



Clean Air Congress VOICE

SPRING 2006

AQMD Hosts Asthma Conference



The AQMD hosted a landmark asthma conference titled “Asthma Impacts of Air Pollution – Healthier Solutions Today for Our Children’s Tomorrow” at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles on February 17, 2006. The event, drawing over 400 people, brought prominent local and state policy makers, air quality officials and medical health experts together to discuss potential policy solutions to address the impacts of air pollution on

asthma sufferers, particularly children.

An extensive group of policy makers and health experts ranging from Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and State Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez to medical researchers responsible for the region’s largest study on air pollution and children’s health participated in the one-day conference. Dr. Bruce Hensel, health reporter for NBC4



served as the morning moderator with Univision 34 reporter Oswaldo Borraez moderating the afternoon sessions. Afternoon panel discussions included State Senator Alan Lowenthal and State Assembly Members Ron Calderon, Karen Bass, and Lloyd Levine discussing current policies and legislation addressing both asthma and air pollution.



Current research being conducted in Southern California shows strong ties between air pollution and increased symptoms among asthmatics. In 2004, USC researchers published the Children’s Health Study, a 10-year study that followed lung health of children in the Southland. Results showed that the lungs of children growing up in smoggy areas are underdeveloped and will likely never recover. A study published in 2005 showed a link between childhood asthma and freeway pollution.

For more information, contact Patrician Price at (909) 396-2690.



Recent Studies on Health Effects of Air Pollution

In 2005, several studies were published that directly connected exposure to air pollution and impacts on health. Two studies found a connection between atherosclerosis, a disease affecting the arterial blood vessel commonly referred to as a “hardening” of the arteries, and air pollution exposure. One, University of Southern California’s Keck School of Medicine study, **Ambient Air Pollution and Atherosclerosis in Los Angeles**, found that fine particles damage more than just the lungs – the effects reach all the way to the inner lining of the arteries. The other study conducted at New York University School of Medicine found that long-term air pollution exposure accelerated the beginning of atherosclerosis and vascular inflammation in animals.

A Loma Linda School of Public Health study indicates that women may be at greater risk than men of fatal coronary heart disease as a result of exposure to airborne particulate pollution, and the risk increases when ozone is also present.

Finally, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) identified second-hand smoke as a toxic air contaminant (TAC) that may cause and/or contribute to death or serious illness. CARB’s action to list second-hand smoke as a TAC was based on a comprehensive report on its exposure and health effects. The evaluation also found links between second-hand exposure and increased incidences of breast cancer in non-smoking, pre-menopausal women. Second-hand smoke had already been linked to adult incidences of lung and nasal sinus cancer, heart disease, eye and nasal irritation, and asthma.

For more information, contact Ron Ketcham at (909) 396-3213.

Lawn Mower Exchange Program Begins April 18

Registration for the 2006 Lawn Mower Exchange Program will begin on April 18, 2006. For just \$100, old gasoline-powered lawn mowers (must be in operating condition) can be exchanged for a new cordless electric powered lawn mower, valued at \$399. The events will be held on consecutive Saturdays the following dates and locations:

- April 28 – Indio
- May 6 – Chino
- May 13 – Riverside
- May 20 – San Fernando Valley
(site to be determined)
- June 3 – South Pasadena
- June 10 – Santa Ana
- June 17 – Inglewood



You must pre-register, over the internet at <http://www.aqmd.gov>, or call the toll-free registration line (888) 425-6247, Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Clean Port Initiative Approved

The AQMD approved a work plan in January 2006 for its "Clean Port Initiative," including the proposed adoption of regulations to limit emissions from port facilities. The AQMD's Clean Port Initiative includes four guiding principles and seven action items outlining steps that the AQMD, along with federal and state agencies and local and international ports, can take to help reduce port pollution in the region.

A key part of the plan calls for the development and adoption this year of AQMD "backstop" rules that would take effect if the ports and

other agencies did not take sufficient actions in a timely manner to reduce emissions. These rules could prohibit emissions increases from new or expanded port facilities unless state-of-the-art pollution controls are used; limit cancer and other health risks -- initially from new and expanding port facilities, and later from existing port terminals; and reduce facility emissions to levels needed to achieve air quality standards, through mass emission limits, emission rate limits, an overall percentage reduction or other actions.

Other measures in the work plan include conducting air monitoring in and around the port at on-dock as well as residential sites. The monitoring would solicit input from the community, labor and environmental groups, the ports and other environmental agencies. It also includes a discussion of why additional AQMD actions are needed to supplement state, federal and international port air pollution regulations, and an analysis of AQMD's legal authority to regulate air pollution sources in the ports.

The twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are the largest in the nation as well as the single largest fixed source of air pollution in Southern California. Collectively, sources at the port are responsible for more than 100 tons per day of smog- and particulate-forming nitrogen oxides -- more than the daily emissions from all 6 million cars in the region. In addition, the California Air Resources Board estimates that port air pollution creates cancer risks exceeding 500 in 1 million for tens of thousands of residents.

For more information, contact Peter Greenwald at (909) 396-2111.

Color My World With Healthy Air - Calendar Contest 2007

Air pollution affects everyone's health, especially kids. AQMD invites students ranging from grades K-12 to create artwork depicting ideas of a world that is healthy with clean air for our 2007 Calendar Contest. Twelve winning pieces of artwork will be selected, one for each month of the year. Winners will get a \$50 gift check. One GRAND PRIZE WINNER will be selected for the cover. He or she will win a \$100 gift check, and a **SURPRISE GIFT**.

We're looking for bright-colored artwork with a brief clean air message describing what the picture is about. The words can be in English, Spanish, Chinese or Korean.

For entry form and contest rules, go to the AQMD website: www.aqmd.gov. For more information, contact Patrician Price at 909-396-2690, e-mail her at pprice@aqmd.gov, or call 1-800-CUT-SMOG. You can also pick up an entry form at the AQMD headquarters' Public Information Center, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar.

Upcoming Events

You are invited to attend the following events!

Saturday, April 15th

- **Earth Day on the Promenade**
Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19th

- **USC Earth Day Event**
University Park, Los Angeles
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 20th

- **Earth Day**
Gymnasium - San Juan Capistrano
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **Boeing Earth Day**
2020 E. Imperial Hwy., El Segundo
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, April 21st

- **Honda Earth Day Expo**
1919 Torrance Blvd, Torrance
8:45 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 22nd

- **Earth Day Festival**
Glendora Civic Center
116 E. Foothill Blvd., Glendora
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- **Earth Day Audubon Festival**
Debs Park
4700 N. Griffin Ave., Los Angeles
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- **Earth Day Celebration**, Rogers Park
400 W. Beach Blvd., Inglewood
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- **Earth Day**, West Covina City Hall
1444 W. Garvey Ave., W. Covina
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- **Whole Children, Whole Planet Expo**
Los Angeles Convention Center
Downtown LA
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- **Eco Maya Festival**
The Cornfields – A State Historic Park
1201 N. Spring St., Los Angeles
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

- **Greening the Earth Day Festival**
Memorial Park, 125 E. Holly St., Pasadena
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- **Earth Day Kids' Fair**, West Hollywood Park
647 San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- **Inland Empire Environmental Expo**
Cal State San Bernardino
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 23rd

- **Earth Day, Farmer's Market**, Beverly Hills
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- **Whole Children, Whole Planet Expo**
Los Angeles Convention Center
Downtown LA
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- **Eco Maya Festival**
The Cornfields – A State Historic Park
1201 N. Spring St., Los Angeles
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 29th

- **Environmental Symposium**, City Hall
320 W. Newmark Ave., Monterey Park
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 6th

- **World Asthma Day**
Hooper Ave. Elementary School
1225 E. 52nd St., Los Angeles
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Saturday, May 13th

- **Environmental Fair**, Furman Park
10419 Rives Ave., Downey
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 20th

- **Avocado Festival**, The Park
1885 N. Hacienda Road, La Habra Heights
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- **Orange Blossom Festival**
Downtown Riverside
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 21st

- **Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition 6th Annual River Ride**
Griffin Park, Los Angeles
6 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

- **Orange Blossom Festival**
Downtown Riverside
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Friday, May 26th

- **La Mirada High School Earth Day**
13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.



This 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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