



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## South Coast AQMD honors clean air heroes

**DIAMOND BAR** – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) today announced winners of its 31<sup>st</sup> Clean Air Awards. The annual awards ceremony honors individuals and businesses, public agencies and others who are making significant contributions to cleaner air in the South Coast Air Basin. This year’s winners include former U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Gina McCarthy, USC Professor Dr. Jill Johnson as well as local youth from Pacoima Beautiful and the Youth Leadership Institute.

The winners were honored at an awards lunch held at the L.A. Grand Hotel Downtown in Los Angeles. Christina Sanchez, former Public Affairs Director for Univision’s flagship station, KMEX-TV, was emcee for the event.

“We are always honored and excited to recognize and stand with those who are committed to cleaning the air,” said Dr. William A. Burke, South Coast AQMD’s Governing Board Chair. “These award winners are inspiring examples of how non-profits, business and community members, including the youth, can help lead the fight to make air pollution a thing of the past.”

South Coast AQMD’s 2019 Clean Air Award winners are:

### **The S. Roy Wilson Leadership in Government**

**Gina McCarthy** led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Administrator from July 2013 to January 2017. She led EPA initiatives that cut air pollution, protected water resources, reduced greenhouse gases, and strengthened chemical safety to better protect more Americans, especially the most vulnerable, from negative health impacts. McCarthy signed the Clean Power Plan, which set the first-ever national standards for reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants, underscoring the country’s commitment to domestic climate action and spurring international efforts that helped secure the Paris Climate Agreement. McCarthy worked with the United Nations and the World Health Organization on a variety of efforts and represented the U.S. on global initiatives to reduce high-risk sources of pollution.

McCarthy currently serves as Professor of the Practice of Public Health in the Department of Environmental Health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Director of the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment (Harvard C-CHANGE). In this capacity, she leads the development of the School’s strategy in climate science, health, and sustainability; strengthens the climate science and health curriculum; and liaises with climate science leaders across the University.

### **The Robert M. Zweig, M.D. Memorial Award**

**Dr. Jill Johnston** is an Assistant Professor of Preventative Medicine and Director of Community Outreach & Engagement in Environmental Health at the University of Southern California (USC) and works to develop community-academic partnerships to advance environmental health and justice in disadvantaged urban and rural neighborhoods. Her research combines community engagement with exposure assessment and epidemiology to address environmental health concerns.

As Outreach Director for the USC Environmental Health Centers, Dr. Johnston has been working to increase awareness and build community capacity on issues such as urban oil wells in Los Angeles and the disappearing Salton Sea in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Dr. Johnston's interest in environmental justice research emerged from years spent as a grassroots community organizer committed to establishing healthy built environments and effective community participation in decision-making processes. Dr. Johnston's work has empowered communities to actively participate in air quality issues to improve public health and well-being within the South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction.

### **Youth Leadership in Air Quality Award**

**Pacoima Beautiful's Youth United Toward Environmental Protection (YUTEP)** is committed to youth leadership training and education for residents in the San Fernando Valley. The organization provides environmental education tools to become advocates for sustainable changes in the environment, and leadership skills to

YUTEP members are leaders on their school campuses and in the community by hosting on campus events and participating in community events and meetings that support improving local air quality. Recently, USC Environmental Health Centers Community Engagement Team and Pacoima Beautiful partnered to engage YUTEP in a "Day in the Life, a Community Based Science and Media Project." A Day in the Life brought visibility to the stories of youth of color living and organizing in the San Fernando Valley communities that experience a variety of environmental and pollution impacts.

### **Youth Leadership in Air Quality Award**

**Youth Leadership Institute** was recognized for its documentary "Estamos Aquí: A Community Documentary." The documentary, made by four Salton Sea-area residents reflects on a community impacted by environmental issues and highlights community voices and the future of the eastern Coachella Valley. As the Salton Sea in the east Coachella Valley continues to recede, toxic dust and other airborne issues continue to affect those in the surrounding areas.

The Youth Leadership Institute by Alianza's Youth Organizing Council (YO-C) prepares young adults in Eastern Coachella Valley to be future leaders and builds communities where young people and their adult allies come together to create positive community change that promotes social justice and racial equity.

### **Model Community Achievement Award**

**San Bernardino Council of Governments** with partners **BYD, Daylight Transport, CALSTART, BNSF,** and the **California Air Resources Board** celebrated the arrival of the first of 27 next-generation, zero-emission electric yard and service trucks in three disadvantaged communities in San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Fontana in March 2017.

The project demonstrates 23 battery-electric 80,000-pound (GCVWR) Class 8 yard trucks and four 16,100-pound (GVWR) Class 5 service trucks. Three yard trucks and a service truck will operate at Daylight and the other 23 will operate at two BNSF Railway rail yards in San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. Over the two-year duration of the demonstration project, the zero-emission trucks are expected to reduce emissions of about 3,500 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent, 3,250 pounds of nitrogen oxide and 170 pounds of diesel soot.

### **Clean Air Education and Outreach Award**

**California Safe Schools (CSS)** is committed to ensuring that all students, teachers, staff, and community members who attend, work or live near school sites are in a safe toxic-free environment. From its inception in 1998, CSS has facilitated changes at the policy level as well as at the grassroots. CSS was an early advocate for the retrofit or replacement of diesel school buses to safeguard our children's health.

To date, CSS has provided direct assistance to millions of California school children, parents, teachers, school districts, and school employees, and members of the public, especially in environmental justice communities, through protective environmental health policies, legislation, and programs. The policies and programs CSS created have become national and international models.

### **Clean Air Education and Outreach Award**

**The Port of Long Beach Academy of Global Logistics (AGL) at Cabrillo High School** is a unique real-world educational experience for students on air quality, logistics, and zero-emissions technology.

AGL combines academic curriculum with industry-relevant training to engage and inspire students living in West Long Beach, a community heavily impacted by air pollution from goods movement. Cabrillo High School senior students participated in the Zero Emissions Transformation Capstone project that began in fall 2018. They worked in groups of five, each focusing on a different aspect of the issue. Real-world industry experts on zero-emissions presented every other week and students participated in a field trip to learn about Port of Long Beach (POLB) operations.

In spring 2019, the chosen lead student group presented their findings to POLB staff, school district representatives and CARB. The program has captivated students and has proven to be a significant incentive to learn about air pollution and port operations. AGL has a positive impact on the local student population.

### **Clean Air Business Leadership Award**

**Total Transportation Services, Inc. (TTSI)** is a 3rd Party Logistics Provider with a commitment to being a good steward of the environment that surpasses others in the South Coast Air Basin. TTSI has pledged to replace 100 percent of their diesel fleet with near-zero emission trucks. These trucks will be fueled with renewable natural gas resulting in a 90 percent reduction in NOx pollution and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by more than 80 percent. This steep reduction in air pollution will benefit communities most impacted by the goods movement activities related to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Since the inception of the initial Clean Air Action Program in 2007, TTSI has been working to improve its fleet with the most advanced truck technology available in the industry. In 2008, TTSI ordered 106 clean diesel trucks, totally converting their drayage fleet to "Clean". In the same year, TTSI started operating liquefied natural gas trucks in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. In 2010, TTSI introduced the world's first Class 8, Hydrogen Fuel Cell Drayage Truck. And, since 2015, TTSI has been demonstrating battery electric and fuel cell technology. TTSI's goal is to operate a complete zero emission fleet in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

### **Innovative Clean Air Technology Award**

**Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA)** is currently deploying 30 zero emission, battery-electric powered, Class 6 and Class 8, heavy-duty trucks in the South Coast Air Basin. This project will displace over 472,000 gallons of diesel fuel use per year. Annually, these electric trucks will reduce nitrogen oxide, reactive organic gases and particulate matter 2.5 emissions in the region by 17.77 tons per year. These emission reductions will benefit communities that are heavily impacted by diesel emissions.

Additionally, the project will help train regional fleet operators how to operate, maintain, and repair these vehicles and will provide the foundation for future deployment of clean air trucks. This specialized training

provides essential job creation, retention, and advancement opportunities within the Southern California fleet community. The project will also help develop cutting-edge heavy-duty electric truck charging infrastructure at critical locations throughout the South Coast Air Basin.

More information on the Clean Air Awards and this year's winners can be found at: [www.aqmd.gov/clean-air-awards](http://www.aqmd.gov/clean-air-awards).

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow @SouthCoastAQMD on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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