

Cleaning The Air That We Breathe...™



South Coast Air Quality Management District



AQMD

2003 Smog Season Sounds an Alarm

A Message From William A. Burke, Chairman AQMD Governing Board



This year's bad smog season in Southern California – the worst in the last half-dozen years – should be a wake-up call to every person who lives or works or does business in this region. Over the past three decades, working and investing together, we in the greater Southland region have made tremendous progress in reducing air pollution from sources under our local control. But our long and challenging war against unhealthy levels of ozone, particulates and air toxics is far from over.

To obtain our clean air objectives, we must reach for a new level of teamwork - - positive teamwork that more effectively harnesses our combined resources, our economic goals and our desire for a better quality of life. You can be an important member of this clean air team.

Together, we must commit to lifting the burden of poor air quality from our loved ones. We must keep pushing one resounding message, from chambers of commerce and school boards, from not-for-profit organizations and trade associations, from operators of small businesses and local youth groups, from medical clinics and houses of worship, from neighborhoods and cities to all state officials - - from every reader of this publication to every policymaker: Southern Californians want clean, healthful air, in this decade.

We can push for cleaner technologies by making phone calls, sending e-mails, and writing letters to the people we elect to office and the firms we do business with, thanking them for working harder toward cleaner-running communities. We can also help as individuals, by using lower-emission products in our daily lives, and by cutting down our share of vehicle-based emissions whenever possible.

Only when we all do our fair share will we be able to share the crucial health benefits of clean air. This publication tells you about the smog problem, the impact to our health, what we have done locally, and most importantly, what you can do to help us “clean the air that we breathe...”

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Teaming Up for Clean Air and a Strong Economy

A Message from
Oscar Abarca, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer
for Public Affairs



I invite you, your family, and friends to participate in clean air support activities - - so that we can all live, work and play in communities that have a greater chance of being free from unhealthy smog and air toxics. As fellow Southern Californians, we know that excellent air quality can go hand-in-hand

with an excellent and sustainable economic climate.

AQMD has an official role to carry out, but we can perform better when we have your support. Your actions and your comments to AQMD and to your local elected officials can make a real difference. "Public opinion" - - that's you!

AQMD takes seriously our responsibility to protect public health and to serve the public trust. We need your participation to keep improving our efforts. Together, we can attain healthful air standards as soon as possible, for every resident of the South Coast region.

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Mission

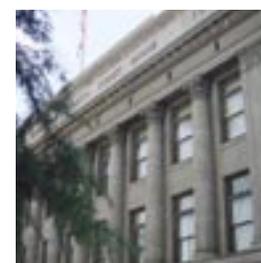
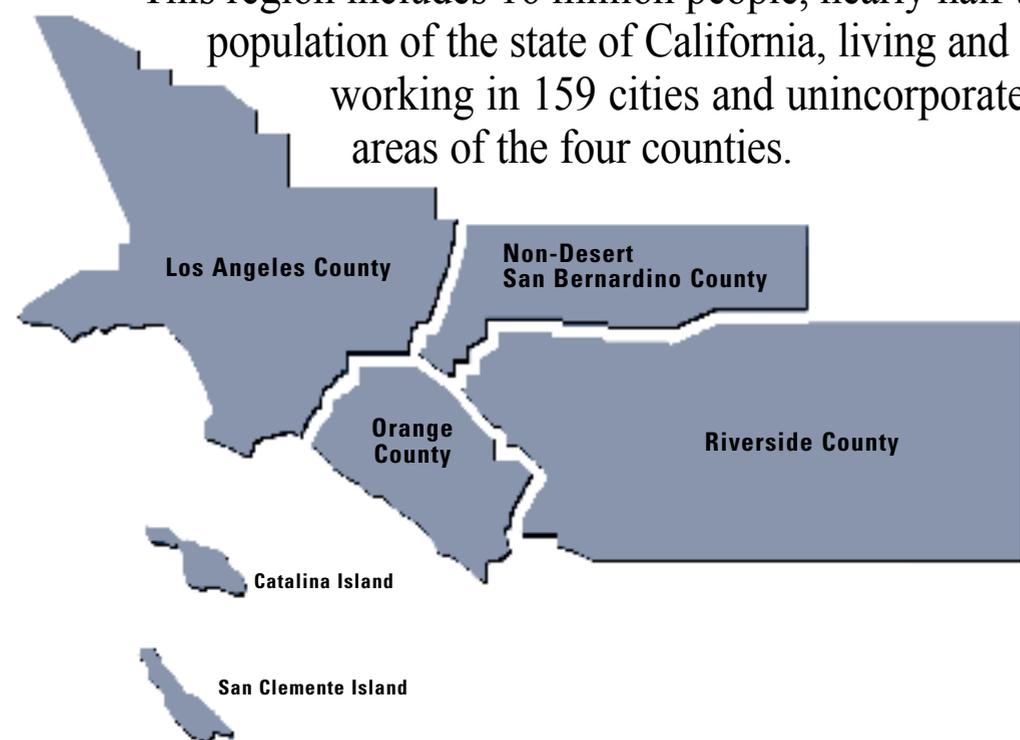


The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), by law, is required to achieve and maintain healthful air quality for its residents. This is accomplished through a comprehensive program of planning, regulation, compliance assistance, enforcement, monitoring, technology advancement, and public education.

AQMD is Your Air District

The AQMD began operations as the Southland's regional air pollution control agency in 1977. Our jurisdiction covers all of Orange county and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

This region includes 16 million people, nearly half the population of the state of California, living and working in 159 cities and unincorporated areas of the four counties.



Air Pollution & Your Health

Health Effects of Air Pollution

Many people experience some kind of air pollution related symptoms such as watery eyes, coughing or wheezing. Even for healthy people, polluted air can cause respiratory irritation or breathing difficulties during exercise or outdoor activities. As a resident of this area, you are exposed to a number of pollutants in typical outdoor air. Of course the health risk depends on your current health status, the pollutant type and concentration and the length of exposure to the polluted air.

People most susceptible to severe health problems from air pollution are:

- Individuals with heart or lung disease
- Individuals with respiratory problems such as asthma or emphysema
- Pregnant women
- Outdoor workers
- Elderly residents, whose immune systems are weaker
- Athletes who exercise regularly outdoors
- Children

Children are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of air pollution and special care must be taken to protect them. Children are often more at risk than adults from air pollution because they:

- breathe more air per their body weight, in comparison to adults.
- run and play outdoors and on high smog days are exposed to greater volumes of air pollution.
- have immune systems and lungs that are not yet fully developed.

And although the reason behind high asthma rates among our school-age children has not been determined, smog can definitely worsen asthma symptoms.

High air pollution levels can cause immediate health problems such as:

- Aggravated cardiovascular and respiratory illness;
- Added stress to heart and lungs, which must work harder to supply the body with oxygen; or
- Damaged cells in the respiratory system.

Long-term exposure to polluted air can have permanent health effects such as:

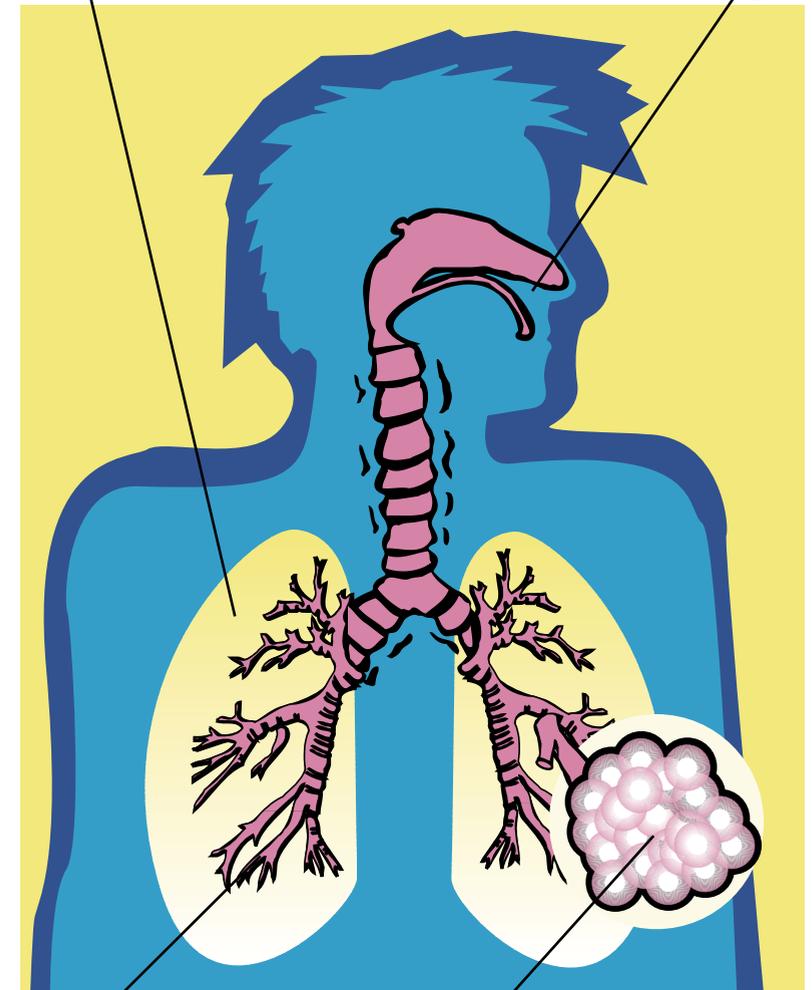
- Accelerated aging of the lungs and loss of lung capacity;
- Decreased lung function;
- Development of diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and possible cancer; or
- Shortened life span.



How Smog Affects Your Body

1 Every time you inhale, lungs take in irritating particles and gases.

Large particles and gases irritate nose, throat, sinuses and can cause sore throat and coughing.



3 Microscopic particles and gases irritate lung tissue and impair the immune system cells that protect your lungs against infections.

4 Fine particles and gases penetrate and damage air sacs deep in the lungs.

When to Blow the Whistle on Outdoor Youth Activities

To protect our kids, it's a good idea for everyone to be aware of air quality, especially anyone who supervises children or teenagers. We advise school officials to have children avoid vigorous outdoor activities, like running, soccer, football, etc., when unhealthy air quality conditions are forecasted. If a health advisory occurs during the day, teachers, coaches and others should take immediate steps to reduce children's exposure to air pollution, for example, substituting indoor activities for more

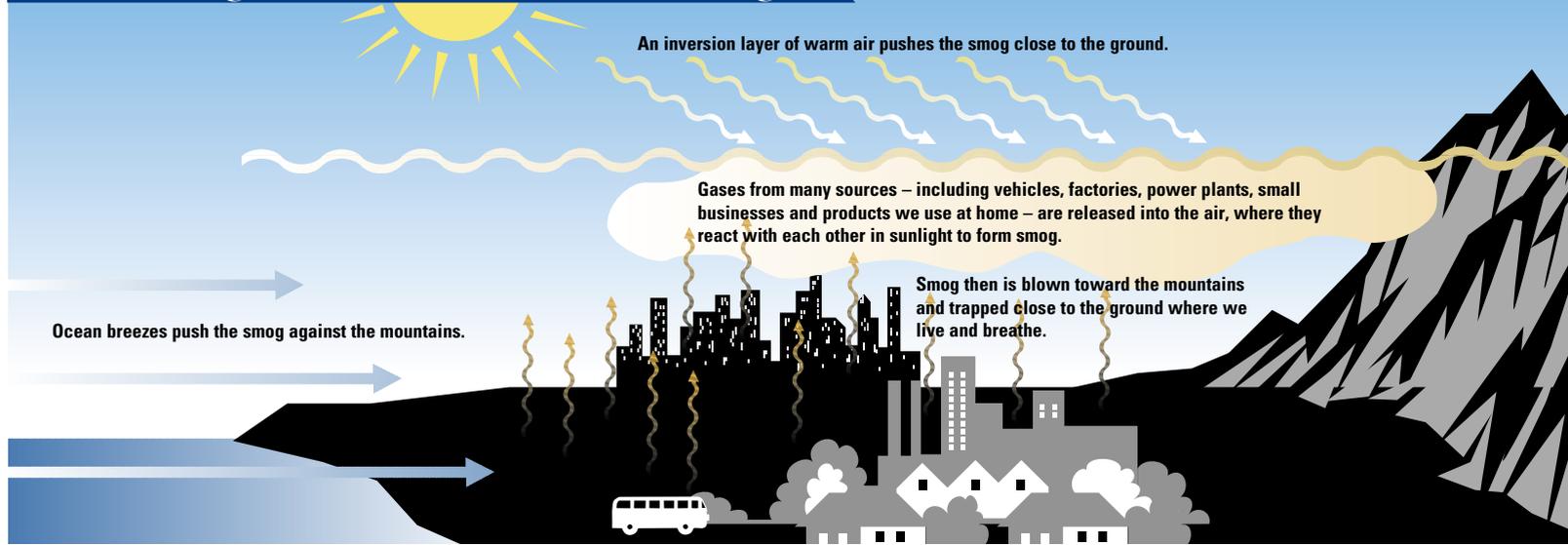


strenuous outdoor exercise. Teachers should discuss air pollution and its effects on our health and make the air quality forecast a part of the class routine.

A health advisory is issued by AQMD when the one-hour standard for ozone, .015 parts per million, is exceeded. The ozone season officially extends from May 1 and to Oct. 31. Smog forecast information is available on our website at <http://ozone.aqmd.gov/smog/forecast.shtml>.

Smog Formation

The Making of Southern California's Smog



The South Coast Air Basin has never had completely clear air. Sea salt, smoke from fires and dust have affected visibility for generations. Contributing to the problem is Southern California's unique micro climate: lazy winds, strong sunlight, a circle of mountains acting as a bowl and a strong persistent layer of warm air that acts as a lid, trapping close to the surface pollutants generated by 16 million residents and the 12 million cars and trucks.

We live in the South Coast Air Basin, where geography and weather conditions trap air pollution or smog.

As the wind blows from the ocean pushing pollution across the basin, sunlight turns hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides into a gas called ozone. The ozone is then trapped by the mountain ranges encompassing a significant portion of the basin. This pattern changes during Santa Ana conditions, when winds blow from the north or east pushing the pollution back across the basin towards the coast.

A layer of warm air often acts as a lid over the basin, keeping the smog from escaping upward. The lower the inversion layer the higher the levels of smog become. However, when the air near the ground becomes hotter than the inversion layer, it rises up through the inversion layer and carries the pollution away, just as boiling water lifts the lid off a pot.

Ozone is the main part of smog. Hydrocarbons come from burning or evaporating fuels, cleaning products and paint. Nitrogen oxides come from burning fuels in cars, power plants, and other equipment.

Sources of Air Pollution

There are many sources that contribute to our region's air pollution problem.

Stationary Sources

- Industries, such as refineries and power plants;
- Businesses, such as factories, dry cleaners, gas stations, and auto body shops;
- Commercial products, including paints, solvents, adhesives, and furniture varnishes; and
- Other sources such as dairy livestock operations.



20%
Stationary
Sources
(Regulated by AQMD)

80%
Mobile Sources &
Consumer Products
(Regulated by State and
Federal government)

Mobile Sources & Consumer Products

- Motor vehicles, including cars, diesel-powered trucks and buses, ships, trains, planes, and off-road construction equipment;
- Consumer products, such as household cleaners, cosmetics, gas-powered lawn mowers and leaf blowers.



History of Air Pollution in Southern California

If you are a young person or if your more-distant youth was spent outside of Southern California, you may mistakenly believe L.A.'s brown summer haze is a sign of failure - - instead of a wake-up call for improved effort. But long-timers can point to significant improvements in air quality over the decades. Baby-boomers raised in the region can recall a time when local mountains totally disappeared behind a summer smog curtain; a time when schools often cancelled recesses and other outdoor activities due to scores of high-smog alerts; a time when outdoor sports and exposure to smog led to severe shortness of breath, chest pains and a sore throat, making it impossible to continue physical activity.

Still further back, seniors can remember when there were no air quality agencies or regulations, when black smoke was allowed to enter the air unabated. In 1943, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that a pall of smoke and fumes descended on downtown L.A., cutting visibility to three blocks. This "gas attack" gripped workers with eye-stinging, throat-scraping sensations, leaving the public with a realization that something had gone terribly wrong with their outdoor air.

Since that time, we have made significant improvements in the quality of the air that we breathe, even though we have experienced a phenomenal degree of population growth. AQMD's Governing Board firmly believes that Southern California must continue to reduce health risks from air pollution in cost-effective ways: 1) that support a thriving local economy and, 2) that address and prioritize air pollution sources using fairness and common sense.



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A LOOK BACK AT EARLY SMOG SCIENCE

In mid-century, county-based air regulators first tried to reduce visible smoke and dust from factories, requiring major industries to get air pollution permits to keep operating, and restricting open burning of trash and waste piles. Rules were adopted banning soot-belching orchard smudge pots and backyard incinerators.

The control strategy took a dramatic step forward after researchers at CalTech in Pasadena found that the key ingredient in smog was ozone, a colorless gas that stunts growth in plants and eats away plastic, rubber, cement - - and human lung tissue. The regulatory focus became increasingly sophisticated through new findings in air science. Going beyond simple smoke controls, improved strategies focused on controlling hydrocarbons (such as fumes from gasoline or paint) and nitrogen oxides (a by-product of engine combustion). Rules were adopted to cut emissions from flame-heated water boilers, and to reduce the evaporative oil content of paints and other products.

By the mid-1970's, there was a growing realization that pollution crossed county borders and there was a need to create a region-wide air quality agency. Growing political pressure resulted in the merging of four separate county programs into the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Today, AQMD's 12-member Governing Board provides oversight on behalf of all four counties through its combined membership of 9 elected officials and 3 appointees-of elected officials. (See page 2 for current roster.) AQMD, as a local air quality district, operates in conformity with the policies of the California Air Resources Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1977 the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) began an ambitious campaign to reduce emissions and improve air quality within the South Coast region. Over the years, AQMD has remained in the forefront of air pollution control through the development of innovative programs and rules; and the advancement of cleaner technologies. As a result, AQMD rules are the most stringent air pollution regulations in the world. In addition to establishing strict requirements for the more than 25,000 permitted sources under its purview, AQMD has also adopted the following:

- Rideshare incentive programs for the region's commuters;
- A landmark series of rules to control toxic emissions; and
- A series of fleet rules to reduce emissions from mobile sources.

Today this agency of committed professionals, including scientists, planners and technical specialists continues to work to achieve healthful air quality for the 16 million people who live and work within its four-county region.

Enforcement

Comprised of engineers, inspectors, scientists, attorneys and related support staff, this group is responsible for implementing and enforcing AQMD Rules and Regulations, as well as other federal, state and local requirements. Failure to follow applicable air quality requirements can subject the offender to civil or criminal prosecution.



Air Monitoring

AQMD operates a network of 32 monitoring stations throughout the basin, which provide real time air quality data of pollutant levels on a 24 hour a day basis. This information is also combined with meteorological data for modeling purposes to forecast smog levels. Air monitoring and forecast information is available to the public through the website at www.aqmd.gov.



AQMD Services At A Glance

AQMP and Rule Development

At the core of AQMD's programs is the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), the blueprint for achieving federal and state clean air standards within the South Coast region. All of the agency's rules and regulations stem from this plan.

Revised every three to four years, the latest plan was adopted by the AQMD's Governing Board in August 2003. The revision process is a lengthy one, with steps that include the development of an emission inventory, extensive air quality modeling, and the development of specific control measures. A series of public meetings and public hearings are held to receive input on the proposed revisions to the AQMP. Once adopted by the AQMD's Governing Board, the plan is forwarded to the state and federal government for approval.

Once the AQMP is adopted, the control measures contained in the plan become the basis for new AQMD emission-reduction actions. There are many opportunities for you to participate in the rule development process, including public consultation meetings, public workshops, working groups, and finally a hearing before the Governing Board.

Technology Advancement

Achieving federal and state clean air standards in Southern California requires emission reductions from both mobile and stationary sources beyond those expected using current technologies. The AQMP relies on the implementation of advanced technologies and clean-burning fuels to achieve these standards. Established in 1988, the Technology Advancement Office (TAO) assists industry in the development of progressively lower-emitting technologies and fuels through an innovative public-private partnerships.



Laboratory Services and Analysis

AQMD's Laboratory is a nationally and internationally recognized air chemistry laboratory that provides support services and analytical data for enforcement of air pollution regulations and testing of industrial stack emissions. The Laboratory also operates Southern California's portion of the federally funded Photochemical Assessment Monitoring System (PAMS), performing sampling, analysis and reporting functions.



Public Outreach

Outreach is an important link between the public and the AQMD. The agency conducts workshops and community meetings in order to receive input from the public on rule and plan development. In addition, staff conducts town hall and special community meetings to receive input on environmental issues at the neighborhood level.

All affected businesses and other interested members of the public are notified of proposed AQMD activities.

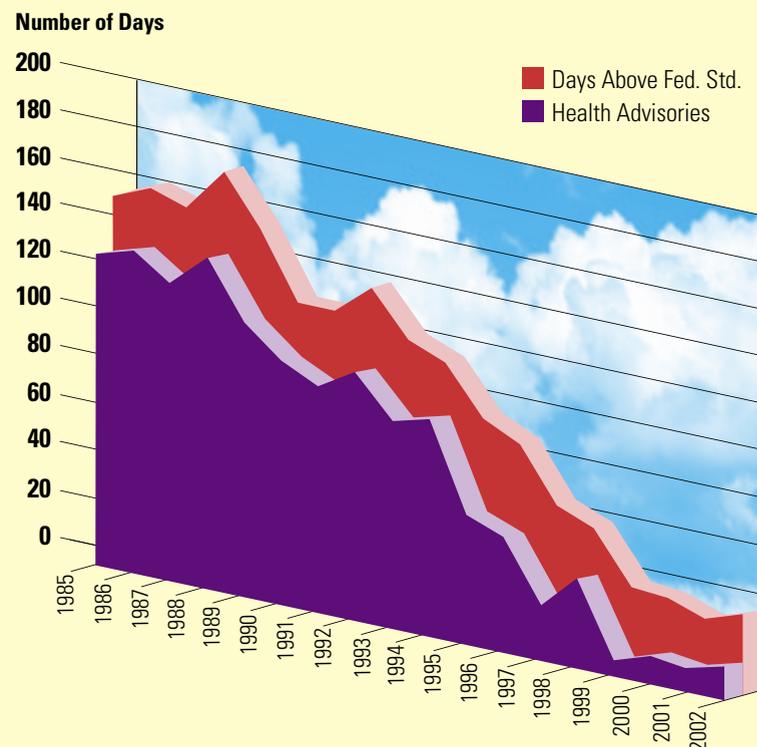


Progress in Reducing Ozone Pollution, 1985-2002

Federal Standard: Air quality is considered unhealthful for sensitive people when the federal one-hour standard for ozone exceeds 0.12 parts per million.

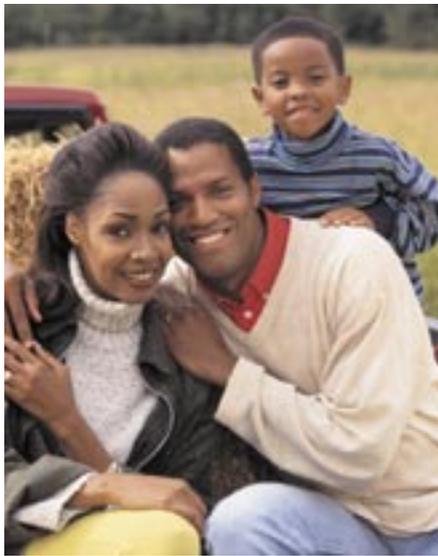
Health Advisory: When the one-hour ozone levels exceed 0.15 parts per million, air quality becomes unhealthful for everyone.

This chart shows that after years of dramatic improvements in air quality, the South Coast's clean air progress has leveled off. Currently, we're threatened with the prospect of backsliding - - which is bad for residents and business alike.



Having A Say About Your Air Quality

While smog represents a problem for the entire region, many communities experience localized air quality issues that can represent an immediate and significant risk to the health and welfare of the local residents – issues such as poorly managed construction dust or heavy diesel exhaust, for example.



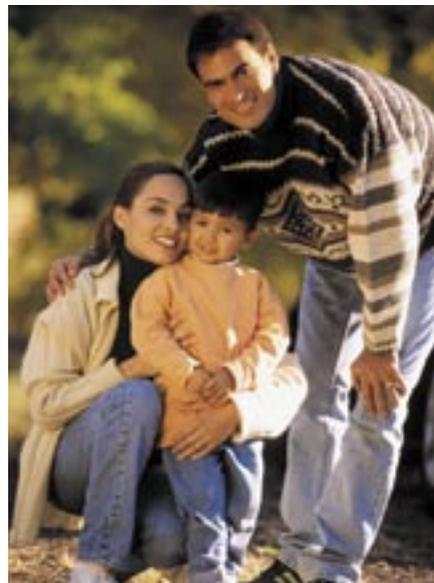
In most cases, these nuisance situations arise from local zoning issues or facilities that are not operating in compliance with AQMD requirements.

To address these issues, in 1997 AQMD adopted a pioneering



Environmental Justice means equitable environmental policymaking and enforcement to protect the health of all persons who live or work in the South Coast Air Basin, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, from the health effects of air pollution.

series of initiatives to ensure that everyone who lives or works in the region can receive the benefits of clean air. Building healthy neighborhoods, increasing public involvement and addressing local sources of air pollution have been the priorities for AQMD's Environmental Justice (EJ) efforts.



AQMD's EJ work plan is updated each year and you are encouraged to participate and provide ideas on program enhancements. You can learn more about AQMD's EJ efforts by joining the Clean Air Congress (see page 12); by attending meetings, workshops and conferences; and by visiting www.aqmd.gov.



Report Air Quality Problems



Every month, nearly 13,000 people help AQMD clean the air by calling 1-800-CUT-SMOG® to report air quality problems. Smoking vehicles, excessive dust, odors, smoke and other air contaminants are often in violation of air quality laws and can be corrected. Some complaints are resolved over the

telephone; in other cases AQMD inspectors investigate and issue notices of violation as necessary to enforce clean air regulations.

Call 1-800-CUT-SMOG® (or # SMOG on your cell phone) to report an air quality problem. Spanish Hotline: 1-800-876-3666.

Protecting Your Community

Ongoing Environmental Justice Strategies Include:

Town Hall Meetings

AQMD board members and staff meet with communities in city halls and recreation centers throughout the four-county region, responding personally to local concerns. Meetings are held in the evenings and on weekends to give the public better access and improve resident involvement in air quality policies.

Community Response Teams

The teams respond to chronic community concerns that may have long-term impacts while also addressing community economic needs.



Community Air Quality Monitoring

In response to community concerns, special monitoring is conducted to evaluate air quality within a neighborhood.

Increased Review of Proposed Projects

Proposed development projects that may impair air qual-



ity are reviewed by AQMD staff, and mitigation guidance is provided to local governments.

Permits for Portable Equipment

New solutions are being considered to ensure that 4,400 portable engines, many operating next to schools and hospitals, do not create localized adverse air quality impacts.

Toxic Hot Spots

AQMD's Environmental Justice Initiatives also led to mobile "toxic hot spot" monitoring as part of the region's largest study of toxic air pollution in the past decade. Typically, monitors can help highlight whether residential communities near industrial facilities and major transportation corridors experience elevated risk levels from air toxics.

Neighborhood Environmental Justice Councils

The Neighborhood Environmental Justice Councils enable local government officials, residents, businesses and AQMD staff to interact and communicate proactively about AQMD policies, procedures and issues regarding local air pollution emission sources.

Cumulative Health Impacts from Air Pollution

Central to AQMD's environmental justice program is responding to neighborhood concerns. The AQMD Governing Board adopted a plan to address possible health and nuisance impacts potentially related to a neighborhood's cumulative emissions from sources that individually comply with AQMD, state and federal rules.

The scope of the cumulative impacts reduction strategy includes cancer risk, non-cancer impacts, a pilot program for odor control, and enhanced compliance efforts.

Clean-Up Diesel Exhaust

AQMD has created financial and policy incentives to clean-up or remove high-polluting diesel engines in the basin. (See page 10.)

Get Involved

Through AQMD's Environmental Justice (EJ) Program there are several opportunities for you to get involved and help to remedy local air quality problems. Improving air quality within your community can start with you.

Ways to participate include:

Attend Townhall and Community Meetings

Held to address local air quality issues important to the community.



Attend Public Consultation Meetings

Offer your ideas and feedback to AQMD on current and proposed EJ programs. This is your opportunity to participate in the planning process of the EJ Program.

For information on upcoming events visit:
www.aqmd.gov/calendar/calev.html

Access information at a Clean Air Data Depository near you

To make air quality reports and requirements more widely available in both paper and electronic form, the AQMD has established 11 Data Depositories across the South Coast area, most at library facilities. Each Depository has an information kit that includes: AQMD planning and rule documents; notices for workshops and Governing Board meetings; procurement opportunities; and data on nearby permit-holding facilities.

To have a list of Data Depository locations mailed to you: Call (800) CUT-SMOG; at the message prompt, press selection 4, "Information on AQMD Programs," then leave your request and your mailing address. Locations are also listed on-line at www.aqmd.gov/ej/EJ_data_depositories.htm.

Going the Extra Mile

Driving Down Vehicle Emissions

It's not big news to say that cleaner-running vehicles and fuels are essential to cutting smog. But many Southland residents don't realize that AQMD as a regional agency has very little authority over pollution from vehicles.

Many worthwhile low-emission vehicle technologies must be activated by state and federal agencies in order to achieve clean air within our region. In the meantime, as described below, AQMD tries to use a variety of creative local tools to chip away at unhealthy vehicle emissions including toxic diesel soot.

Technology Advancement Projects

Through its Technology Advancement Office AQMD has been a leader in supporting projects on new technologies to reduce emissions from mobile sources. AQMD has co-funded more than 250 projects involving a wide array of low-emission technologies and clean-fuel applications, such as targeted technological advances in automobiles, urban transit buses, medium- and heavy-duty trucks, and "off-road" equipment, including lawnmowers. AQMD has funded projects to implement clean fuels -- such as methanol, natural gas, propane and hydrogen -- and the infrastructure needed for them. Specific research has focused on engine design, electric powertrains and vehicle energy systems such as fuel cells and batteries. To date, many of these clean air technologies are now being commercialized in Southern California.



AQMD's Landmark Fleet Rules

AQMD passed a series of fleet rules, which call for fleets of transit buses, refuse trucks, street sweepers, airport taxis and school buses to shift to clean-fueled vehicles. These rules will eventually result in many thousands of dirty diesel school buses, transit buses, and heavy-duty trucks to be replaced by low pollution buses and trucks, eliminating thousands of tons of cancer-causing diesel particulate emissions from our skies each year and protecting the health of the 16 million residents of the basin.

Clean Vehicle Replacement Program

Using funds from its Clean Fuels Fund, air quality settlements and the State's Carl Moyer fund, AQMD has helped to put more than 1,500 clean-fueled vehicles on the road in Southern California. These funds will help local governments and private industry comply with AQMD's landmark fleet rules. In addition, AQMD approved \$7.4 million to install particulate emission filters on more than 1,000 diesel-powered school buses to reduce the cancer risk to children.



Federal Government Challenges AQMD's Clean Fleet Rules

In August 2003, the federal government joined a lawsuit in the U.S. Supreme Court that seeks to overturn the Southland's "clean fleet rules," which represent some of the region's most important and innovative tools for reducing smog-forming and toxic air pollution.

"We are experiencing our smoggiest summer in seven years, and the federal government is trying to take away the very tools we need to protect the health of 16 million Southern Californians," said Barry Wallerstein, Executive Officer for the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The U.S. Department of Justice filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the U.S. Supreme Court urging the court to overturn AQMD's clean fleet rules. The Western States Petroleum Association, a trade association of major oil companies, and the Engine Manufacturers Association, which includes several diesel engine manufacturers, originally brought the lawsuit in U.S. District Court. After AQMD prevailed in that court and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the plaintiffs appealed to the Supreme Court, which is expected to hear the case in early December.

AQMD's clean fleet rules, adopted in 2000 and 2001, require fleet operators of transit buses, school buses, trash trucks, airport shuttles and taxis, street sweepers and heavy-duty utility trucks to buy clean-fueled models when they replace vehicles or add to their fleet.

The rules have resulted in the replacement of hundreds of highly polluting diesel-powered vehicles with cleaner-burning natural gas and other alternative-fuel models.

Plaintiffs and now the federal government argue that under the federal Clean Air Act, states and local jurisdictions are prohibited from establishing their own emission standards for new motor vehicles.

"AQMD's fleet rules do not set emission standards," Wallerstein said. "They simply ask fleet operators to choose from among the cleanest engines that are commercially available."

Each of AQMD's fleet rules exempt fleet operators if they can demonstrate that the specific model they need is not commercially available in a clean-fuel version.

AQMD Resources

Small Business Assistance

Do you want to expand or relocate your business? Do you want air quality requirements explained in your language? Do you need technical assistance to help you observe emission limits? AQMD's Small Business Assistance staff can help you navigate through the pollution control and permit process, and can provide information about certified products and processes that do not require permits.

AQMD offers broad support to help businesses comply with pollution control requirements, with a special emphasis on small businesses. Detailed program information can be easily accessed through the Business Assistance Directory on the Internet at <http://www.aqmd.gov/business/>.

Permitting Resources

General Information - AQMD staff can help determine which businesses need air permits, provide application forms and explain annual reporting requirements. Information is provided for permit applicants who are required to use Best Available Control Technology guidelines to obtain a permit.



Business Service Resources

Technical Consultations - Field services available include no-fault facility inspection, advice on control equipment, help with recordkeeping, and potential solutions to financing control equipment.



Transportation Rule Assistance - Information is provided to assist employers in identifying cost effective, practical options to meet ridesharing goals and other strategies to reduce air pollution from on-road mobile sources.



Compliance Resources

Compliance Assistance Classes - Experienced field inspectors help facility owners and operators learn about source-specific rule requirements. Classes also address enforcement actions, variances and the Hearing Board process.



On-Line Shop Talk - Owners and operators of specific industry operations, such as autobody shops and dry cleaners can access information and resources to help them comply with AQMD emission requirements.



Hearing Board and Variances

The Hearing Board has the power to provide relief from AQMD regulations under certain limited conditions. Staff is available to assist businesses with the variance process.

AQMD Telephone Numbers

- Public Advisor.....(909) 396-3185
- Air Quality Complaints.....(800) CUT-SMOG
- Air Quality Readings..... (800) CUT-SMOG
- AQMD General Number.....(909) 396-2000
- Asbestos Notification.....(909) 396-2336
- Clean Air Congress™(800) 4-CLN-AIR
- Compliance Course Information.....(800) CUT-SMOG
- Gas Nozzle Complaints.....(800) 242-4020
- Smoking Vehicle Complaints..... (800) CUT-SMOG
- Job Information.....(909) 396-2800
- Local Government Liason.....(909) 396-3208
- Permit Information.....(909) 396-2468
- Public Information Center.....(800) CUT-SMOG
- Small Business Assistance Hotline.....(800) 388-2121
- Smog Forecasts.....(800) CUT-SMOG
- Spanish Language Line.....(909) 396-3666

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Doing Your Part

Help Clean the Air by Joining the Clean Air Congress

The Clean Air Congress is an organization open to anyone in the South Coast region who is concerned about air pollution and the fight for clean air.

It is designed to bring together people who are interested in air quality issues, new clean-air technologies like the newest hybrid cars, current air quality rule-making and the effects they have on our community. The Clean Air Congress provides opportunities to learn more about air quality and to speak out, so as to favorably impact our air quality. One voice is important; however, multiplied by ten thousand other voices, the impact cannot be ignored.

The Clean Air Congress is an active group of Southlanders sharing information, strategies, and new technologies to fight the health hazards of air pollution, while maintaining a thriving economic climate. As a member, you can help AQMD make important decisions by learning about air quality issues and combining our voices to make a difference in our communities.

As a member, you will receive a periodic newsletter and receive invitations to Clean Air Congress conventions and expos. These events provide an opportunity to meet local, state, and federal elected representatives, and AQMD Governing Board members.

Membership in the Clean Air Congress is free. You may sign up online at cleanaircongress@aqmd.gov or call 1-800-4-CLN-AIR. Take action now to help clean the air that we breathe by joining the Clean Air Congress.



Tips You Can Use To Help Clean The Air

The AQMD has made significant progress in cleaning the air. However, air pollution in the South Coast area is still among the worst in the nation. It will take everybody working together to help win the war against smog. Listed below are some of the things you can do to help clean the air that we breathe.

The More You Know

In order to help clean the air, everybody needs to learn more about air pollution. AQMD has free brochures and information on its web site. AQMD is also developing an information program for elementary schools about air quality and the environment. Students, ask your teachers to contact the AQMD to find out more. For more information, visit our web-site at www.aqmd.gov.

Recycle

Recycling helps the environment because materials aren't incinerated or buried in a landfill. Newspapers, paper products, aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles are all recyclable. Disposing of used motor oil, paints and solvents at a recycling center helps keep our drinking water clean and prevents harmful vapors from escaping into the air.



Keep Your Home Green

Plant trees and green plants that require little water. Trees also reduce dust in the air. By mowing



your lawn with a push or electric mower and manually raking up clippings, you are also helping to clean the air.

Insulate Your Home

By insulating your home, your family can reduce the air pollution that is generated by electric power plants which run on natural gas. Closing doors and weather stripping windows and doors also help to conserve energy.

Keeping Your Car Cool

Make sure that your car's air conditioning system is working properly and it will prevent chemicals called "chlorofluorocarbons" (CFCs) from escaping into the atmosphere and damaging the ozone layer. The high-altitude ozone layer protects us from the harmful rays from the sun that can cause skin cancer. Your auto mechanic can inspect your car's air conditioning system for leaks.

Tune Up Your Car

Car engines in bad running condition not only damage the motor, but waste fuel as well. A car that is not maintained can also increase the emission of hydrocarbons and



nitrogen oxides, two of the main elements of smog as well as particulates.

Use Water-Based Paint

Paints emit more smog elements than all Southland petroleum refineries and gasoline stations combined. Oil-based paint carries three to five more solvents than water-based paints. Some newer



latex paints contain far fewer solvents. Your paint retailer as well as the product labels can provide information on the benefits of using water-based paints.

Have Your Clothes Cleaned With Alternative Methods

Perchloroethylene or "Perc", is a toxic chemical used in the dry cleaning process for clothes. The air contaminant has been linked to various cancers found in people. Dry cleaners can now switch to non-toxic alternatives, such as wet cleaning or hydrocarbon systems.



Driving Less Cuts Air Pollution

Walking, riding a bike, combining errands in one trip, carpooling to work, and obeying speed limits will all help reduce air pollution. The less you drive the less smog your car puts into the air.