

Cleaning the air  
that we breathe...



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## “AQMD IS CLEARING THE AIR” PROGRAM ANNOUNCED IN RESPONSE TO HEALTH EFFECTS OF SMOG ON CHILDREN



**I**n January, AQMD Board Chairman William A. Burke announced an innovative “AQMD is Clearing the Air” program for 2005 designed to engage residents and opinion leaders in a dialogue on how to speed up progress in the war on smog.

The program is partially in response to last year’s landmark USC Children’s Health Study. The research showed that many children growing up in Southern California may suffer permanently underdeveloped lungs as a result of breathing smog.

“We are not doing enough for the future of our children, knowing that poor lung function is second only to smoking as a risk factor for premature death,” said Burke. “The time for political correctness has passed. The time has come to take off the gloves and tell the plain truth about what needs to be done to improve air quality. Every day we don’t advance the cause for cleaner air is a day our children lose.” During remarks at AQMD’s January Board meeting, Burke spoke of his friendship with Muhammad Ali. “When everyone thought Ali was defeated in the Rumble in the Jungle, he surprised the world and went on to win the fight,” he said. “This is where I stand in the fight for cleaner air – taking blows from anti-clean air advocates and dishing it back.”

Throughout 2005, each of the AQMD’s 12 Governing Board members will be offered the opportunity to speak out on a variety of pressing air quality issues. Standing behind a podium wrapped with colorful “AQMD Is Clearing the Air” artwork, they will address such hot-button issues as air pollution from the ports and railroads, environmental justice and others.



## AQMD ORDERS FURTHER EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS FROM REGION’S POLLUTION CREDIT TRADING PROGRAM

**I**n January, the AQMD Governing Board adopted changes to the region’s pollution credit trading program to significantly reduce emissions from the area’s largest facilities. The changes to the REgional CLean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) program are planned to result in more than a 20 percent reduction in emissions from facilities in the program.

“Cost-effective technologies are available now that can significantly reduce emissions from facilities in the program,” said Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. “We believe the changes meet state law requirements and maintain the integrity of the program, while continuing to move closer to the region’s air quality goals.”

Changes to the RECLAIM program include:

- Cumulative reductions of 7.7 tons per day of smog-forming oxides of nitrogen (NOx) from all RECLAIM facilities by 2011, to be implemented

in phases (4 tons per day in 2007 and 0.925 tons per day in each of the following four years, 2008-2011);

- Upon AQMD Board concurrence, credits in years 2008, 2009, 2010 or 2011 may be restored if the average credit price per ton in any of those years exceeds \$15,000;
- A limited exemption for qualifying facilities that have already installed the cleanest technology available to reduce emissions. Emission reductions foregone from exempt facilities would then be distributed amongst other facilities in the program; and
- Modified trading restrictions for electric power producers until 2007. Restrictions were placed on power producers during California’s energy crisis in order to stabilize the trading market. Some restrictions remain in place until 2007 to encourage other RECLAIM facilities to add emission controls rather than buy credits.

Major components of the initiative include:

- Unprecedented plans to hold “mobile” AQMD Board meetings in each of AQMD’s four counties, where residents will be encouraged to voice their concerns about local air quality issues;
- A “Children’s Clean Air Bill of Rights.” Children and others will be invited to sign petitions calling on all Southern Californians to step up efforts to clean the air;
- Dialogue with residents on strategies for reducing toxic air pollution following the expected release later this year of results from AQMD’s Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study III; and
- Speaking opportunities on AQMD’s goal to convert all school buses in the region to compressed natural gas or lower-emission diesel models.

For more information, contact Sam Atwood at (909) 396-3687.

RECLAIM was adopted in 1993 as an innovative way to reduce emissions from the Southland’s largest facilities. There are currently about 330 facilities in RECLAIM including power plants, oil refineries and other manufacturing plants.

Since the adoption of RECLAIM in 1993, there has been a 50 percent decrease in emissions, new technology for pollution controls, better monitoring and reporting, and a high level of compliance in achieving facility emissions caps.

The 7.7 tons per day reduction of NOx emissions relies on known technologies that are currently available and cost effective. Reductions in NOx, a precursor pollutant, will help the region attain ozone and particulate matter air quality standards.

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

# Rulemaking in Process to Reduce Air Toxics from Rail Yard Operations

**C**urrently scheduled for adoption hearing at the May 2005 Governing Board Meeting, proposed Rules 3500, 3501, 3502, 3503, and 3504 seek to establish requirements for diesel locomotives and other diesel equipment at major rail yards in the South Coast basin.

The objective of the proposed 3500-series rules is to quantify emissions that occur from idling locomotives and other diesel equipment used at rail yards. The proposed rules also seek idling minimization and feasible emission reductions from railyards in the District.

“Goods movement is expanding significantly in Southern California, and AQMD wants to support this economic expansion while also fully addressing harmful emissions impacts on surrounding communities,” notes Dr. Elaine Chang, AQMD deputy executive officer.

The proposed rules stem from mobile source control measures contained in the March 2004 Addendum of the AQMD’s Air Toxics Control Plan: AT-MBL-08 Locomotive Operations, and AT-MBL-09 Control of Locomotive Idling Emissions.

AQMD staff believes that residents living near railroads or rail yards have a right to have information about emissions and potential health risks attributable to locomotive operations. Through this informational gathering and collaborative efforts among stakeholders, emission reduction opportunities can be identified.

Traditionally, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and U.S. EPA have legal authority to regulate locomotive emissions, and both agencies have allocated resources to identifying cost-effective alternatives to current high-emitting rail technology. However, new engine standards have long phase-in times and often are not adequate to address localized cumulative impacts. AQMD’s MATES-II study of air toxics exposure, released in 2000, found that the areas posing the highest health risks to South Coast residents were areas of high diesel traffic, especially locations where marine, rail, and truck activity are co-located for goods movement operations. As a result, local efforts are needed to augment state and federal requirements.

*For more information, contact Susan Nakamura at (909) 396-3105.*



## PROPOSED RULES ON RAIL YARD EMISSIONS

PR 3500	General
PR 3501	Recordkeeping for Locomotive Idling
PR 3502	Locomotive Idling Minimization
PR 3503	Diesel Risk Assessment for Rail Yards
PR 3504	Rail Yard Risk Reduction

## NEW MEMBERS JOIN AQMD’S GOVERNING BOARD

**S**an Bernardino County Supervisor Gary Ovitt and Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido have joined the AQMD Governing Board. Ovitt will represent San Bernardino County on AQMD’s Board. Pulido will represent the 34 cities in Orange County.

Ovitt was elected in 2004 as the Fourth District Supervisor for San Bernardino County. From 1998 to 2004 he served as mayor of Ontario. He was first elected to the Ontario City Council in 1992.

In addition to the AQMD Board, Ovitt will continue to serve as a member of numerous other boards, including San Bernardino Associated Governments, Omnitrans Transit Agency and Southern California Association of Governments.

Before joining the Ontario City Council, Ovitt was a teacher for 35 years at Chaffey High School in Ontario — his alma mater — where he taught government, history and work experience. Along with teaching, he also mentored students and coached several sports. He is a graduate of the University of Redlands.

Pulido is mayor of Santa Ana and a small business owner. He joined the city council in 1986 and has served as mayor since 1994. He is also a member of the Orange County Transportation Authority, as well as the Federal Inter-Governmental Policy Advisory Committee on Trade, Caltrans’ Management Information System Advisory Committee, the Discovery Science Center Board, and the UC Irvine Foundation Board, among others.

Pulido was born in Mexico City and raised in Orange County. Nearly a decade ago he opened a business in Mexico City to replace catalytic converters on automobiles to reduce smog in that area. He earned his undergraduate degree from California State University, Fullerton, in mechanical engineering.

AQMD Board members serve four-year terms. Ovitt will fill the unexpired term of San Bernardino County Supervisor Bill Postmus, which ends on Jan. 15, 2007. Pulido will fill the unexpired term of former Mission Viejo Councilman William Craycraft, ending Jan. 15, 2008. *For further information, contact Oscar Abarca at (909) 396-3242.*

# AQMD ADOPTS MEASURE TO REDUCE DUST FROM SAND AND GRAVEL FACILITIES

**I**n January 2005, the AQMD Governing Board adopted a new measure to significantly further reduce health-threatening particulate pollution from nearly 400 sand and gravel facilities in the region.

"Sand and gravel-related operations in the Southland produce significant amounts of particulate pollution that can be both a nuisance to neighboring communities as well as a health threat," said Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. "This will reduce their emissions by 18 tons per day through improved housekeeping practices and other cost-effective measures."

The measure, Rule 1157 – PM10 Emission Reductions from Aggregate and Related Operations, will take effect in two phases in July and December 2005. Affected facilities include sand and gravel mining and processing operations, and concrete batch and hot-mix asphalt plants. Such plants typically are located in foothill canyons and washes throughout the Southland.

The adoption of Rule 1157 will help the region achieve a 2006 federally mandated deadline for PM<sub>10</sub>— particles smaller than 10 microns, or about 1/7 the thickness of a human hair. PM<sub>10</sub> exposure is associated with a long list of adverse health effects from increased hospital admissions to increased premature deaths.

*For more information, contact Lee Lockie at (909) 396-2390.*

**Requirements under AQMD's Rule 1157 include:**

- Dust emissions shall not exceed 20 percent opacity based on an average of 12 consecutive visual readings, or 50 percent based on five consecutive visual readings;
- Dust plumes shall not extend more than 100 feet from any emissions source;
- Dust suppressants or other dust control measures will be applied to conveyors, crushers, storage piles and other activities;
- Facility paved roads will be swept daily or every other day depending on the facility's size, and chemical stabilizers or gravel pads will be used for all unpaved roads, parking and staging areas; and
- Mitigation measures such as "rumble grates" and wheel washers must be used to minimize the amount of dust-causing materials tracked out of the facility by trucks onto public roadways.

## Permits Are Now Required for Certain Agricultural Operations

**A** recent change in the California State law eliminated an exemption from requirements to obtain air permits for certain size agricultural operations which include farms, dairies, poultry operations, etc. In December 2004 the AQMD amended some of its rules to implement the changes in state law. AQMD also adopted a new rule, Rule 312 - Special Permitting Fees For Agricultural Sources, that sets lower permitting fees for agricultural sources that submit the necessary permit application in the first half of 2005. These rules facilitate permitting of agricultural operations by reducing permit fees, streamlining requirements, and specifically exempting certain smaller equipment used in agricultural operations from requiring written permits.

Many smaller agricultural operations will not require permits at this time. Typically, agricultural operations with actual air emissions less than 5 tons per year will not require permits, unless the AQMD makes certain findings in a public hearing as required by state law. Agricultural operations with actual air emissions greater than 5 tons per year are required to obtain air permits from AQMD. Larger agricultural operations that have the potential to emit air emissions greater than 10 tons per year are subject to federal operating permit (Title V permit) requirements.

Below are some important dates for submittal of air permit applications for agricultural sources that are subject to permit requirements, depending on when the sources started operations:

Operation Date	Application Submittal Date	Application Fees and Forms
Before January 1, 2004	Before June 30, 2005	R312-Lower fees and simplified forms
Before January 1, 2004	After June 30, 2005	R301-Regular fees
Between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2005	Before March 5, 2005	R312-Lower fees
Between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2005	After March 5, 2005	R301-Regular fees
After January 1, 2005	Before construction	R301-Regular fees
After January 1, 2005	After Construction/Operation	R301-Higher fees due to construction without a permit

For more information please visit AQMD's ag-related webpage at <http://www.aqmd.gov/titlev/ag.html>. Also on the website are permit application forms and a calculator that can help agricultural sources to determine whether or not the source is required to file for permits from AQMD.

*For more information, call William Thompson at (909) 396-2398.*

## AQMD Moves to Implement State Air Toxics Measure to Reduce Chrome Exposure

**A**t its February 4, 2005 meeting, AQMD's Governing Board voted to implement a newly adopted state control measure on thermally sprayed chrome coatings, rather than adopt a local rule.

In December 2004, the California Air Resources Board adopted a new air toxics control measure to reduce neighborhood exposure to hexavalent chromium and nickel from thermal spraying operations.

Hexavalent chromium is a potent carcinogen, while nickel is less potent but still has significant carcinogenic as well as acute toxic health effects.

In line with CARB's rulemaking efforts, AQMD staff last year conducted inspections of 32 potentially affected thermal coating operations located in the South Coast area. The facilities conduct technically sophisticated coating operations for electronic and aerospace-related parts. Five operations were found to use enough chromium and nickel to require significant upgrading of their capture and control systems.

The new control measure requires that existing thermal coating operations meet more stringent toxics emission control standards by early 2006, with compliance achievable using readily available control systems.

AQMD staff is currently verifying emission levels and existing control systems, and has already begun working with affected thermal coaters on steps to meet the new requirements.

*For more information, contact Carol Coy at (909) 396-2434.*

## Lawn Mower Exchange Program to be Held this Spring

**A**QMD's popular Lawn Mower Exchange program has been approved for 2005 by the Governing Board. Once again, the AQMD will be offering the Neuton Lawn Mower Company's battery-powered electric mower for \$100 when a participant turns in an operable gasoline-powered lawnmower. The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the mower is \$399.

In the springs of 2003 and 2004, AQMD conducted a series of nine lawn mower exchange events, where residents of the South Coast air basin exchanged their operable gasoline-powered lawn mowers for zero emission cordless electric lawn mowers. A total of 7,476 mowers were exchanged. The program was funded by Rule 2202-Air Quality Investment Program. These exchanges have helped mitigate a substantial amount of pollutants.

Due to the success of the program, staff is planning to hold up to ten lawn mower exchange events within the AQMD's four-county region tentatively starting April 2, 2005 in Coachella Valley. Unlike the past two seasons, participants will not need to line up and receive a mower on a first-come, first-served basis. This year, participants will pre-register either online or by telephone, picking their site and half-hour time slot.

As dates and locations are confirmed, information on the lawn mower exchange will be posted on the AQMD's website at <http://www.aqmd.gov>.

*For more information, call Larry Kolczak at (909) 396-3215.*



## AQMD SPONSORS FIRST-EVER "SMOKE SCHOOL" FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**A**QMD sponsored its first-ever "smoke school" in January for local community leaders, residents and business representatives to teach them techniques used to identify potential visible air pollution in their communities and at their facilities.

"Visible emissions, particularly smoke, can pose a health hazard as well as a nuisance to affected communities," said Barry Wallerstein, executive officer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

"AQMD's first-ever community visible emission evaluation training program is an example of our commitment to further involve all residents in the fight for clean air," he said.

About two dozen invited participants took part in the five-hour class at AQMD headquarters. California Air Resources Board staff conducted the class which included a half-day of classroom instruction and an afternoon field training exercise using a smoke generator. In addition to community and environmental justice groups, representatives of some of the facilities regulated by AQMD also attended the class to better understand AQMD's visible emissions enforcement program.

The class was intended to provide participants with an overview of techniques used by AQMD field compliance staff when evaluating visible emissions from sources in the Southland. Attendees learned about common visible emissions that may occur in their community, the methods used to evaluate visible air pollution

emissions and information on air pollution laws. They also learned how to differentiate water vapor, which is sometimes mistaken for air pollution, from smoke.

While graduates from the training program will not be able to issue visible emission violations – only AQMD inspectors can do so – they will have a better understanding of what constitutes a potential visible emission violation in their community. AQMD intends to repeat the class periodically for other interested residents. During the past three years the AQMD has received more than 6,700 complaints of potential visible emission violations under the AQMD's Rule 401 – Visible Emissions.

Rule 401, one of the AQMD's oldest and most fundamental air pollution regulations, prohibits any single source from emitting a specified visible emissions density (opacity) for more than three minutes in one hour. Opacity is measured against a Ringelmann Chart, a system established in the 1800s to grade smoke density.

Community visible emission evaluation training is being offered as part of the AQMD's recently expanded Environmental Justice Initiatives aimed at enhancing community involvement. AQMD first launched its Environmental Justice Initiatives in 1997 to ensure environmental equity in communities throughout the four-county area.

*For more information, call Lisha Smith at (909) 396-3203.*



# Calendar Contest Winners Honored

On January 14<sup>th</sup> AQMD Executive Officer Barry Wallerstein presented the winners of the 2005 "Color My World With Healthy Air" Calendar Contest with \$50 gift checks for their winning artwork featured on each month. The Grand Prize Winner received a bicycle and \$100 gift check for the cover artwork. The winners, their parents and some of their teachers were welcomed by Public Affairs Asst. Deputy Executive Officer Oscar Abarca, toured the AQMD facility, and received a presentation on air quality by Public Advisor Dr. Anupom Ganguli.

# Canadian Officials Visit AQMD

Canadian officials visited AQMD on January 17<sup>th</sup> as part of a fact-finding mission to learn about California's efforts to reduce carbon dioxide exhaust from cars and trucks. The focus of the visit was also AQMD's Technology Advancement program. The delegation, led by Minister of Environment Stephane Dion and Minister of Transport Jean Lapierre, met with AQMD Board Member Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta and staff and toured the alternative energy facility. Canada is considering adopting California-style greenhouse gas regulations in order to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2012 to levels 5 percent below its 1990 output.

# AQMD Partners with Radio Station on Clean Air Car Showcase

**A**s part of its environmental program, ABC Radio has invited AQMD to partner in the CLEAN AIR CAR SHOWCASE, which is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Check the AQMD website at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov) for location and time. The event will be promoted on KABC Talk Radio (790-AM) through ENVIRONMinute, which will focus on educating the public about air quality with air quality messages and tips. This promotional campaign is expected to reach approximately 750,000 Southland radio listeners per week.

The CLEAN AIR CAR SHOWCASE will focus on educating the public about clean air vehicles and will feature exhibits by hybrid car manufacturers, low-emission vehicles under the AQMD-sponsored Clean Air Choice program, and cars of the future, such as hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. KABC Talk Radio on-air personality, Leon Kaplan, "The Motorman", will emcee. The public is invited to this free event to view and learn about environmentally friendly cars.

For more information, contact Lisha Smith at (909) 396-3203.



RECENT EVENTS

# 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](http://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](http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/rules.html) or provided by AQMD's Public Information Center, (909) 396-2039.

## April 2005



### Rules 1304-Exemptions & 1306-Emission Calculations

These proposed amendments will clarify the emission calculation procedure for concurrent facility modifications.

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

## May 2005



### Reg. III-Fees

This proposed amendment will adjust fee rules in accordance with the FY 2005-06 AQMD Budget.

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



### Rule 401-Visible Emissions

This proposed amendment will remove the existing agricultural operation exemption from the visible emissions rule per SB 700 requirements.

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



### Rule 403-Fugitive Dust

This proposed amendment will address an implementation issue associated with weed abatement activities.

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



### Rule 461-Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing (SB 700)

This proposed amendment will address implementation of BARCT for gasoline dispensing at agricultural sources per SB 700.

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



### Rule 463-Organic Liquid Storage

The proposed amendments will address alternative compliance options to degassing and cleaning requirements for a regulated entity under a variance.

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



### Rule 1171-Solvent Cleaning Operations

This proposed amendment will implement recommendations in the technology assessment regarding 2005 VOC limits for solvent cleaning activities.

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



### Rule 1401.1-New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants for New and Relocated Facilities Near Schools

Proposed Rule 1401.1 will establish more stringent risk requirements for new or relocated facilities that are sited near an existing school.

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

## Become an Ambassador for Clean Air

If you are concerned about making your community a better place to live, work, and raise healthy families in an environment of clean air, the AQMD invites you to become an "Ambassador for Clean Air" by joining the Clean Air Congress. As part of its efforts to protect your health through improved air quality, the Clean Air Congress educates the public on how air pollution affects our health and what we all can do to clean the air that we breathe.

As a member of the Clean Air Congress you can:

- Learn what is being done to clean our air and how you can help;
- Learn about the newest clean air technologies;
- Conveniently and easily voice your concerns to AQMD as well as legislators regarding air pollution issues;
- Become a source of information for your friends, family, and neighbors for air quality issues.

You will also receive:

- Special invitations to all Clean Air Congress events (including health fairs, community and town hall meetings, and other AQMD-sponsored events);
- The VOICE, a quarterly newsletter mailed out to all Clean Air Congress members (and also available on AQMD's website: [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov));
- Information from your AQMD regional representative, who will alert you of upcoming meetings, events and recent air quality issues.

To join this FREE organization, contact Patrician Price at (909) 396-2690 or send her an e-mail at [pprice@aqmd.gov](mailto:pprice@aqmd.gov).



# Clean Air PEOPLE

Meet the diversely talented people who work at the AQMD

AQMD  
Advisor



Zorik Pirveysian

**Z**orik Pirveysian first joined the AQMD in February 1988 as an air quality specialist in Planning. Zorik now serves as a planning & rules manager, responsible for projects such as NOx and credit rules, support for legislative initiatives, and other special projects related to off-road mobile sources and port-related operations.

Zorik is Armenian, born and raised in Iran and immigrating to the U.S. at age 17. Prior to his time with AQMD, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Cal State Northridge and a master's degree in environmental engineering from USC.

He was employed in the private sector early on, working successively at a biotechnology manufacturer of eye lens implants,

then at a battery manufacturing company, in addition to working for a consulting firm.

Over the years, Zorik has worked extensively on AQMP development, and was the manager for the latest 2003 Plan. Another work highlight was leading the complex staff effort to consolidate annual emissions reporting for both criteria pollutants and air toxics from permit-holding facilities – important data for the Basin's baseline emissions inventories.

Zorik also led rulemaking to cut nuisance and smog-forming emissions from large-scale composting operations – the first such controls achieved in the country.

Despite a hectic work schedule, he says "I have a sense of personal fulfillment and accomplishment at the end of the day because of my small contribution to achieving clean air."

Among co-workers, Zorik is known for being an enthusiastic potluck lunch fan. "A chance for great multi-cultural food, yes, but I think they're also important for an emotionally healthy work environment," he says.

On the home front, he loves spending time with his family and enjoys vacations together with wife Rosalyne, son Timothy age 12, daughter Paulina age 10, and pet Labrador-retriever Sonny.

**L**inda Mills Koenig isn't old enough to be a matriarch, but she certainly qualifies as a sort of founding mother at AQMD, having begun her agency career in October 1974, at the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District in downtown L.A.

Linda had previously worked at the Hall of Records, entering details for vital documents such as death, birth, and marriage certificates. When she transitioned to transcribing field reports for engineers, she had to learn new terminology for the emerging field of air pollution control.

"The term catalytic converter, for example, was a new concept and a new phrase to most of us then," she remembers.

Over her three decades of public service, Linda has been promoted numerous times and worked in nearly every department of the agency, including eight years as a legal secretary. Currently she holds the position of supervising the unit fulfilling Public Records requests.

Some of the Public Records available by written request include monitoring data, emissions data, permit information, health risk assessments, site inspection reports, and source test reports.

"On average, we usually respond to 700-800 requests a month," she notes. "I'm lucky to have great staff members, so we manage to get that work done month after month."

In summing up her years thus far as one of the District's longest-serving employees, she notes, "Over the years, we've all gone through so many personal family experiences — marriages, illnesses, births and deaths — we've raised our children, celebrated our joys, and tended our wounds together, just like family. Overall, I have to say it's been a nice run."

On the home front, Linda and husband Jeff are interested in records of a different sort — football scores and stats. She roots for the Kansas City Chiefs, while he's a Denver Broncos fan.



Linda Koenig

**B**arbara Hester has been part of the team that handles AQMD's mail for over 13 years. She came to AQMD's Mail Room/Subscription Services unit in 1991, after having worked for Bank of America in student loans, and has worked there ever since. She says she knows most of the staff of 739 people by name but hasn't put a face to every one. "Every once in a while a person comes into the mail room and I meet them for the first time and realize that I had the wrong name with the right face."

Having grown up in Southern California, Barbara has a keen awareness of AQMD's mission. She says she "has a deep sense of pride in being part of the team that helps clean the air. I was raised in Covina where I remember Stage 1 Alerts, eyes that would sting, and days where we had to stay inside our classrooms because of the smog."

When asked if she has any hobbies, Barbara commented, "No, I have kids!" She has a 24-year-old daughter and two sons—one 21 and married, with a son of his own, and another son who is eight. In addition, she has two stepdaughters and two grandchildren.

Her eight-year-old son keeps her busy with basketball, baseball and karate. With all the outdoor activities Barbara and her family are involved in, she says she is grateful that the air is much cleaner now, and very proud to be part of the team that is cleaning it.



Barbara Hester



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## Briefly...

### Certified Permitting Professional Examination

- June 24

There is a \$150 exam fee. To register, send an e-mail including attendee's name, company address, phone, fax, and an e-mail address to phaimov@aqmd.gov.

### RULE COMPLIANCE PROMOTION CLASSES

#### Rule 1403-Asbestos Demolition/Renovation Activities

- April 13
- May 11
- June 15

The classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at AQMD headquarters. There is a \$30 class fee. To register call (909) 396-2381 or send e-mail to jmoore@aqmd.gov.

#### Rule 2202-Employee Transportation Coordinator Training

- April 13 or 14, The Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles
  - April 20, AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar
  - May 4, AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar
  - May 18, Embassy Suites, 1440 E. Imperial Ave., El Segundo
- Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration

fee is \$54.37 per person. Enrollment is limited to 25 students and classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, call Lisa Patterson at (909) 396-2283.

#### Rule 403-Fugitive Dust Control in the South Coast Air Basin Training:

- April 20
- Location: AQMD Headquarters, Conference Room GB
- There is no fee for Rule 403 Dust control classes, but pre-registration is required. To register, call (909) 396-2183.



## AQMD Advisor

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.*

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