

Cleaning the air
that we breathe...™



Volume 13
Number 3
May 2006

AQMD AWARDS \$5.7 MILLION FROM BP PENALTY SETTLEMENT FOR AIR QUALITY PROJECTS

Drawing from a major air pollution penalty settlement, the Southland's air pollution control agency on April 7, 2006 awarded \$5.7 million to 18 public health and air quality-related projects, from asthma clinics to mobile air monitors.

The programs are one benefit of a penalty settlement reached last year between the South Coast Air Quality Management District and BP West Coast Products LLC for alleged air pollution violations at the firm's Carson refinery.

"These projects will provide significant air quality and health benefits in communities surrounding BP's refinery as well as across the region," said William Burke, Ed.D., AQMD's Governing Board Chairman.

AQMD's Governing Board approved the projects at the conclusion of a public study session. Since last fall, AQMD has conducted five community meetings and one previous Board study session to receive public input on the community projects. The agency received a total of 255 written proposals with requested funding of nearly \$81 million. AQMD staff recommended selection of the projects based on individual merit, compatibility with AQMD Board objectives, feasibility of the proposals and other factors.

Some of the programs approved included \$1.93 million for four asthma diagnosis, treatment and education programs (one each in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties); \$1 million to extend a program offering financial assistance for dry cleaners to switch to non-toxic cleaning equipment; \$400,000 for mobile air monitoring stations and \$130,000 for a "reverse 911 system" in Carson to alert residents of hazardous materials releases. *For more information, contact Lourdes Cordova Martinez at (909) 396-3214. A complete list of the proposals awarded can be found on page 4.*

Ultrafine Particles Conference Focuses on Health Issues

"Research on ultrafine particles has raised a cautionary flag indicating they may be more harmful than larger particles that currently are regulated," said William A. Burke, Ed.D., Governing Board Chairman of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

In response, Burke announced that AQMD will develop an informational component of its 2007 Air Quality Management Plan addressing the current findings on sources, outdoor levels, health effects and potential control measures for ultrafine particles in the Southland. A draft of the plan is scheduled to be released this summer.

Burke made his remarks on May 2nd at a media briefing during AQMD's three-day international conference, "Ultrafine Particles – the Science, Technology and Policy Issues," in Los Angeles. The conference featured presentations on the latest scientific findings regarding the health effects, ambient levels, control methods and policy implications for ultrafine particles. "This conference is a call to action," Burke said. "We need to fully understand ultrafine particles and their health impacts sooner rather than later so that we can take the necessary steps to protect public health."



AQMD URGES TOUGHER STANDARDS FOR PARTICULATE POLLUTION

At its March meeting, the AQMD Governing Board directed staff to submit a formal comment letter to the U.S. EPA urging them to significantly strengthen its proposal for new health standards for fine particulate pollution.

"EPA's current proposal will not adequately protect public health," said William Burke, AQMD Governing Board Chairman. "We think EPA should follow the recommendations of its own expert panel and adopt standards that will provide an adequate margin of safety for our most vulnerable residents."

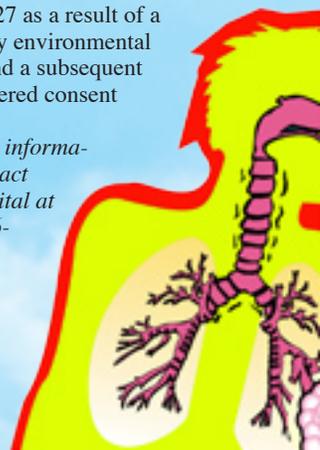
At issue is the degree to which EPA's Proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Particulate Matter will strengthen – and in some cases drop – health standards for particulates known as PM10, PM2.5 and PM10-2.5.

Particulate matter is a complex mix of microscopic particles from myriad sources including diesel soot, tire dust, soil and condensation of combustion gases. When inhaled, fine particles are readily trapped deep in lung tissues and even transferred to the blood stream.

They have emerged as one of the greatest health threats from air pollution and are associated with a wide range of health effects from increased hospital visits to exacerbation of respiratory diseases including asthma, and premature deaths.

Although the Southland is close to complying with the federal PM10 standard, the area continues to have the highest PM2.5 levels in the nation. EPA must finalize new PM standards by Sept. 27 as a result of a lawsuit by environmental groups and a subsequent court-ordered consent decree.

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



U.S. COURT STRIKES DOWN EPA CHANGES WEAKENING NEW SOURCE REVIEW POLICY



A U.S. federal appeals court recently struck down a change in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) New Source Review (NSR) policy that would have allowed older factories, refineries and power plants to upgrade their facilities without having to install the most advanced pollution controls and could increase the amount of health threatening air pollution.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled on March 17 that the EPA's revised NSR policy, which was issued in 2003, but never went into effect because of legal challenges by officials from 14 states including California, and also environmental groups, violated the Clean Air Act and that only Congress could authorize such revisions.

The revised policy was the result of the Bush Administration's efforts beginning in 2001 when the President took office, to ease regulations on power plants and refineries as part of a larger energy production initiative. The central question in the case focused on what constitutes a physical change or modification in an industrial facility, because that is what triggers the federal requirement to cut down on the smog or soot emitted by utilities, oil refineries, incinerators, chemical plants and manufacturing operations.

"EPA through its historical practice and its words, has acknowledged that the equipment replacements covered by the ERP (Equipment Replacement Provision) are 'physical changes' under one of the ordinary meanings of the phrase" the court wrote. "EPA may not choose to exclude that real-world, common-sense usage of the word 'change.'"

The Court also declared that "...a physical change is not the sole criterion for triggering NSR under the definition of 'modification'. The expansive meaning of any 'physical change' is strictly limited by the requirement that the change increases emissions."

Under the revised policy that was rejected by the court, power plants and other industrial polluters would not have to install new pollution technology if they modernized less than 20 percent of their operations. EPA officials in the Bush administration sought to broaden this exemption by asserting that routine maintenance is any activity that amounts to less than 20 percent of a plant's value. But the court's ruling rejected that reasoning as illogical.

"EPA's approach would ostensibly require that the definition of 'modification' include a phrase such as regardless of size, cost, frequency, effect, or other distinguishing characteristic. Only in a Humpty Dumpty world would Congress be required to use superfluous words while an agency could ignore an expansive word that Congress did use. We decline to adopt such a world-view," the court wrote. It is not known at this time whether the administration intends to appeal this ruling.

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

RECENT HEALTH STUDIES HIGHLIGHT HEALTH EFFECTS OF PARTICULATE MATTER

The reduction of fine particulates is necessary due to their short- and long-term health impacts. Recent studies have shown elevated mortality rates with high Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 levels and that the relative risk is about three times higher in Southern California than in national studies. When inhaled, fine particles are readily trapped deep in lung tissues and even transferred to the blood stream. They have emerged as one of the greatest health threats from air pollution and are associated with a wide range of health effects from increased hospital visits to exacerbation of respiratory diseases including asthma, and premature deaths.

Short-term exposure to PM_{2.5} can aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis. Long-term exposure to PM has been associated with consequences like reduced lung function and the development of chronic bronchitis and even premature death.

Highlights of the more than 50 new studies on the health effects of particulate pollution and ozone air pollution were released earlier this year by the American Lung Association. Some of the highlights of the new studies include:

- *A long-term study showing risk of premature death attributable to PM is three times greater than previously reported;*
- *Studies linking daily exposures to PM with increased hospital admissions for strokes, congestive heart failure, heart attacks, COPD and other respiratory problems;*
- *A toxicology study showing links between exposure to PM_{2.5} at levels near or below the current standards and development of atherosclerotic plaques;*
- *Studies linking prenatal exposure to air pollution with increased risk of low birth weight, preterm birth, infant mortality, and cancer;*
- *Research showing that coarse particles exacerbate respiratory disease;*
- *Intervention studies showing that reductions in air pollution yield measurable improvement in children's respiratory health and reduction in premature deaths; and*
- *Policy analyses showing the need for strong annual and daily fine particle standards to protect susceptible populations and provide equivalent levels of protection to different regions of the country.*

A copy of these 2005 Research Highlights can be found on the American Lung Association web site, under Health Effects Information, located at www.cleanairstandards.org/article/archive/15/.



EIGHT NEW MEMBERS JOIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP

In March, the Local Government and Small Business Assistance Advisory Group welcomed eight new members. They are:

- **Daniel Cunningham** -- Executive Director of the Metal Finishing Association of Southern California
- **Geoff Blake** -- Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager of DriLube/All Metals
- **Jacob Haik** -- Field Deputy to Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn
- **Harold Martinez** -- President and CEO of Able Industrial Products
- **Todd Priest** -- Vice President, Government & Community Affairs of the Orange County Business Council
- **Rachel Lopez** -- Healthy Communities Director for the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
- **Kelly Moulton** -- Paralegal
- **Nancy Ramos** -- Council Member, City of Commerce

The 20-person Advisory Group was established in 1997 to provide input and review and make recommendation on implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), public outreach, role of local government in achieving clean air, and small business issues. The group also provides policy level recommendations on issues within the Agency's jurisdiction that impact local governments and small businesses.

For more information, contact Lourdes Cordova Martinez at (909) 396-3214.

CLEANER SMALL ENGINES ARE SAFE, EPA STUDY CONCLUDES

In a report that clears the way for less-polluting gas-powered lawn equipment and watercraft, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concluded that the technology needed to meet potential tougher standards for gasoline engines below 50 horsepower will not increase the risk of fire or burns to consumers.

Mandated by Congress, the study released in March 2006 was peer reviewed and developed in coordination with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Other federal agencies and more than twenty outside experts, including fire marshals and engine manufacturers, were consulted during the study. EPA plans to propose new standards for this class of engines this year. To read the report, go to <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/equip-ld.htm>.

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

ANNUAL REPORT ASSESSES AB 2588 TOXICS PROGRAM

At the April 7, 2006 Board Meeting, the AQMD Governing Board received the annual AB 2588 report for toxics-emitting facilities in the South Coast basin. The report assesses the past 12 months' activities in fulfillment of the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act. AB 2588 is a state-wide program with two goals:

- to identify and address public cancer and non-cancer risks from hazardous air contaminants; and
- to provide incentives for businesses to expeditiously transition to cleaner processes and products.

The businesses covered under AB 2588 range from large (such as refineries, manufacturers of aerospace & aircraft components, and metal platers) to smaller businesses (such as fuel stations, dry cleaners, autobody, and print shops).

The South Coast region is home to nearly 800 facilities subject to the program, more than any other air district in the state. Facilities are prioritized according to the potency, toxicity, and amount of toxics they release into the air as well as the distance to workers, residents, and sensitive receptors such as hospitals and schools.

Highlights for 2005 included: continuing to operate without a backlog of facility health risk assessments; a majority of risk reductions implemented much sooner than required; and web-based display of facility emissions. For 2006, staff plans to develop and seek Board approval of a work plan to incorporate diesel particulate matter into Rules 1401 and 1402, and develop public notification procedures for internal combustion engines, dry cleaners & gas stations.

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

BP Settlement Awards - continued from page 1

Project	Lead Agency/Organization	Funding
Provide financial incentives to replace dry cleaning machines with non-toxic equipment	Korean Dry Cleaners & Laundry Association	\$1,000,000
Two-year childhood asthma program	Riverside County Dept. of Public Health	\$500,000
Breathmobile asthma care and education	Children's Hospital of Orange County	\$500,000
Coordinated Asthma Referral and Education (CARE) program	San Bernardino County Dept. Public Health	\$500,000
Electronic hand-held equipment for field inspection of facilities	AQMD	\$500,000
Support for urban forest management and tree planting	California Urban Forest Council	\$450,000
Portable air monitoring stations	AQMD	\$400,000
Mobile pediatric clinic for uninsured children in South Bay area	Little Company of Mary	\$250,000
Air pollution & asthma research	AQMD Asthma Consortium	\$250,000
Remote emissions sampling & cameras at refineries	AQMD	\$200,000
Remote sensing devices near refineries	AQMD	\$150,000
Train 1,000 teachers in Clean Air Challenge curriculum	Clean Air Now	\$140,000
Reverse 9-1-1 system to notify residents of hazardous materials releases	City of Carson	\$130,000
Middle school air quality curriculum	Think Earth	\$100,000
Enhance smog day notifications for schools	AQMD	\$100,000
Provide air quality technical assistance to community groups	Communities for a Better Environment	\$60,000
Healthy Start Community Center (two year funding)	Lennox Unified School District	\$50,000
Total		\$5,710,000

AQMD PARTICIPATES IN CALIFORNIA SOLAR INITIATIVE WITH ROOFTOP POWER PRODUCTION

Recently, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) created the largest solar program of its kind in the country - the California Solar Initiative, a 10-year, \$2.9 billion program designed to help California move toward a cleaner energy future and bring down the costs of solar electricity for consumers. The goal of the program is to increase the amount of installed solar capacity on rooftops in the state by 3,000 megawatts by 2017. Additionally, state legislation has mandated that investor-owned utilities such as Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG & E) and San Diego Gas and Electric ensure that 20 percent of all electricity supplied to California by 2017 be generated by renewable energy. This amounts to 9,000 megawatts. State energy agencies, such as the CEC and the PUC, have encouraged utilities to go beyond legislation and accelerate their renewable energy targets instead to 20 percent of their portfolio by 2010 and 33 percent by 2017.

To participate in this push for greener power, the South Coast AQMD issued an RFP in late 2004, and then awarded a contract to SolSource Energy to design and build an 80 kilowatt AC solar photovoltaic system on the roof of AQMD's Diamond Bar headquarters. The final contract amount was \$720,000, with half of the funding to be provided by the state in rebates that encourage the deployment of clean energy, under the Self Generation Incentive Program.

With minimal maintenance, the RWE Schott solar panels, mounted without roof penetrations, are guaranteed to produce power for 20 years, with output of at least 550,000 kilowatt hours expected over the first 5 years of operation. AQMD now has about 100 kilowatts of the cleanest energy available, which, in turn, can be used to produce renewable, zero-emission hydrogen for mobile applications.

A state-of-the-art monitoring system will provide almost instant readings on the system's performance. The data will be displayed on the internet and can be accessed from any remote location. A touch screen kiosk in the AQMD lobby will display the system data for AQMD visitors.

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



AQMD'S 2006 LAWN MOWER EXCHANGE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Registration for the South Coast AQMD's 2006 Lawn Mower Exchange Program is now open. Through this program, people can turn in their old gasoline-powered lawn mowers (must be in operating condition) and purchase a new cordless electric powered lawn mower for just \$100. Made by the Neuton Lawn Mower Company, this rechargeable battery-powered mower is a \$399 value.

There will be seven events on consecutive Saturdays at different locations throughout the agency's 4-county jurisdiction.

- May 6 -- Chino - Chino Fairgrounds, 5410 Edison Ave.
- May 13 -- Riverside - California Baptist College, 8432 Magnolia Ave.
- May 20 -- Van Nuys - Los Angeles Valley College, corner of Burbank Blvd. and Coldwater Canyon Extension
- June 3 -- South Pasadena - South Pasadena Unified School District HQ, 1020 El Centro St.
- June 10 -- Santa Ana - Orange County Hall of Administration, Parking Lot, N.E. corner of Ross St. and Santa Ana Blvd.
- June 17 -- Inglewood - Hollywood Park, 1050 S. Prairie Ave.

You must pre-register, which you can do over the internet, or by calling the toll-free registration line Tuesday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.

The web site is <http://www.aqmd.gov>, and the toll free phone number is (888) 425-6247.

AQMD LAUNCHES AIR QUALITY INSTITUTE

The implementation of the AQMD's Air Quality Institute, which will offer a half-day curriculum on general air quality, and economic and environmental justice issues, as well as a one-day session of briefings in Sacramento on current and relevant topics to legislators, business and community leaders, administration and agency officials, is scheduled to get underway this summer. The Institute was previously approved by the AQMD Governing Board on January 6.

Course topics include health impacts of pollution, air quality impacts upon different receptors, mobile and stationary sources, future state/federal legislative actions, AQMD regulations and policies, future strategies for attaining air quality standards, economic considerations, and issues affecting impacted communities.

Topics for the one-day session of briefings in Sacramento will be "hot button" issues, such as goods movement, alternative fuel vehicle deployment, and funding initiatives, among others.

The first 6-hour course program is scheduled in August in Los Angeles County, with two courses being taught afterwards in each of the AQMD's four-county region, concluding in October.

The Air Quality Institute will give participants an appreciation for the complexity of today's hot-button air quality issues, and also an understanding of how to become part of the solution to these air quality challenges.

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

AQMD EXPANDS PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

The South Coast Air Quality Management District on April 7, 2006 approved a plan to expand its development and demonstration of plug-in hybrid vehicles, a technology capable of producing 100 mpg cars.

"Today's hybrids improve fuel economy and reduce global warming emissions," said Ron Lovridge, Governing Board Member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. "Tomorrow's plug-in hybrids take the technology to the next level by producing zero emissions for the majority of commuting trips."

AQMD's Governing Board adopted a plan to expand its existing plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) program by increasing its efforts on technology development and establishing an outreach plan to help accelerate the commercial viability of the technology.

A plug-in hybrid vehicle is similar to hybrids currently on the market such as the Toyota Prius, but the plug-in technology has a larger battery and is plugged in overnight to recharge. Plug-in vehicles typically travel for 20 to 30 miles on battery power alone with zero emissions. A typical PHEV sedan could get 100 miles per gallon.

The plan includes both a technical and outreach component. Battery technology issues, including durability, cost and safety need to be addressed if PHEVs are to become commercially viable. Under the plan adopted, AQMD will establish a working group with key partners, including auto manufacturers and technical advisors, to assist the AQMD in developing a PHEV technical plan to address batteries and infrastructure, early demonstration of PHEV models and deployment strategies.

The expansion of the program will also include outreach to local governments, environmental and community groups and others to educate them on the benefits of PHEV technology and suggest ways they may incorporate the vehicles into their fleets. In addition, AQMD will assist the Plug-in Partners National Campaign by showcasing early demonstration vehicles. The program, initiated by Austin Energy, the electric utility in Austin, Texas, seeks to secure early orders of demonstration PHEVs in the 50 largest U.S. cities.

AQMD has supported plug-in hybrid vehicles since 2000 through funding for a market study on the technology, and development and demonstration of numerous plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Currently, AQMD has two projects underway: to demonstrate seven DaimlerChrysler PHEV Sprinter delivery vans, and five Toyota Priuses converted to PHEVs.

The PHEV program is one of a variety of programs funded by the AQMD to demonstrate the viability of new, lower-emission vehicle technologies, including fuel cell vehicles, hydrogen internal-combustion engines, low-emission heavy-duty engines and other projects.

For more information, contact Matt Miyasoto at (909)

RULE UPDATE

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 website 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 website at www.aqmd.gov/rules/rules.html or provided by AQMD's Public Information Center, (909) 396-2039.

Proposed Amended Rule 1146.1-Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Small Industrial, Institutional, and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters

A proposal to lower the NOx emission limits for boilers, steam generators, and process heaters in the 2 to 5 mm btu/hr range. For more information, contact Joe Cassmassi at jcassmassi@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3155.

Proposed Amended Rule 1470-Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines

Rule 1470 would be amended to reflect recently approved amendments to the state Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines.

For more information, contact Susan Nakamura at snakamura@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3105.

Proposed Rule 1470.1-Risk Requirements for Stationary Diesel-Fueled Internal Combustion and Other Compression Ignition Engines

A proposal to implement AB 2588 and to address the health risk from diesel particulate from internal combustion sources.

For more information, contact Susan Nakamura at snakamura@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3105.

Proposed Rule 223-Facility Permit – Agricultural Facilities (SB 700)

Establish a framework for a master permit for agricultural facilities and crop operations, and provide for emissions inventory and reductions required pursuant to SB 700.

For more information, contact Larry Bowen at lbowen@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-2575.

Proposed Amended Regulation III-Fees

Amend fee rules in accordance with FY 2006-07 AQMD Budget.

For more information, contact Larry Bowen at lbowen@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-2575.

PM10 Emission Reductions from Aggregate and Related Operations

Proposed amendments to modify the high wind exemption provisions and other administrative changes pursuant to settlement agreements stemming from litigation.

For more information, contact Lee Lockie at llockie@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-2390.

Proposed Amended Rules 1304-Exemptions; 1306-Emission Calculations; 1315-NSR Tracking System

Clarifies the applicability of exemptions from specified rule requirements; would implement an emission tracking system to demonstrate equivalency with federal NSR requirements.

For more information, contact Larry Bowen at lbowen@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-2575.

Proposed Rule 410-Odor Abatement for Solid Waste Transfer Stations and Processing Facilities

Would require large solid waste transfer stations and material recycling facilities to implement odor management practices to minimize odors from their operations.

For more information, contact Susan Nakamura at snakamura@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3105.

Proposed Amended Rule 1302-Definitions

Rule 1302 will amend definition of Essential Public Service to include publicly owned or operated biosolids processing operations.

For more information, contact Henry Hogo at hhogo@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3184.

Proposed Amended Rule 1309.1-Priority Reserve

Would extend the access to the Priority Reserve for qualifying electric generating facilities and adjust the amounts to be paid for credits.

For more information, contact Larry Bowen at lbowen@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-2575.

Recent Events

- Governing Board members and staff participated in dedicating hydrogen fueling sites at five cities -- Anaheim, Burbank, Ontario, Riverside and Santa Monica. The five cities' hydrogen fueling sites add to a growing network of hydrogen stations in the Southland. Three other stations -- at AQMD headquarters in Diamond Bar, LAX and Sunline Transit Agency in Thousand Palms -- now are operational. An additional two stations, at UC Irvine and in Torrance, are expected to be completed by the end of the year. All 10 stations will provide hydrogen for fuel cell and internal combustion engine vehicles.

- AQMD staff held seven special events throughout the District to offer professional gardeners an opportunity to exchange highly polluting, backpack leaf blowers with new low-polluting, low-noise models. The very successful series of events resulted in gardeners exchanging their highly polluting, backpack leaf blowers with new low-polluting, low-noise models. The 1,500 polluting leaf blowers emit as much pollution as 120,000 new cars.

- Throughout the District, from San Bernardino to San Juan Capistrano to Santa Monica and Burbank, AQMD staff participated in over 15 Earth Day fairs in March and April. Staff distributed information and conducted experiments for both children and adults and displayed natural gas, hybrid, and fuel cell cars.



Clean Air PEOPLE

Meet the diversely talented people who work at the AQMD



AQMD Advisor

Al Baez

As a senior air quality engineer in AQMD's Science & Technology Advancement division, Al Baez finds himself in great position to feed his lifetime addiction: a thirst for knowledge. "Here, we harness science to make technology cleaner, and there's always more to learn," he says.

Raised in Calexico, California, Al earned a bachelor-of-science degree in mechanical and environmental engineering from UC Santa Barbara and a master's degree in mechanical engineering & design from CSU Los Angeles. His early career included a stint at the historic Solar One power plant project in Barstow, which raised his interest in environmentally friendly energy production.

In 1988, he was recruited by the District to become an assistant air quality engineer, and began work in permit processing. Over the years, he has also worked on rule development, compliance assistance, and Best Available Control Technology (BACT) implementation, including microturbine setups.

"I've especially enjoyed the challenge of putting myself in the shoes of a mom-and-pop business owner, working with them one-on-one. There are lots of small firms that can't afford a consultant's help, and may have to install control equipment themselves. First it's important to earn their trust, so we can work together as a team to lower their emissions."

Al is quite the polymath in his spare time.

Among other hobbies, he collects vintage records, plays guitar, gardens, reads science fiction, sews and constructs holiday costumes, and is an avid amateur astronomer. "My favorite constellation is Orion's Nebula," he says. "It looks like sparkling gems - you're seeing stars being born."

Al and his wife Kazuko, a professional sushi chef, and twin girls, Melissa and Kelsey, age 8, all share home with their beloved Maltese dog JJ. "They all bring me down to earth when I get too far off the ground," he says.

It has taken about 15 years for Marvin Ignacio to get to the AQMD. Marvin tried 15 years ago, when so many others tried for positions, and finally, last September he joined the AQMD family in the Public Affairs Division as an Engineer, working in the Small Business Assistance Program under Paul Yang. Marvin works with companies on permits helping them to understand the complexity of the rules and regulations which help clean the air that we breathe. Marvin has a history of working in the environmental field. Prior to coming to the AQMD, Marvin worked for Air Products as a Chemist, then as an Environment and Safety Specialist. Marvin received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of the Philippines.



Marvin Ignacio

On January 1, 2006, Marvin and his wife Glenda became the proud parents of twin baby girls. Giselle and Mariel were born at 9:08 and 9:12 p.m. making them the first set of twins in the San Gabriel Valley vicinity. Pizza Hut honored the family with one year's worth of free pizza, and they got their pictures in the paper. The twins have an older brother, Mathew, who is 3 years of age.

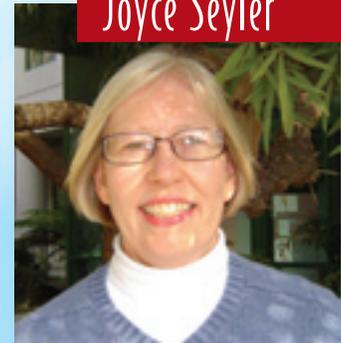
When asked about his hobbies, Marvin responded that he used to enjoy golf, but the twins have replaced that past time. "With twins," he stated, "it's all about what they want, when they want it, at least for now." He said he is looking forward to the time when he can get eight hours of uninterrupted sleep.

If you have ever donated to the "Shoes That Fit" program, then you most likely have worked with Joyce Seyler. The Shoes That Fit program is a real passion of hers and rightly so.

Joyce started with the AQMD in 1988 as an Office Assistant and has worked in Permit Services and Customer Services. She was promoted many years ago to Sr. Office Assistant and as of this writing was just transferred to Toxic & Waste Management, under Jay Chen, in the Engineering and Compliance Division. Prior to that she worked in the Finance Division in Customer Service where she answered phones and dealt with bill adjustments. As she says "I was one of the 2900 ladies." The "2900" refers to the extension that they all answer in customer services.

Before coming to the AQMD, Joyce worked for twenty years with a communications company. However, her passion lies in the charity work with "Shoes That Fit." This is a national charity, and the AQMD has adopted one school in the Claremont area to funnel donations to. Popular during the holiday seasons, this year-round charity furnishes shoes and clothing for children who are less fortunate. Joyce stated "When I get out of the car carrying packages they all crowd around me like I am Santa Claus." She really derives pleasure in this worthy past-time. She has been doing this for over ten years.

Besides work, Joyce enjoys: reading, photography, travel, camping, and hiking. She has been married for 37 years to Steve and they have a dog named Smokie and a cat, Samantha, or Sammy for short. "We need to be more aggressive about our commitment to clean the air, because cleaning up the air is not a spectator's sport!" Joyce said. "We all need to do our part," she added.



Joyce Seyler



South Coast
Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Walnut, CA
Permit No. 95

Briefly...

Rule Compliance Promotion Classes

Rule 1403-Asbestos Demolition/Renovation Activities

- June 14

The classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at AQMD headquarters. There is a \$32.75 class fee. *To register call (909) 396-2381 or send e-mail to jmoore@aqmd.gov.*

Rule 2202-Employee Transportation Coordinator Training

- May 18, Walt Disney Studios, Burbank
 - June 14, AQMD, Diamond Bar
 - June 28, City Hall, Anaheim
- Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$57.63 per person. Enrollment is limited to 20 students and classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. *To register, call Lisa Patterson at (909) 396-2283 or e-mail lpatterson@aqmd.gov*

Rule 403-Controlling Dust in the South Coast Air Basin

- May 17
- June 14

This half-day class is held at the AQMD 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 will be 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. *To register, call 1-866-861-DUST (3878) or email dustcontrol@aqmd.gov.*

AQMDAdvisor

This bimonthly news publication is produced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Public Affairs Office. AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange county and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. *AQMD does not endorse or warrant any products, services or companies mentioned in this publication.*

To subscribe, send your name and address to: *AQMD Advisor*, AQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182, or e-mail aqmdadvisor@aqmd.gov.

For news updates and other information, visit AQMD's website at www.aqmd.gov.

The AQMD Advisor is now available online at www.aqmd.gov/pubinfo/web-pubs.htm or visit aqmd.gov and select "Quick Links" / "Advisor."



Printed on Recycled Paper