



Clean Air Congress **VOICE**

www.CleanAirCongress.org

WINTER 2007

Tell Us Your Story

Air pollution affects the health and welfare of everyone. The AQMD is interested in individual stories about how air pollution has affected the health of Southland residents. Through the Community Voices for Clean Air program, we are asking you to send your personal stories, photos and videos about smog's effect on your health, a family member's health, or a friend's health to yourstory@aqmd.gov.

Please note that we cannot return any photos or videos submitted. AQMD will disseminate selected stories through newsletters, videos, public service announcements and other forums to highlight the human toll of air pollution. These personal stories will help convey the urgency needed to clean the air we breathe.

For more information, contact Jim Clouet at (909) 396-3208.



Senator Boxer Visits Inland Empire to Discuss Health Effects of Diesel Pollution

In October Senator Barbara Boxer held a public hearing in San Bernardino to call attention to the dangerous health impacts of air pollution from diesel engines. Doctors, local officials, environmental experts, and activists gave testimony about the harmful effects of diesel exhaust, which is a growing problem in Southern California. The problem is getting much worse as more and more trucks and trains pass through the area carrying goods for distribution throughout the country.



Diesel exhaust contains tiny particles of soot, called particulate matter, that are known to cause cancer. Particulate matter also causes or contributes to asthma. Dr. Joe Corless, Chief of the Pediatric Allergy Section at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, described the seriousness of the problem of asthma in this region. "Asthma is the most common chronic condition of children, affecting more than 1 of 7 children under 18 years of age. Asthma accounts for more than 25% of emergency room visits."

Jonah Ramirez, an 11-year-old boy with asthma who serves as the "Clean Air Ambassador" for Children with Respiratory Disease, testified to the personal impact of asthma on his life, and his concern for others like himself.

"Since I developed asthma, I have learned a lot about the air we all breathe. I have learned that we all need to do something because our air is making us sick. Breathing is a common bond we share; something we all do. It should not be something we have to think about, but the reality is, we do need to think about it. We need to change the way we see air quality. It is not just a topic on the news. It is affecting all of us."



Senator Boxer voiced strong concern about the growing problem of diesel pollution related to the goods movement. She pledged to pressure the federal government to take stronger action to control emissions from diesel trucks, trains, and ships that come into Southern California ports. "I envision a day when every child in the Inland Empire—and indeed every child in this beautiful nation—will be able to take a breath any time, day or night, winter or summer, at school, on the playground, or in their back yard, and enjoy the simple pleasure of deeply inhaling fresh, clean, and healthy air," she said.

Upcoming Events

Saturday / Sunday, March 8-9, 2008

Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

Admission:

\$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors (62 and over), \$5 for students with ID, \$2.50 for children 5-12. Children under 5 are admitted free. This two-day event will feature lively exhibits and displays from over 60 organizations that teach and promote environmental education. It will have fun, interactive events for all ages, and live entertainment.

Those who attend will also be offered a free tree to take home and plant. For more information, visit the event website at www.laeef.org or call (562) 922-6682.

Honoring Clean Air Heroes

From a concerned mother of an asthmatic child to a forward-thinking city, heroes throughout Southern California were honored for their contributions to cleaning the air that we breathe at the 19th Annual Clean Air Awards in October. These eight award recipients have shown dedication, initiative, and outstanding effort in helping protect the health of their communities. The winners and their awards are:

■ Robina Suwol, Founder and Executive Director of California Safe Schools, *Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship Award* for founding a children's environmental health organization dedicated to protecting students from pesticides used at schools.

■ Western Riverside County Clean Cities Coalition, *Public Education on Air Quality Issues Award* for their Interactive School Program and Car Care for Clean Air Program.

■ Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, *Leadership in Government Award* for his strong advocacy for clean air including frequent testimony at state and federal hearings in support of legislation to clean up pollution in the region.



■ Cummins Wesport, Inc., *Advancement of Air Pollution Technology Award* for developing a heavy-duty vehicle engine that complies with emission standards three years before the final compliance date of 2010.

■ The Five Cities Hydrogen Project (Burbank, Ontario, Riverside, Santa Ana, and Santa Monica), *Innovative Transportation Projects Award* for partnering with AQMD in a first-in-the-nation demonstration program that showcases hydrogen vehicles and fueling technology.

■ City of Santa Monica, *Model Community Achievement Award* for its exemplary programs in using non-polluting cleaning products, green building techniques, and alternative fuel vehicles.

■ University of Southern California, *Innovative Transportation Projects Award* for its dedication to reducing vehicle emissions and promoting ridesharing.

■ John G. Miller, M.D., Lifetime Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, *Robert M. Zweig, M.D. Memorial Award* for his outstanding work to help reduce port-related pollution and improve public health in the communities around the ports.

Drive Greener: Make Your Next Car a Clean-Fuel Vehicle

There's no detour around this hard fact—cars and trucks are by far the biggest source of air pollution in this region. Choosing a low-emissions (less polluting) vehicle the next time you buy a car is one of the most important things you can do to help clean the air that we breathe. Recent advances in technology have made it very easy for people to drive a clean vehicle.

Not only are many standard gasoline powered vehicles being made much cleaner, but hybrids and other advanced technologies are being offered in expanding model types. This means more clean options for car buyers, money saved, better warranties, and of course that little thing we call protecting the environment. Even some SUVs are available as hybrids or in lower emissions models. To see a list of the many options available to you, visit www.CleanAirChoices.org or call us at 1-800-4-CLN AIR (1-800-425-6247).



Are You a Member of the Clean Air Congress?

This newsletter is for members of our Clean Air Congress—folks who want to be informed and involved in the fight against air pollution. If you received this newsletter in the mail then you're probably already a member. If you received this from another source and are not a member, visit our website at www.CleanAirCongress.org or call 1-800-4-CLN AIR

(1-800-425-6247) to sign up. Membership is free and open to everyone. Clean Air Congress members receive this quarterly newsletter, in addition to occasional emails about special events and important notices such as the recent advisories about bad air quality due to the wildfires. Join us in helping to clean the air that we breathe!



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