



South Coast  
AQMD

**SCAQMD**

*Cleaning  
the air  
that we  
breathe...*

# ADVISOR

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## Residential EV Charging Rebate Program Launched

**T**he South Coast Air Quality Management District has established a residential Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Incentive Pilot Program that will be available to Southland residents to help make charging at home more affordable. The convenience of having a home charging station makes buying a plug-in electric vehicle a more attractive choice and helps our region reduce vehicle emissions.

The program provides an incentive to buy-down the cost of Level 2 (240 volt) residential charging stations, which typically range from \$400-\$800. Level 2 charging is faster than Level 1 charging (using a standard 120 volt outlet). The incentive will be available on a first come, first served basis and will provide up to a \$250 rebate for the cost of hardware with an additional rebate of up to \$250 for low-income residents.

Charging stations need to be installed at a 240 volt outlet, or by a licensed electrician if there is no 240 volt outlet available. The stations also need to be in place for a minimum of three years. Installers are responsible for obtaining any required city or county electrical permits for the installation.

Visit [aqmd.gov/sign-up](http://aqmd.gov/sign-up) and scroll down under Incentive Programs to sign up for the Residential EV Charger Incentive Pilot Program email list. When the program's registration period opens, those who have signed-up will be emailed information on the application process and program updates.

## Local Business Honored for Promoting Smog-free Cleaning

**A** West Hills cleaner was honored in June with a national award for promoting its experience using non-toxic, non-smog forming wet cleaning to other dry cleaners.

818 Cleaners was selected for the Small Business Environmental Stewardship Award by the National Steering Committee for Small Business Ombudsman/Small Business Assistance Programs. The company was nominated by the California Air Resources Board for taking the lead in reducing toxic emissions and sharing its experiences with other cleaners.

818 Cleaners switched from a dry cleaning system using perchloroethylene, a carcinogen and toxic air contaminant, to a wet cleaning system using water and detergent almost ten years before SCAQMD's regulatory deadline.

SCAQMD Rule 1421 will prohibit the use of perchloroethylene in dry cleaning operations beginning in calendar year 2021. A \$10,000 grant is currently available for dry cleaners installing a complete professional wet cleaning system.

Visit [aqmd.gov](http://aqmd.gov) or [bit.ly/SCAQMDdrycleanergrant](http://bit.ly/SCAQMDdrycleanergrant) (case sensitive) for additional details on the dry cleaner grant program.

## White Papers Setting Stage for Development of 2016 AQMP

**A**fter meeting periodically over the past 15-17 months, working groups composed of stakeholders and technical experts have prepared ten white papers to assist in the development of the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The white papers explore topics impacting future emission reduction strategies for the region. These topics include controls of volatile organic compounds and particulate matter (PM), industrial facility modernization, energy outlook and efficiency, passenger transportation,

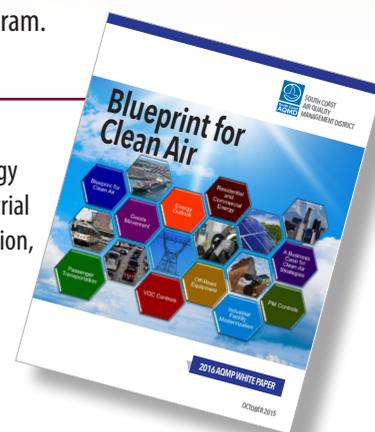
goods movement, off-road equipment, and the business case for clean air.

An AQMP is required to demonstrate how the region will reduce air pollution emissions to meet federal health-based standards for ground-level ozone and fine particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) by upcoming federal deadlines.

Eight of the white papers were presented at the SCAQMD's October Governing Board meeting and comments received were incorporated in the final versions. Similarly, the two remaining

white papers, Energy Outlook and Industrial Facility Modernization, will be presented at the November and December Governing Board meetings.

To view all versions of the white papers and all material provided at working group meetings, visit <http://bit.ly/aqmp2016> (case sensitive).



## New Air Quality Center at UC Riverside Endowed

**S**CAQMD's Governing Board approved a \$1 million endowment to establish a new Air Quality & Climate Research Training Center within the College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) at the University of California, Riverside.

The new center will provide training to professionals and graduate students on emerging issues and new research concerning air quality and climate change. The endowment will become a permanent self-sustaining source of funding for the center. Income from the endowment will support existing and future faculty members to develop coursework, seminars, and lectures about crucial issues relating to air quality and climate change. The multi-disciplinary training will be based around issues being addressed by SCAQMD and the California Air Resources Board such as the health impacts of air pollution, sustainable transportation, and air quality modeling.

The investment will prove beneficial to the South Coast region and SCAQMD by offering enhanced training for SCAQMD staff and future educational and career opportunities for students interested in environmental studies. The effort also affords an increased partnership between SCAQMD and CE-CERT on issues related to mobile sources, including mobile source control planning and strategy implementation.



## Measures Strengthened to Reduce Odors from Fracturing Activities

**S**CAQMD's Governing Board adopted measures to help reduce potential odors from oil and gas production operations. These actions "will help protect public health and improve air quality, especially in communities surrounding these facilities," said William A. Burke, Ed.D, chairman of the SCAQMD Board.

The amendments to SCAQMD's Rule 1148.1 require oil and gas production facilities to implement odor mitigation best practices. They also require these facilities to identify the cause of confirmed odors or oil deposition events if the facility has a well within 1,500 feet of a sensitive receptor (such as a hospital, school, daycare facility, elderly housing or convalescent facility).

The facility would also be required to implement an SCAQMD-approved odor mitigation plan if it has been issued odor nuisance violations on two or more days, or if there have been at least three confirmed odor events within a six-month period.

The Governing Board also approved amendments to SCAQMD's Rule 1148.2, which deals with notification and reporting requirements for oil and gas wells and chemical suppliers. The amendments revised reporting requirements for chemicals and trade name products and increased public notification for well activities from 24 hours to 48 hours.

There are 242 facilities operating approximately 4,320 onshore oil and gas wells in the Southland. Many of these facilities are located in urban areas, and sometimes located in close proximity to residential areas.

*For more information, contact Ed Eckerle, Program Supervisor, Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources, at [eeckerle@aqmd.gov](mailto:eeckerle@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3128.*

## SCAQMD Brings Zero Emission Lawnmowers and School Air Filtration Systems to Environmental Justice Communities

**D**uring the summer and fall of 2015 SCAQMD launched two new programs through its Clean Communities Plan in the environmental justice communities of Boyle Heights and the City of San Bernardino. The first new program is to install air filters in schools, and the second is to provide deep discounts on zero-emission lawn mowers in exchange for turning in gas-powered mowers.

SCAQMD collaborated with Legacy LA, a youth organization in Boyle Heights, to install air filtration systems at Murchison Street Elementary School. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Shed Grant provided more than \$380,000 to retrofit 52 classrooms, five student areas, and four faculty areas with IQAir's high-performance air filtration technology. The school serves many of the residents from Ramona Gardens - the largest public housing project in the City of Los Angeles. The community is home to more than 5,000 residents, of which 15.5% suffer from asthma.

In October, SCAQMD conducted electric lawnmower exchanges in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles and in the City of San Bernardino, where qualified residents exchanged their old gasoline-powered lawnmowers for zero-emission electric models at a deeply discounted price.

Older gasoline-powered lawnmowers can emit more pollutants annually than a car driven more than 22,000 miles. By scrapping more than 55,000 gasoline-powered lawnmowers over the past decade, SCAQMD has removed approximately 114 tons of smog-forming pollutants from Southern California's air.

In 2010 the SCAQMD Governing Board approved the Clean Communities Plan. The plan objective is to reduce exposure to air toxics and air-related nuisances throughout the South Coast Air Basin, with an emphasis on cumulative impacts.

Funded through the U.S. EPA Air Shed Grants, the air filtration program and the lawnmower exchange reduce exposure to air pollution in environmental justice communities which suffer from a disproportionately higher number of respiratory and chronic illnesses due to air pollution.

## Wintertime CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN Season Begins

**S**CAQMD's wintertime "Check Before You Burn" program began November 1 and is in effect through the end of February 2016. This is the fifth year of the program designed to protect public health by reducing harmful PM2.5 pollution during winter months. Last fall and winter, the SCAQMD declared no-burn alerts on 25 days, the most declared since the program began in 2011.

During the "Check Before You Burn" season, SCAQMD issues no-burn alerts on days when fine particulate pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. On these no-burn days, residents are not permitted to burn wood or manufactured logs in their fireplaces and outdoor fire pits.

To find out if a no-burn alert is in effect:

- Sign up to receive e-mail alerts at [AirAlerts.org](http://AirAlerts.org);
- Visit [aqmd.gov](http://aqmd.gov) for daily forecasts and for an interactive no-burn alert map; or
- Call SCAQMD's 24-hour Check Before You Burn toll-free line at (866) 966-3293

*For more information on the program, contact Tracy Goss at [tgoss@aqmd.gov](mailto:tgoss@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3106.*

## 27th Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon Honors Clean Air Champions

# 27th Annual Clean Air Awards

On October 2nd, SCAQMD hosted its 27th Annual Clean Air Awards luncheon in downtown Los Angeles. The awards were presented to businesses, organizations, and individuals that made a significant contribution to clean the air that we breathe. Over 400 guests attended the ceremony, which was held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, and emceed by NBC 4 News meteorologist Anthony Yanez.

The event included an expo area featuring exhibits by environmental organizations and the award-winning businesses and nonprofits honored during the program. One recipient, Phoenix Motorcars, even showcased its award-winning Zero-Emission Utility Shuttle (ZEUS) at the event.



**Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D.**  
**Chairman, California Energy Commission**  
*S. Roy Wilson Memorial Award for Leadership in Government*

Dr. Weisenmiller was appointed in January 2011 as chair of the California Energy Commission (CEC) by Governor Jerry Brown and reappointed in 2015. Under his leadership, the CEC has leveraged opportunities to accelerate energy

efficiency and renewable energy development and to minimize adverse localized impacts. When addressing complex issues related to grid reliability and modernization, Weisenmiller has emphasized enhanced collaboration with stakeholders, including air districts and communities. In addition, under his leadership his board has directed significant funds toward advanced-technology development and deployment to improve the pace of bringing clean-energy infrastructure to the general marketplace.



**Aff H. El-Hasan, M.D.**  
**Pediatric Asthma Specialist, Kaiser Permanente, Orange County**  
*Robert M. Zweig, M.D., Memorial Award*

Dr. El-Hasan has served as a volunteer member of SCAQMD's Environmental Justice Advisory Group since 2009. He also serves on the State Board of the American Lung Association and co-chairs the Culturally Responsive

Care Committee for Kaiser Orange County. As a pediatrician with Kaiser Permanente in Orange County, Dr. El-Hasan seeks to optimize holistic patient care. He is involved in advocacy efforts to reduce or prevent exposure to transportation-related emissions through environmental justice solutions.



### Global Inheritance

*Award for Public Education on Air Quality Issues*

Since 2002 Global Inheritance has been dedicated to inspiring conscious, positive actions by people of all ages, and especially young adults, to live more sustainably. Focusing on interdisciplinary environmental awareness, Global Inheritance employs technology, the arts, science, and peer-enhanced learning

to generate excitement and inspire people to become forward-thinking participants of the environment. Over the past decade, Global Inheritance has presented innovative, active learning initiatives in 29 states, 73 cities, and five countries. Themes explore low-carbon, low-emission personal choices in daily life.



### Phoenix Motorcars

*Award for Advancement of Air Pollution Technology*

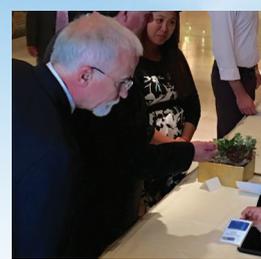
Headquartered in Ontario, Phoenix Motorcars is a clean vehicle systems design, engineering, testing, development, and production company focusing on offering electric vehicles for commercial and government fleets. Their Zero Emission Utility Shuttle (ZEUS) is ideal for

airport and hotel shuttles due to their daily routes, centralized operation, and high fuel demands. The ZEUS has a single-charge range of about 100 miles and is equipped to meet a two-shift-per-day schedule, seven days a week. This environmentally friendly and quiet vehicle is the first all-electric shuttle operating at Los Angeles International Airport (as a parking shuttle for 105 Airport Parking), and is utilized for an employee shuttle service at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.



## SCAQMD Clean Air Awards Nominations Review Committee Welcomes New Members

Three new members joined the Clean Air Awards Nominations Review Committee to review and consider the more than 80 nominations received for the 27th Annual Clean Air Awards. These new members are Dominique Hargreaves, Executive Director of the US Green Building Council- Los Angeles Chapter; Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Officer, Facilities Management at UCLA, and Jill Whynot, SCAQMD's Assistant Deputy Executive Officer for Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources.



**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)**

*Award for Model Community Achievement*

Metro serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder, and operator for one of the country's largest, most heavily populated counties. Over the past 25 years, it has developed an extensive mass rapid transit system consisting of more than 80 miles of urban rail, three Bus Rapid Transit routes, and the nation's largest fleet of more than 2,200 alternative fuel buses. Metro's agency-wide Environmental Management System (EMS) weaves sustainability principles, best practices, and performance metrics into planning, construction, operation, and procurement activities throughout its major rail and bus facilities, managing areas of air quality, water, energy, and waste. Based on this system, Metro developed a Green Construction Policy which U.S. EPA Region 9 has described as one of the most innovative market-based, non-regulatory mechanisms to reduce air quality impacts.



**CommuteSM**

*Award for Advancement in Innovative Transportation Projects*

CommuteSM is a Transportation Management Association formed in 2012 by RideAmigos, a local technology startup. In 2015, CommuteSM launched its first-ever Commuter Challenge, an online effort to encourage residents and employees in Santa Monica to bike, carpool/vanpool, ride transit, or walk to work, instead of driving alone. This effort incentivized participants to log their trips with weekly and monthly prizes, and promoted different modes of travel each month of the program. With its multi-modal travel dashboard, users can browse potential ridesharing matches in their area, directly message startup carpools and, after participating in alternative-mode trips, can view their accrued cost, CO2 and calorie savings.



**Grades of Green**

*Award for Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship*

Launched as a national non-profit in 2010 by four mothers, Grades of Green seeks to inspire and empower kids and school communities to think of environmental protection as second-nature in everyday living. Combining free website resources, voluntary on-campus coaching, and a Youth Corps Eco-Leadership Program, the organization has engaged more than 225,800 students from 329 schools across 41 states over the past five years. How-to instructions for over 40 fun, healthful, hands-on activities teach students how to recycle, compost, reduce emissions, save electricity, save water, reduce trash, learn about active transportation, and more. Under the group's Youth Corps program, students execute a year-long "Green Project" in their school community, receive leadership training from Grades of Green, and gain valuable lessons in teamwork.



**Legacy LA**

*Award for Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship*

Legacy LA's mission is to empower nearly 200 local youth to reach their full potential to build a legacy in their neighborhood of Ramona Gardens in Boyle Heights, one of the oldest public housing complexes in Los Angeles. The Ramona Gardens area borders a busy 12-lane freeway, a rail line, heavily traveled surface streets, and an industrial district of factories and warehouses. The demographics of the approximately 5,000 residents are challenging due to high unemployment and poverty rates, and a high incidence of asthma. Legacy LA gives voice to environmental justice solutions for this community.



**Legacy LA Youth Council**

*Youth Award*

Legacy LA's Youth Council is a leadership program where residents aged 14 to 18 learn to collaborate with local stakeholders and public agencies. The Youth Council developed a comprehensive 2020 Vision Plan for Ramona Gardens, with a plan to address environmental inequities in their community. As part of this plan, they advocated for, and secured funding from SCAQMD to install air filtration systems at two local elementary schools.

"It was an honor to be selected as a judge for the Clean Air Awards this year. Celebrating its 27th year, the Awards offer recognition and affirmation of commitments to improving air quality through technology and innovation," commented Hargreaves. "It was inspiring to see how many people and organizations are involved in efforts that improve air quality," said Whynot. Katz who was particularly moved by the Youth Leadership Award winner, said "young people have an inherent calling to change the world and protect the planet."

The other members of the committee are Henry Hogo, SCAQMD Assistant Deputy Executive Officer for Science and Technology Advancement, and Derrick Alatorre, SCAQMD's Public Advisor and Assistant Deputy Executive Officer for Legislative & Public Affairs. Alatorre serves as chair of the committee.

For more information on the Clean Air Awards visit [www.CleanAirAwards.com](http://www.CleanAirAwards.com).

## Rule Update

The following proposed amended rules and regulations are tentatively scheduled for hearings at upcoming Governing Board meetings. To verify whether scheduling changes have occurred, visit the SCAQMD website at [aqmd.gov/home/library/meeting-agendas-minutes](http://aqmd.gov/home/library/meeting-agendas-minutes) and check the Rules 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 SCAQMD rules and regulations can be downloaded from the website at [aqmd.gov/home/regulations](http://aqmd.gov/home/regulations) or obtained from SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039.

### December

#### Rule 1110.2 – Emissions from Gaseous and Liquid-Fueled Engines

The proposed amendments to Rule 1110.2 would potentially extend the compliance date for biogas used to fuel power generators at landfills and municipal waste facilities. The amendment would result in delayed emission reductions.

For more information, contact Joe Cassmassi at [jcassmassi@aqmd.gov](mailto:jcassmassi@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3155.

#### Rule 1113 – Architectural Coatings

Staff has developed a proposed plan for the use of funds received pursuant to Rule 1304.1 – Electrical Generating Facility Fee for use of Offset Exemptions, with targets for projects within close proximity of the Electrical Generating Facilities and in Environmental Justice areas that support regional air quality goals. This action is to obtain approval of the proposed plan for disbursement and tracking of funds received pursuant to Rule 1304.1. For more information, contact Philip Fine at [pfine@aqmd.gov](mailto:pfine@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-2239.

#### Reg XX – Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) (CMB-01)

Proposed amendments to Regulation XX (RECLAIM) will achieve additional NOx reductions pursuant to the 2012 AQMP Control Measure #2012CMB-01 and requirements for demonstrating Best Available Retrofit Control Technology equivalency in accordance with California Health and Safety Code §40440. A portion of the RECLAIM Trading Credit (RTC) reductions for newer power producing facilities will be placed into a Regional NSR Holding Account, where the RTCs could also be used for emergency power generation needs. In addition to rule clarifications, other changes would include a delay in Relative Accuracy Test Audit due dates.

For more information, contact Joe Cassmassi at [jcassmassi@aqmd.gov](mailto:jcassmassi@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3155.

### January

#### Rule 415 – Odors from Animal Rendering

Proposed Rule 415 will provide protection to the public from odors created during animal rendering operations. The proposed rule will incorporate a preventative approach to odors by establishing Best Management Practices and will consider enclosure and odor control requirements for the receipt and processing of rendering material and wastewater. The proposed rule may also contain requirements for an Odor Mitigation Plan for continuing odor issues at facilities subject to the rule.

For more information, contact Tracy Goss at [TGoss@aqmd.gov](mailto:TGoss@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3106.

#### Rule 1161 – VOC Reductions from Mold Release Agents (CTS-03)

The proposed rule will establish requirements for mold release products used in composite, fiberglass, metal and plastic manufacturing, and concrete stamping operations.

For more information, contact Philip Fine at [pfine@aqmd.gov](mailto:pfine@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-2239.

#### Rule 1188 – VOC Reductions from Vacuum Trucks (FUG-01)

The proposed rule will establish VOC emission standards and other requirements associated with the operation of vacuum trucks not covered by Rule 1149 – Storage Tank and Pipeline Cleaning and Degassing.

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

#### Rule 1304.2 – Greenfield or Existing Electrical Generating Facility Fee for Load Serving Entities

Proposed Rule 1304.2 would provide for new, greenfield, or additions at existing electrical generating facilities, to access SCAQMD's internal offset account, subject to qualifying conditions, eligibility, and the payment of a fee to invest in air quality improvement projects consistent with the AQMP. This rule is a companion to Rule 1304.1 and will provide offsets so that new, proposed, and other existing electrical generating facilities can compete on a level playing field with existing generating facilities with utility steam boilers, and implement the State's plan to maintain grid reliability.

For more information, contact Philip Fine at [pfine@aqmd.gov](mailto:pfine@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-2239.

#### Rule 1304.3 – Greenfield or Existing Electrical Generating Facility Fee for Use of Offsets for Municipalities

Proposed Rule 1304.3 would provide for new, greenfield, or additions at existing electrical generating facilities to access SCAQMD's internal offset account, subject to qualifying conditions, eligibility, and the payment of a fee to invest in air quality improvement projects consistent with the AQMP. This rule is a companion to Rule 1304.1 and will provide offsets so that new, proposed, and other existing electrical generating facilities run by local municipalities can meet the reliable electric needs of their customers.

For more information, contact Philip Fine at [pfine@aqmd.gov](mailto:pfine@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-2239.

#### Rule 2301 – Control of Emissions from New or Redevelopment Projects (EGM-01)

The proposed rule will implement AQMP Control Measure EGM-01 – Emission Reductions from New or Redevelopment Projects. Proposed Rule 2301 will consider the co-benefits of VOC, NOx, and PM 2.5 emission reductions from the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Rule 9510 – Indirect Source Review to meet the "all feasible measures" requirement.

For more information, contact Henry Hogo at [HHogo@aqmd.gov](mailto:HHogo@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3184.

### February

#### Rule 219 – Equipment Not Requiring a Written Permit Pursuant to Regulation II

Amendments to Rule 219 may be proposed to exclude equipment with de minimis emissions from the requirement to obtain written permits and clarify

provisions pertaining to super-compliant technologies. For more information, contact Philip Fine at [pfine@aqmd.gov](mailto:pfine@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-2239.

#### Rule 416 – Odors from Kitchen Grease Processing

Proposed Rule 416 will provide protection to the public from odors created during kitchen grease processing operations. The proposed rule will establish Best Management Practices to address odors created during delivery and processing of trap grease to affected facilities. In addition, the proposed rule will examine enclosures for wastewater treatment operations and filter cake storage. The proposed rule may also contain requirements for an Odor Mitigation Plan for continuing odor issues at facilities subject to the rule.

For more information, contact Tracy Goss at [TGoss@aqmd.gov](mailto:TGoss@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3106.

#### Rule 1136 – Wood Products Coatings

The proposed amendments will include clarifications that may arise due to compliance verification activities or manufacturer and public input, including the sales prohibition clause.

For more information, contact Philip Fine at [pfine@aqmd.gov](mailto:pfine@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-2239.

#### Rule 1450 – Control of Methylene Chloride Emissions

Proposed Rule 1450 will establish requirements to control methylene chloride from furniture stripping operations and other sources.

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

#### Rule 4001 – Backstop to Ensure AQMP Emission Reduction Targets Are Met at Commercial Marine Ports (IND-01)

If triggered, the proposed rule will address cost-effective NOx, SOx, and PM2.5 emission reduction strategies from port-related sources to ensure emission reductions claimed or emission targets assumed in the 2012 AQMP for the 24-hour PM2.5 standard are maintained.

For more information, Henry Hogo at [hhogo@aqmd.gov](mailto:hhogo@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3184.

### Clarification: Permit Processing Fee Portal



In the last issue, an article highlighted the new automated feature on SCAQMD's website that enables companies and organizations to pay permit fees online with a credit card or e-check. The link to the Permit Processing Fee Portal listed has been changed. The fee portal is now located at <https://xappprod.aqmd.gov/icafe/startcafe.aspx>.



# CLEAN AIR People

**W**hen Stephen Chen was interested in becoming a summer intern at SCAQMD, Aaron Katzenstein, a Program Supervisor in SCAQMD's Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources Office suggested that Stephen write a letter to the Governing Board members. So that is what he did. And it worked.

During the summer of 2014, Chen, who had just graduated with a degree in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the University of California, Irvine, interned at the agency. And though his summer supporting senior air quality specialists on a project to make homes in the Coachella Valley more energy efficient was a great experience, his most enduring lesson was how the simple act of writing a letter can open doors.

Chen's graduating class, UCI's Class of 2014, initiated a successful letter writing campaign – 1,000 letters strong – that convinced President Obama to be their commencement speaker. In his remarks the President stated the reason why he accepted the invitation, "... simply because you asked."

President Obama's speech focused extensively on climate change as he encouraged "the Class of 2014 to use their newfound knowledge to solve the world's problems." Feeling so honored to have had the President speak at his graduation, Chen again took to writing. This time it was a handwritten letter to thank the President for coming and to share with him that he would be interning at the SCAQMD. Stephen wanted to share with the President his plans to work in the environmental field, specifically air quality.

"I didn't have any high expectations," Chen said, figuring "at most I'd receive a thank you email."

Fast forward 18 months... Chen, now an Environmental Compliance Specialist at the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett, gets a phone call at work from a White House staffer who wanted to talk with him about the handwritten letter. "He told me that a handful of people reviewed my letter and because it mentioned climate change" they were inviting him to the White House for a black tie dinner at the State Dining Room that President Obama was hosting for the President of China, Xi Jin Ping."

Chen's invitation arrived, aptly, on his 23rd birthday. He and his mother flew to Washington, D.C. where they were treated like celebrities. There in the State Dining Room Chen met President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama as well as President Xi and his wife Madame Peng. He mingled with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Secretary of State John Kerry, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, and the evening's entertainer Ne-Yo.

It humbled the 23-year-old to be a part of such special evening; one he will never forget.

And to think, the door opened because of a letter.

## My Dinner at the White House: How One Intern's Lesson Led to An Amazing Experience



Amir Dejbakhsh



Cher Snyder

## Two New ADEOs Named for E&C

**S**CAQMD's Office of Engineering and Compliance (E&C) contains a diverse blend of inspectors, engineers, and clerical support staff who are organized into both industry-specific and regional teams such as Refinery/Energy, Toxics/ Waste Management, Coatings and Industrial/ Operations.

Traditionally, there has been only one Assistant Deputy Executive Officer (ADEO) position in E&C. But expanded responsibilities meant that in September 2015 both Amir Dejbakhsh and Cher Snyder were named as new ADEOs under E&C's Deputy Executive Officer

Mohsen Nazemi. Dejbakhsh moves up from his previous position as Senior Air Quality Engineering Manager for Coatings while Snyder moves up from her role as Senior Enforcement Manager for Industrial Operations.

In their new roles, Dejbakhsh will be responsible for engineering and permitting related operations and Snyder will oversee compliance and enforcement related operations in E&C. They both look forward to assuming their new responsibilities and "working closely with our colleagues to achieve our clean air goals."



## South Coast Air Quality Management District

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Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178

### Return Service Requested



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Permit No. 4472

## Briefly...

### Rule Compliance Promotion Classes

#### Rule 403 – Dust Control in the South Coast Air Basin Training

- Every third Wednesday of the month.

This class is held at SCAQMD's Diamond Bar Headquarters from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There is no fee. Pre-registration is required and walk-in registrations are not allowed.

Visit [aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-403-403-1-fugitive-dust](http://aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-403-403-1-fugitive-dust) (and click on "south coast") for class and registration information. To register, e-mail [dustcontrol@aqmd.gov](mailto:dustcontrol@aqmd.gov) or call toll-free 1-866-861-3878.

#### Rule 403 & 401.1 – Dust Control in the Coachella Valley Training

- 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 115, 73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert, CA, 92260. There is no fee. Pre-registration is required and walk-in registrations are not allowed.

Visit [aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-403-403-1-fugitive-dust](http://aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-403-403-1-fugitive-dust) (and click on "coachella valley") for class and registration information. To register, email [dustcontrol@aqmd.gov](mailto:dustcontrol@aqmd.gov) or call toll-free 1-866-861-3878.

#### Rule 461 – Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Training Daily Maintenance Inspection Class

- November 13, 2015

The class fee is \$147.55 per person.

#### Periodic Compliance Inspection Class

- November 20, 2015

The class fee is \$161.49 per person.

#### Vapor Recovery System Tester Orientation Class

- November 6, 2015

The class fee is \$153.52 per person.

Classes meet at SCAQMD headquarters in Room CC6 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Check-in time is 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required and walk-in registrations are not allowed.

Visit [aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/gasoline-dispensing2/rule-461-classes](http://aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/gasoline-dispensing2/rule-461-classes) for class and registration information. Contact Michele Martinez at 909-396-3058 or [MMartinez1@aqmd.gov](mailto:MMartinez1@aqmd.gov) for more information.

#### Rule 1403 – Asbestos Demolition and Renovation Compliance Training

- November 18, 2015
- December 16, 2015

Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at SCAQMD's Diamond Bar Headquarters (Room

CC6). Registration fee is \$81.44 per person. Pre-registration is required and walk-in registrations are not allowed.

Visit [aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-1403-asbestos-demolition](http://aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-1403-asbestos-demolition) for class and registration information. Contact Sharon Fujimoto at [Sfujimoto@aqmd.gov](mailto:Sfujimoto@aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-2183 for additional information and to register.

#### Rule 2202 - Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) Training

- November 5, 2015, SCAQMD Headquarters, Diamond Bar
- November 19, 2015, Parsons Brinckerhoff, San Bernardino
- December 10, 2015, SCAQMD Headquarters, Diamond Bar

Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Registration fee is \$168.92 per person. Enrollment is limited. Pre-registration is required and walk-in registrations are not allowed.

Visit [aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-2202-etc](http://aqmd.gov/home/programs/business/training-2202-etc) for class and registration information. To register, email [etctraining@aqmd.gov](mailto:etctraining@aqmd.gov) or call (909) 396-2777.

## SCAQMD ADVISOR

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