EPA Upholds SCAQMD Authority to Issue Air Permits

After extensive review, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson has rejected a petition from several environmental organizations that sought to reinstate a previous moratorium preventing the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) from issuing certain types of air permits to businesses and public agencies across Southern California.

The EPA decision means that over 1,400 SCAQMD permits that were previously on hold during 2009 while the court-imposed moratorium was in effect, and hundreds of new permits issued during 2010, are no longer in jeopardy of being cancelled by EPA. Rescinding these permits could have curtailed major investments in new projects and impacted thousands of jobs in Southern California.

The 2009 moratorium prevented SCAQMD from issuing permits to essential public services, such as hospitals, schools, fire and police stations, sewage treatment plants, and landfills. Others put on hold included permits for small businesses such as gas stations, dry cleaners, auto body shops, printers, and food manufacturers. Ironically, many of the permits put on hold were necessary to replace industrial equipment with cleaner, less-polluting equipment. If the petition had been accepted, the validity of those same permits could have been threatened.

For more information, contact Barbara Baird at (909) 396-2302 or bbaird@aqmd.gov.

Thousands Attend the 4th Annual South Pasadena Clean-Air Car Show & Green-Living Expo

Residents eager to learn about new technologies and green strategies that can lead to cleaner, healthier air attended the 4th Annual South Pasadena Clean-Air Car Show and Green-Living Expo on Saturday, October 10.

Advanced technology vehicles and green products for the home and garden were on exhibit. The free event also featured educational seminars on electric vehicles, health effects of air pollution and environmentally friendly gardening techniques.

The South Pasadena Clean-Air Car Show and Green-Living Expo was put on by the City of South Pasadena, in partnership with other local and state agencies and organizations. The South Coast Air Quality Management District was a prime sponsor of the event.

Workshops and panel discussions were offered on a variety of topics, such as composting and landscaping, and regional health effects of air pollution. Auto exhibits included hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, electric cars and motorcycles, hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The Clean-Air Car Show and Green-Living Expo also featured live entertainment and Leon ‘Motorman’ Kaplan of KABC-AM 790, who broadcast his show live from the event.

For more information, contact Rainbow Yeung at (909) 396-3373 or ryeung@aqmd.gov.

SCAQMD Provides Funds to Clean Up Heavy-duty Diesel Trucks, Boats and Equipment

SCAQMD has awarded more than $27 million to help clean up diesel trucks, marine vessels and construction equipment throughout the four-county region. Proposals were received in May and June, 2010, in response to the program announcements that were issued for the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program and the Surplus Off-road Opt-in for NOx (SOON) Program, respectively. The hundreds of projects selected for funding will reduce more than 360 tons per year of nitrogen oxide emissions in the Southland.

For more information, contact Randall Pasek at (909) 396-2251 or rpasek@aqmd.gov.
A

LUV Comes to the South Bay

In a unique partnership, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) is utilizing a grant from SCAQMD to begin with Enterprise Fleet Management in a first-of-its-kind demonstration project called LUV—Local Use Vehicle.

Six zero-emission, short-range vehicles, which operate at lower speeds and are designed to take the place of typical gas-consuming vehicles, will be leased as part of the demonstration project. The project will test whether small, short-range vehicles can serve to replace the second and third vehicles per household, which in the South Bay are estimated to exceed 175,000 vehicles.

The LUV pilot project is part of an 18-month demonstration project in the South Bay neighborhoods of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach which features the electric cars which are tested by individuals before being charged by plugging into a conventional 110 volt electric outlet. On December 9, 2010, Ready, Set, Charge, an EV 101a Workshop for Local Governments will be held in Carson. For details, go to the SCAQMD website, www.aqmd.gov.

For more information on the LUV project, contact Opendark Sarkar at (909) 396-2773, or dsarkar@aqmd.gov.

B

Construction to Begin on 12 Natural Gas Fueling Stations

In November 2010, SCAQMD distributed $2.9 million from a California Energy Commission grant for the construction of natural gas fueling stations in Southern California. SCAQMD provided $300,000 to Earth Energy Fuels, Inc. to build a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station in Ontario.

The remaining $2.6 million has been awarded to Clean Energy to construct two LNG fueling stations and eight CNG stations. The LNG stations will be built in Palm Springs and Fontana, while the CNG stations will be constructed in Newport Beach, San Juan Capistrano, Hollywood, South Las Angeles near the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Manhattan Beach, Torrance, El Monte and Fullerton.

For more information, contact Matt Miyasato at (909) 386-3249 or mmiyasato@aqmd.gov.

C

Climate Change Forum held at Los Angeles City Hall

Over 200 people attended a SCAQMD-sponsored Climate Change Forum on October 14th at Los Angeles City Hall. Leading experts participated in three panel discussions. The first session focused on AB 32, California’s landmark program for returning greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Speakers highlighted the significant progress made already, and other actions in progress. The panelists added their perspectives on how these programs will change the way businesses and local governments operate, and how climate change goals can complement other air quality objectives.

The second session dealt with SB 375, which sets regional greenhouse gas emission targets for passenger vehicles that each Metropolitan Planning Organization in the state must meet. This session included a summary of SB 375 requirements and challenges, as well as observations from a variety of different viewpoints on sustainability challenges.

The final panel discussed federal climate change programs including permitting programs, mandatory reporting for large facilities, and attempts at climate change legislation.

The forum agenda and presentations are available at http://aqmdstage.pubinfo/events/ClimateChange/Grum2010/index.htm.

For more information, contact Jill Whynot at (909) 386-3104 or jwhynot@aqmd.gov.

D

Funds Approved for Brain and Lung Tumor Research

During September 2010 meeting, the SCAQMD Governing Board provided $1 million to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation to support the foundation’s research activities. Results from the research will provide scientific information about policy choices for reducing emissions and exposure to pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin, and may provide new insights on how to develop therapeutics to treat brain tumors.

Since 2003, SCAQMD has provided funding to several research organizations, including the foundation, which has been used to fund a number of research projects at local universities and research institutions. Findings from previous research funded by the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation indicated that fine particulate exposure is associated with biochemical changes in the brains of laboratory animals consistent with the molecular pattern found in human brain tumors.

Another project found preliminary associations of particulate matter levels and the risk of childhood brain tumors. One of the hypotheses being tested is whether traffic-related emissions and ultraviolet particles may be linked to the changes found in brain tissue and tumor risk.

For more information, contact Jean Ospital at (909) 396-2582 or jospital@aqmd.gov.

E

Voluntary Residential Wood Burning Curbailment Advisories Begin

Beginning November 1, 2010, and continuing through February 28, 2011, SCAQMD will be issuing residential wood burning curtailment advisories (also called residential no-burn advisories) for residential fireplaces and wood stoves when weather is stagnant and fine particulate pollution levels are high. Smoke from fireplaces and wood stoves create fine particles which can bypass the body’s natural defense systems and lodge deep in the lungs. This can cause reduced lung function, aggravate bronchitis and related lung conditions, and trigger asthma and heart attacks.

A no-burn advisory will be issued for specific areas when the air quality is forecast to be above federal air quality standards for fine particulate matter. The advisories will be posted for the 24-hour period from midnight on the day it is issued until midnight the following day and will apply to residential fireplaces and other permanently installed wood-burning devices. During a residential wood burning curtailment advisory, residents in the no-burn areas are requested to refrain from all indoor and outdoor wood burning.

For more information on health effects of fine particulates, rules for wood-burning fireplaces, and related information, please see http://www.aqmd.gov/healthyhearts/index.htm.

For more information, contact Michael Laybourn at (909) 396-3065 or mlaybourn@aqmd.gov.

A

Alternative fuel vehicles play an important role in Southern California’s efforts to meet the federal standards for fine particulate matter and ozone.

In November 2009, SCAQMD received a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) award to support and promote the deployment of liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles in an interstate operation along the Ontario-Los Angeles Corridor. At its September 2010 Governing Board meeting, SCAQMD awarded $1.5 million of these funds for the construction of an LNG refueling station in Las Vegas, Nevada. Completion of this project will allow heavy-duty LNG trucks to effectively travel from the Southern California ports to Utah along Interstate 15, one of the most heavily traveled goods movement truck routes in the Western United States.

In addition, SCAQMD distributed $2.9 million from a California Energy Commission grant for the construction of natural gas fueling stations in Southern California. SCAQMD provided $300,000 to Earth Energy Fuels, Inc. to build a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station in Ontario.

The remaining $2.6 million has been awarded to Clean Energy to construct two LNG fueling stations and eight CNG stations. The LNG stations will be built in Palm Springs and Fontana, while the CNG stations will be constructed in Newport Beach, San Juan Capistrano, Hollywood, South Las Angeles near the Los Angeles

November 2010 3
November 2010

Case with an automated reservation system, smartcard technology, and low-emission alt-fuel vehicles. This exacerbation of childhood asthma, and potential acceleration of adult atherosclerosis. This award is given in honor of Dr. Zweig, a physician, community activist and a noted environmentalist, who passed away in 2002.

Dr. Gilliland directs the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, based at USC. He is a leading investigator in air pollution research, respiratory health and cancer epidemiology, and gene-environment interactions. His primary research contributions at USC have helped identify associations between ambient air pollution and adverse health impacts such as low birth weight, onset and/or exacerbation of childhood asthma, and potential acceleration of adult atherosclerosis. This award is given in honor of Dr. Zweig, a physician, community activist and a noted environmentalist, who passed away in 2002.

Innovative Transportation Projects Award
CE-CERT, UC Riverside and Honda
UCR IntelliShare

UCR IntelliShare is a campus-based shared vehicle demonstration that began operation in April 1999 and concluded in July 2010, in a partnership between the College of Engineering/Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) of UC Riverside and Honda. In general, shared-use vehicle systems consist of a fleet used by several different individuals throughout the day. In this case with an automated reservation system, smartcard technology, and low-emission alt-fuel vehicles. Shared-use systems offer the potential to reduce users’ costs, decrease need for parking spaces, improve overall air quality, and link with other efficient transportation modes such as rail transit.

3 S. Roy Wilson Memorial Award for Leadership in Government Award
Honorable Robert “Bob” Foster
Mayor of Long Beach

Mayor Foster is being honored with the newly inaugurated S. Roy Wilson Memorial Award for Leadership in Government for his expanded contributions toward implementation of the Clean Air Action Plan at the Port of Long Beach. This award is given in the spirit of the award’s namesake, Riverside County Supervisor and SCAQMD Governing Board Vice Chairman Dr. S. Roy Wilson, who passed away in August 2009. Mayor Foster has served as Mayor of Long Beach since June 2008, having retired as President of Southern California Edison. During his 20 year tenure, Edison developed the largest renewable portfolio (solar, geothermal, biomass and wind) in the United States.

Robert M. Zweig, M.D. Memorial Award
Frank D. Gilliland, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Dr. Gilliland directs the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, based at USC. He is a leading investigator in air pollution research, respiratory health and cancer epidemiology, and gene-environment interactions. His primary research contributions at USC have helped identify associations between ambient air pollution and adverse health impacts such as low birth weight, onset and/or exacerbation of childhood asthma, and potential acceleration of adult atherosclerosis. This award is given in honor of Dr. Zweig, a physician, community activist and a noted environmentalist, who passed away in 2002.

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Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship Award
Dr. Froines has a long and distinguished history in teaching and conducting pioneering research on air pollution related health effects. At UCLA he has served as the Director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, and has directed the Southern California Particle Center and SuperSites. He is Associate Director of the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center. He is on the faculty of UCLA’s Institute of the Environment. He enthusiastically participates in community forums and has participated in numerous legislative hearings on improving public health related to exposures to toxic substances, including diesel exhaust and ultrafine particulates.

Public Education on Air Quality Issues Award
Huell Howser
Independent Producer and Host of ‘California’s Green’ Series

Huell Howser has been a friendly and informative fixture on Southern California public television for more than two decades, from his long-running signature travel series ‘California’s Gold’ to several spin-offs, including ‘Visiting With…’ and the environmentally-themed ‘California’s Green’ series which began airing on local PBS stations in 2004. ‘California’s Green’ features Mr. Howser’s celebrated unscripted interview style, introducing a wide range of Californians pursuing innovative and creative approaches to solving environmental challenges. Green topics have included California-based individuals involved with solar and wind power, fuel cells, classic historic electric cars, and professional ‘net’ cleaning.

Public Education on Air Quality Issues Award
Edward James Olmos
Actor and Activist

Award-winning actor, producer, director, and community activist Edward James Olmos was born and raised in East Los Angeles, and is a graduate of California State University Los Angeles. In 1988, Olmos received an Academy Award nomination for his portrayal of real-life math teacher Jaime Escalante in ‘Stand and Deliver,’ which he also produced. Olmos cofounded and serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Latinos Public Broadcasting. Olmos has worked to raise awareness of the burdens of America’s continued dependence on fossil fuels and has advocated strongly for accelerating our transition to clean and sustainable energy. He recently recorded public service announcements for SCAQMD in English and Spanish on the health impacts of air pollution and how the public can become involved in clean air solutions.
South Coast Air Quality Management District permit application forms have been updated based on input and comments from businesses, SCAQMD staff and the SCAQMD Permit Streamlining Task Force Subcommit-tee. The updated application forms are available on the SCAQMD web site, http:// www.aqmd.gov/permit/forms.html.

Forms have been updated with standard headers and a standard “look.” Many of the forms have been updated with current URL language, fees, dates, etc. Most of the supplemental forms were updated with standard formatting, correct alpha-numeric input fields, correct emission factors for intelligent forms, etc. Form 400-A has been updated for simpler and clearer information gathering and data entry. RECLAIM forms are now in PDF format. The forms can be filled out using Adobe Reader, but the user will need a full version of Adobe Acrobat in order to save the forms.

For more information, contact Naveen Berry at (909) 396-2363 or nberry@aqmd.gov.

Rule 1415 - Reduction of Refrigerant Emissions from Stationary Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems

Proposed amendments to Rule 1415 are being developed to be in concert with provisions of CARB’s statewide Refrigeration Management Program established to reduce emissions of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants from stationary refrigeration systems. Emission control requirements for air conditioning systems remain in Rule 1415 and will include refrigerant refrigeration systems. For more information, contact Naveen Berry at (909) 396-2363 or nberry@aqmd.gov.

Rule 1315 - Federal New Source Review Tracking System

Proposed re-adoption of Rule 1315 will codify the emission reduction tracking procedure used to maintain equivalence of the AQMD New Source Review Program with the Federal New Source Review Program. For more information, contact Elaine Chang at (909) 396-3386 or echang@aqmd.gov.

Recent Events

CleanTech OC 2010, Irvine

In late September, SCAQMD participated in the first annual CleanTech OC 2010 Conference in Irvine. The event drew more than 400 participants and was well attended. SCAQMD ahcom https://www.aqmd.gov/permit/forms.html for more information.

For more information, contact Hai Sang Choe at (909) 396-2259 or choe@aqmd.gov.

21st Annual Route 66 Rendezvous, San Bernardino

Over 500,000 spectators took part in the four-day long celebration of the automobile, which covered 35 blocks of downtown San Bernardino. The event, which was held September 16-19, also served as a major fundraiser for local charitable organizations. SCAQMD displayed several clean cars – hydrogen fuel cell, compressed natural gas, plug-in electric hybrid and all-electric - and provided clean air information.

EV 101 Workshop, Los Angeles

On October 22, over 200 attendees representing local government, utilities, universities and environmental organizations took part in a “Meet the Expert” EV 101 Workshop at the University of California, Los Angeles. The program included presentations from automakers, charging equipment manufacturers, and others who discussed the need for plug-in vehicles and the infrastructure to support their growth in the region.
Rule Compliance

Promotion Classes

Rule 403 – Controlling Dust in the South Coast Air Basin
- Every third Wednesday of the month.

This half-day class is held at SCAQMD’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 2202 – Employee Transportation Coordinator Training

- November 18, SCAQMD Diamond Bar Headquarters
- December 9, SCAQMD Diamond Bar Headquarters

Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration fee is $154.81 per person. Enrollment is limited to 20 students and classes will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Class information is located at www.aqmd.gov under Business/Transportation/Rule 2202 Training.

To register, call (909) 396-2777 or email etctraining@aqmd.gov.

Rule 1403 – Asbestos Demolition/Renovation Activities

- November 10
- December 8

Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at SCAQMD Diamond Bar Headquarters. Registration fee is $74.64 per person and pre-registration is required.

To register, call (909) 396-2658 or email doswald@aqmd.gov.