



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DIRECTORS REPORT

Board of Directors Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

Our Mission: To protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution.

Aeron Arlin Genet
Director / APCO

May 21, 2020

COVID-19 Response & Accommodations:

- **District Operations**
- **Regulatory Relief**
- **Air Quality**

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Early Response

(March 11 – 13)

- Interagency Coordination (SBCOEM bi-weekly conf calls, CAPCOA weekly video calls)
- Surveyed staff's teleworking capacities
- Cancelled non-essential meetings & implemented informal travel ban

Office Closed to Public & Staff Teleworking

(March 16 – today)

- Closed APCD offices to walk-in visitors (3/18), majority of staff working remotely (3/23)
- Identified essential services that required staff to go in field, office or monitoring stations
- Defined safety practices for staff working outside of their home office (social distancing, PPE)
- Procedural changes to inspections and complaint response

Re-opening Plans

(under development)

- Coordinating with all tenants of the Casa Nueva building
- Remote working will remain an ongoing practice of the Air District
- Work with Unions to ensure understanding of re-opening plans
- Soft re-opening likely within a month, full re-opening targeted in July; follow RISE guidelines

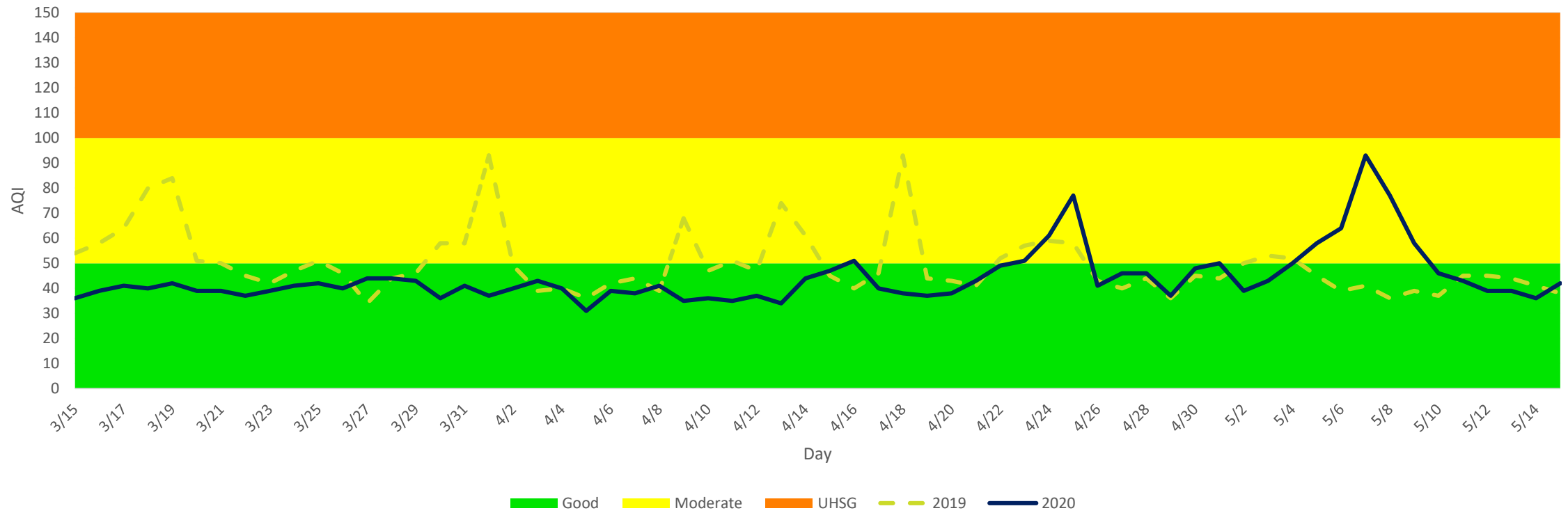


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REGULATORY RELIEF

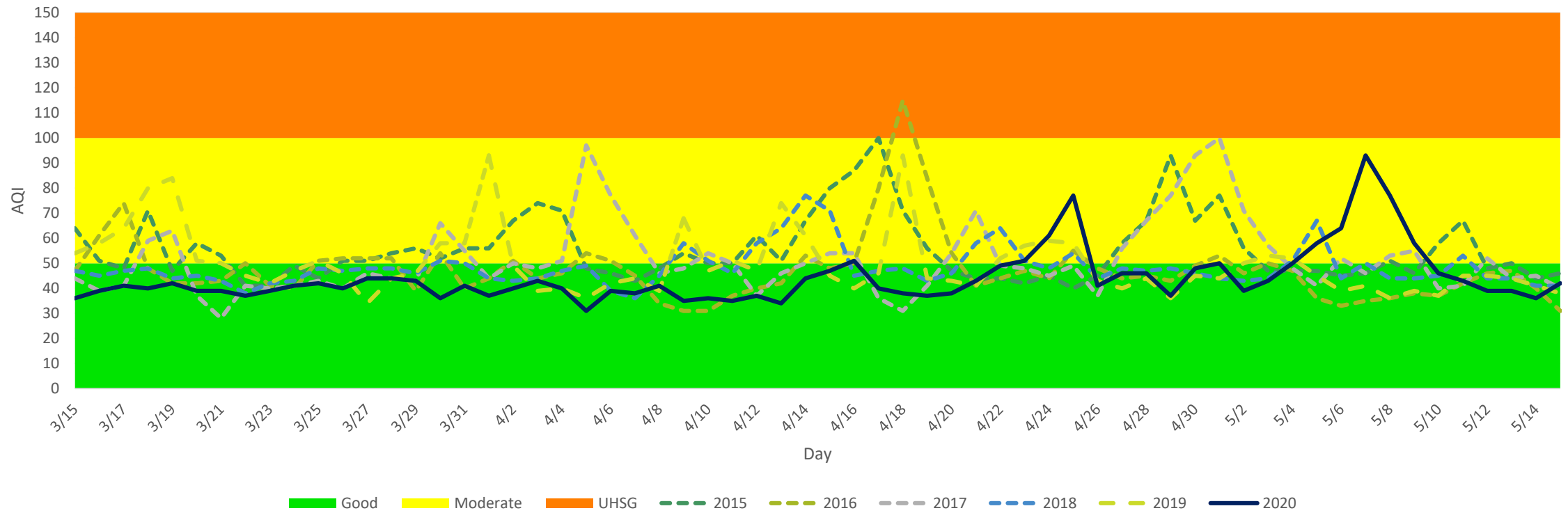
- Case-by-case evaluation of requests for regulatory relief
- Electronic submittal of permit applications and asbestos notifications
- Case-by-case evaluation of requests for changes to in-person inspections
 - At a minimum, remote inspections and records review
- Payment plans for regulated facilities that demonstrate economic hardship for NOV settlements and outstanding invoices
- Expedited permits for projects related to the COVID-19 response effort
- Extend voluntary incentive program contract terms for the purchase of new equipment
- Provide enhanced remote participation in public workshops and meetings

Air Quality Index Comparison March 15 – May 15 (2019 – 2020)



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Air Quality Index Comparison March 15 – May 15 (2015 – 2020)



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AIR QUALITY SUMMARY

AQI Current Year vs. Prior Years

- Average AQI improved 12% in 2020 compared to prior 5 year average
 - 53 Good days in 2020 vs. 40 days in 2015 – 19
 - 9 Moderate days in 2020 vs. 22 days in 2015 – 19
- Ozone continues to lead the highest AQI values in 2020 as it has in prior years

It's Official!!!

The California Office of Administrative Law took action earlier in May and approved Santa Barbara County's attainment for the ozone standard.



Santa Barbara County is now one of only 6 regions in California to reach attainment of the ozone standard. Most notable, our region is in the middle of the South Central Coast region, which has a higher population and greater number of industrial sources than the attainment regions in northern California.