SOUTH COAST AQMD TO PARTNER WITH GOOGLE FOR MOBILE SENSING PROJECT

The Air Quality Sensor Performance Evaluation Center (AQ-SPEC) at South Coast AQMD began a partnership with Google Earth Outreach to test the performance of low-cost sensors on moving vehicles. As part of this project, low-cost sensors will take measurements of ambient air on a Google StreetView car that is driving through different locations.

The project is intended to analyze the potentials and limitations of low-cost air monitoring sensors for measuring fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and ozone (O3), and determine which types may be best suited for mobile uses.

AQ-SPEC has been conducting stationary and laboratory testing of commercially available low-cost sensors since 2014, and this new project will provide additional information on the performance of low-cost sensors when used in mobile monitoring applications. A protocol with best practices for conducting mobile monitoring using sensors will also be developed as part of this collaboration with Google. This will be particularly important for community scientists and groups that are interested in conducting measurement surveys at the neighborhood level.

Mobile sensors gathering street level data will allow collection of more air pollution information over a much larger area than traditional air monitoring technologies that stay in one location. These mobile measurements are expected to demonstrate how much pollution can change over very short distances, such as a city block or throughout a neighborhood.

Given their comparatively low-cost compared to traditional fixed-site equipment, when proven to be accurate and reliable, mobile sensors could also become useful tools for introducing students to air quality issues, and for environmental groups and individuals to independently evaluate air quality. For more information on the Air Quality Sensor Performance Evaluation Center, visit: http://www.aqmd.gov/aq-spec.

CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN SEASON STARTS NOVEMBER

Beginning November 2019 through the end of February 2020, local residents are asked to “Check Before You Burn” and refrain from burning wood in residential fireplaces, backyard fire pits and wood stoves on days when unhealthy air quality is forecast.

From late fall to early winter, the South Coast AQMD issues mandatory no-burn alerts for days when emissions and stagnant weather conditions are expected to raise fine particulate pollution to unhealthy levels.

There are three ways you can Check Before You Burn:

• E-mail Notification Program - sign up at www.airalerts.org to receive Air Alerts on air quality and to be notified when a mandatory no-burn alert has been issued for your neighborhood.

• Check Before You Burn Map - visit www.aqmd.gov/CheckBeforeYouBurnMap for daily forecast information.

• Toll-Free Phone Number – call 866-966-3293 for daily Check Before You Burn information.

For more information, visit www.aqmd.gov/cbyb.

CLEAN AIR RANGER EDUCATION PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

On October 10, 2019, nearly 600 students eagerly stood in line to sit in an electric vehicle during recess at Twentieth Street Elementary School in Los Angeles. South Coast AQMD staff played exciting music, passed out branded wristbands, and presented ways the students could help clean the air.

South Coast AQMD’s Environmental Justice Community Partnership (EJCP) is piloting the Clean Air Ranger Education (CARE) Program this year with the goal of educating and empowering elementary school students in environmental justice communities on air quality and environmental health issues. South Coast AQMD staff participate in school assemblies that provide information on ways students can help clean the air, demonstrations on zero-emission technologies and a presentation on how smog forms. The program also provides schools with air quality flags that are used to illustrate daily air quality conditions as well as backpacks and folders with additional information on South Coast AQMD programs for distribution to parents.

The next presentation will be at North Verdumont Elementary School in San Bernardino on November 15.

For more information on the CARE Program, contact Alicia Rodriguez at arodriguez1@aqmd.gov.
September 6, 2019 marked a major milestone toward bringing environmental justice to disadvantaged communities in the South Coast Air Basin. The South Coast AQMD Governing Board adopted the Community Emissions Reduction Plans (CERPs) for the three communities designated in the first year of the AB 617 program.

Following input from the Community Steering Committees (CSCs) in each of the three communities, the three CERPs identify actions to reduce emissions and exposures to criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in the communities of:

- Wilmington, Carson, and West Long Beach;
- East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, and West Commerce;
- San Bernardino and Muscoy.

The adoption of these plans come after a total of 41 meetings, workshops and community tours, and more than 60 individual meetings. Each CERP is a collaborative effort between South Coast AQMD staff and CSC members, and is tailored to address the air quality priorities for that community.

“We embrace our responsibility to ensure that all residents, especially those historically underrepresented, have access to resources that can improve the air they breathe,” said Dr. William A. Burke, South Coast AQMD’s Governing Board Chair. “This level of collaboration between the agency and these communities is unprecedented. Never before has something of this magnitude been attempted, and we will do everything within our power to make real changes for impacted residents.”

The plans include specific actions that go beyond existing efforts by South Coast AQMD, including an implementation schedule, an enforcement plan, and a description of the process and outreach conducted to develop them.

The plans will head to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for final approval, and both agencies will work together to implement the plans.

At the September meeting, the Governing Board also recommended two additional communities in Southeast Los Angeles and the Eastern Coachella Valley for inclusion in the AB 617 program:

- South Gate, Florence-Firestone (eastern portion), Walnut Park, Huntington Park (western portion), Cudahy, Bell Gardens (southern portion)
- Indio, Coachella, Thermal, Oasis, Mecca and North Shore

The Board’s recommendations will be forwarded to CARB for final selection.

For more information on the AB 617 program, please visit www.aqmd.gov/ab617.
APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR ZERO-EMISSION TRANSIT, SCHOOL, AND SHUTTLE BUSES

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is now accepting applications for the first installment of $65 million of a total of $130 million in Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust funds for replacing older, high-polluting Class 4-8 transit, school, and shuttle buses with new battery-electric or fuel-cell buses.

Replacing an older bus with a zero-emissions bus eliminates particulate matter and other pollutants that impact children and residents riding the buses, as well as residents throughout California communities. Under this funding category, approximately 425 vehicles will be replaced with an incentive amount of up to $400,000 per vehicle.

The zero-emission bus replacement program is one of five funding categories under the VW Environmental Mitigation Trust Program. Other categories include: zero-emission freight and port drayage trucks, combustion and zero emission freight and marine projects, and light-duty zero-emission infrastructure.

Over a 10-year period, the settlement will provide about $423 million for California to mitigate excess nitrogen oxide emissions caused by VW’s use of illegal defeat devices in certain VW diesel vehicles. The VW mitigation funds are expected to reduce 10,000 tons of NOx emissions by investing in zero-emission and other clean technologies to help improve long-term air quality, climate, zero-emission vehicle, and petroleum use reduction goals.

Funding is available statewide to public and private entities, with applications available through online portals only. Scraping of old vehicles/equipment/engines is required, and at least 50 percent of the funding is expected to reduce emissions in disadvantaged or low-income communities.

For more information and instructions on how to apply for funding for zero-emission buses, visit http://vwbusmoney.valleyair.org/.

NEW DECAL AND BRANDING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CLEAN TRUCKS

South Coast AQMD will be initiating the use of a Clean Air Truck decal to highlight clean air technologies funded by South Coast AQMD. This will help build public awareness of the agency and the progress being made to advance the use of clean vehicle technologies to reduce emissions and improve our local air quality and quality of life.

Use of the decal will commence in spring 2020 at the start of the next Carl Moyer Program funding cycle. Placement of the decal on trucks funded by the program will be required. The decal program will be expanded to include other incentive programs including on-road vehicles, off-road equipment such as agricultural and warehouse equipment, and also technology demonstration projects within the South Coast air basin.

Similar funding decals have been used by the CA Energy Commission and US EPA and serve to bring attention to these clean air technologies.

For more information on the Carl Moyer program, visit http://www.aqmd.gov/moyer

BOARD APPROVES ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR ZERO-EMISSION COMMERCIAL ELECTRIC LAWN AND GARDEN EQUIPMENT

The South Coast AQMD Governing Board approved an additional 25 percent discount on zero-emission lawn and garden equipment at the October 4 monthly meeting.

A total of $750,000 will be allocated to the six equipment manufacturers currently participating in the Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Incentive and Exchange program increasing equipment discounts to 75% of retail price. To date over 1,600 pieces of equipment have been exchanged for zero emissions models.

Eligible participants can purchase qualifying equipment from ECHO, Husqvarna, Makita, Mean Green, Oregon and STIHL, authorized dealers in Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties at a reduced price set by the agency in exchange for scrapping an equivalent, operable piece of diesel- or gasoline-powered equipment. Dealers will accept and scrap the old equipment with priority given to participants operating in environmental justice communities in the South Coast Air Basin.

Using equipment that operates with zero emissions is more protective of public health, improves air quality and saves money on gasoline and maintenance.

According to studies by the California Air Resources Board (CARB):

- 42 percent of engines fail CARB’s evaporative emission test.
- Operators are exposed to carcinogens such as benzene and butadiene, therefore increasing their cancer risks.

This exchange program is funded through South Coast AQMD’s Air Quality Investment Program and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Targeted Air Shed Grant.

A revamped program will kick-off in the new year.

For more information call 888-425-6247 (Tuesday-Friday), email lawngarden@aqmd.gov, or visit the South Coast AQMD’s web site at: www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower.
S. ROY WILSON LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENT AWARD
Gina McCarthy
Former United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

THE ROBERT M. ZWEIG, M.D. MEMORIAL AWARD
Dr. Jill Johnston
Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine and Director of Community Outreach & Engagement in Environmental Health, University of Southern California

YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN AIR QUALITY
Pacoima Beautiful’s Youth United Toward Environmental Protection (YUTEP)

Youth Leadership Institute, Coachella Valley

Youth Leadership Institute by Alianza’s Youth Organizing Council prepares young adults in Eastern Coachella Valley to be future leaders by helping them put their values into words and their words into actions. Four Salton Sea-area residents produced “Estamos Aqui: A Community Documentary”, a 30-minute video which reflects on a community impacted by environmental issues and highlights community voices and the future of the eastern Coachella Valley. As the Salton Sea in the east Coachella Valley continues to shrink, toxic dust and other airborne issues continue to affect those in the surrounding areas.

MODEL COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT
San Bernardino County Council of Governments with Partners BYD, Daylight Transport, CALSTART, BNSF and the California Air Resources Board

In March 2017, San Bernardino County Council of Governments and partners Daylight Transport and BYD Motors celebrated the arrival of the first of 27 next-generation, zero-emission electric yard and service trucks in three disadvantaged communities in San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Fontana. Over the two-year duration of the demonstration project, the zero-emission trucks are expected to reduce emissions of about 3,500 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent, 3,250 pounds of nitrogen oxide and 170 pounds of diesel soot.

CLEAN AIR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH AWARD
California Safe Schools (CSS)

CSS is committed to ensuring that all students, teachers, staff, and community members who attend, work or live near school sites are in a safe toxic-free environment. CSS was an early advocate for the retrofit or replacement of diesel school buses and spearheaded the most stringent pesticide policy in nation for schools. To date, CSS has provided direct assistance to millions of California school children, parents, teachers, school districts, and school employees, and members of the public, especially in environmental justice communities, through protective environmental health policies, legislation, and programs.

Port of Long Beach Academy of Global Logistics at Cabrillo High School

The Port of Long Beach Academy of Global Logistics (AGL) at Cabrillo High School is a unique real-world educational experience for students on air quality, logistics, and zero-emissions technology. AGL combines academic curriculum with industry-relevant training to engage and inspire students living in West Long Beach which is an AB 617 community heavily impacted by air pollution from goods movement. Cabrillo High School senior students participated in the Zero Emissions Transformation Capstone project, where industry experts on zero-emissions presented every other week, and students participated in a field trip to learn about Port of Long Beach (POLB) operations. In spring 2019, a student group presented their findings to POLB staff, school district representatives and CARB.

The program has proven to be a significant incentive for students to learn about air pollution and port operations.

INNOVATIVE CLEAN AIR TECHNOLOGY
Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA)

DTNA is deploying 30 zero-emission, battery-electric powered, Class 6 and Class 8, heavy-duty trucks in the South Coast Air Basin. This project provides immediate emission reductions in environmental justice and AB 617 communities such as West Long Beach, while simultaneously accelerating the development and deployment of several innovative mobile-source air pollution control technologies that have potential for commercialization in the near term. These trucks will displace over 472,000 gallons of diesel fuel use per year, and will reduce nitrogen oxide, reactive organic gases and particulate matter 2.5 emissions in the region by 177.77 tons over 10 years. Operation of these thirty zero-emission units will generate significant volumes of data and information on a multitude of pertinent issues relating to the commercial and operational viability of all-electric heavy-duty trucks.
How To File An Air Quality Complaint

By Phone
Call 1-800-CUT-SMOG

Online
Visit www.AQMD.gov and select Complaints under the Air Quality tab

Select the Complaint System link in the description, fill out the required fields and select Submit

During non-business hours, please leave a voicemail and include the above information. Complaints received during business hours are dispatched to an inspector for investigation. The inspector will contact the complainant to obtain any additional information and may meet with the complainant in person to determine the presence of the emission. Following an investigation of the alleged source of the complaint, the inspector may attempt to verify emission and take enforcement action if necessary. The inspector will contact the complainant after the investigation is completed to discuss their findings.

Be ready to provide the following:
- Date & time
- Location (city, cross streets)
- Type of emissions (smoke, dust, etc.)
- Odor (rotten eggs, burned plastic, garlic or other familiar material)
- Suspected source
It was a packed house on September 12, when South Coast AQMD hosted its fifth annual environmental justice conference, “Building Alliances & Progressive Solutions” at the Center, Cathedral Plaza Los Angeles.

The conference was part of the Environmental Justice Community Partnership program, which aims to strengthen the agency’s relationships with stakeholders in environmental justice communities. Over 300 local residents, environmental justice leaders, academics, business owners, elected officials, and other members of the community participated.

Panels and breakout sessions addressed current issues affecting local communities, and included discussions on how community-focused strategies, like Assembly Bill 17, are changing how disproportionately impacted communities are being addressed. Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nury Martinez delivered the keynote address.

According to Fabian Wesson, Public Advisor for the South Coast AQMD, “By sharing air quality information with faith-based leaders, they can educate their congregations and communities. We have to get our information out to where people are, and if our faith leaders can see a nexus with air quality and quality of life for their members and their message of faith, then that message can spread to more people. Sometimes it’s not just what you are saying, it’s who is saying it.”

The breakfast will also be an opportunity for the faith leaders to share with the agency the concerns of their parishioners and air quality health challenges they face.

For more information, contact Cristina Lopez at 909-396-2114 or clopez@aqmd.gov.
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