative Action Officer. “I feel fortunate to work for an agency making life better for future generations.”

Dellena has been with AQMD for 31 years, having first worked with its predecessor, the Los Angeles Air Pollution Control District.

“This has been a good place to grow,” she says. “I started out here working in the mailroom, a young woman raising two kids, then went into payroll and personnel.  I’ve had good chances to try new areas and be exposed to all sorts of people.”

Dellena has served in her current position for ten years, helping to oversee ongoing actions to ensure equal opportunities for advancement. “In the past, we emphasized diversity in recruiting. As hiring has stabilized, we’ve emphasized maximizing the benefits of having a diverse workforce in a diverse region.”

Dellena also serves as the staff liaison to the Employee Affirmative Action Committee, which has hosted a well-attended series of noontime educational events, ranging from multi-cultural offerings to awareness of new technologies for the visually impaired.

“I’m proud of the committee’s accomplishments,” says Dellena.  “Lots of people are interested in learning more about each other’s cultural backgrounds,” she says, “they’ve just needed a place to act on that impulse.”

A native Southern Californian, she credits her origins as a minister’s daughter for her well-respected skills in hosting public events. “Playing piano and singing for the church choir, making presentations, that was all standard when I was growing up,” she notes.

As a grandmother of an extended family with a total of six grandchildren, Dellena is familiar with meeting family demands, too. When she gets some time for herself, she enjoys traveling with her husband and her friends.

“I’m making plans for a trip to China in the fall, and maybe Greece for the Olympics.”
RULE COMPLIANCE PROMOTION CLASSES

Forthcoming compliance classes will be held as follows:

**Rule 403-Fugitive Dust**
- May 14
There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. Classes are held at AQMD headquarters. To reserve a space, call Sharon Fujimoto at (909) 396-2183.

**Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Annual Periodic Inspection**
- July 17-18
This two-day class will be held at AQMD headquarters from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the first day and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the second day. There is a $100 registration fee, with pre-registration required. To register, call Michele Martinez at (909) 396-3058.

**Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Tester Orientation Training**
- July 10
The classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at AQMD headquarters. There is a $100 class fee. To register, call Michele Martinez at (909) 396-3058.

**Rule 1403-Asbestos Demolition/Renovation Activities**
- May 14
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 jnoore@aqmd.gov.

**Employee Commute Reduction Program Training Classes**
- May 7 & 8, City of Los Angeles
- June 5 & 6, AQMD Diamond Bar headquarters
- June 25 & 26, Garden Grove 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.

**Certified Permitting Professional**
- June 20, AQMD Diamond Bar headquarters
The exam begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. There is an exam fee of $150. To register, send an e-mail to phaimov@aqmd.gov including your name, company, address, work phone, fax, and e-mail address. The last day to register is June 6, 2003. For additional information please call the CPP Hotline at (909) 396-3383.

CALIFORNIA FUEL CELL PARTNERSHIP 2003 RALLY THRU THE VALLEY
- May 14-16 from Sacramento to Los Angeles
Fuel cell vehicles will be on display at Los Angeles Zoo in Griffith Park on May 16 at approximately 11:30 a.m. For more information refer to http://www.cafcp.org/event_upcoming.html.

3RD ANNUAL LOS ANGELES RIVER RIDE
- May 18
Ride and revitalize the L.A. River! Three rides: 1 mile, 15 miles, 70 miles. $35. For more information log on to: http://www.labikecoalition.org/events/larr2003.html.