

Smog Season is Here

Smog season is here. In Santa Barbara County, our highest levels of ozone (the principal component of smog) occur between April and October, when our air most frequently does not meet health-based ozone standards. Our air continues to violate the state standard for ozone. We attained the federal ozone standard at the end of 1999, and successfully stayed in attainment through the year

2000. However, the margin is slim. Different weather patterns and additional pollution could cause our county to go out of attainment of the federal standard again. If this happens, our local businesses will face additional regulations that are required for areas that don't meet the federal standard.

Enclosed with this issue is a chart that explains the Air Quality Index (AQI), a new

way of reporting air quality. Ozone is the pollutant of most concern here, so we report the AQI for ozone. To view ozone data and the AQI, updated hourly, and to see charts of violations of ozone standards to date this year, check out "Today's Air Quality" on our website at www.sbcapcd.org.

This year, we face a new concern as we enter smog season — we are also entering

the period of peak energy demand, and may experience energy shortages and rolling blackouts. These can result in significant additional air pollution. During blackout conditions, older, normally seldom-used power plants operate more hours without adequate pollution controls, and high-polluting emergency diesel generators are used.

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Clean Air Month, Earth Day, and APCD's New Kiosk

Kites filled the skies over Shoreline Park in Santa Barbara and Oxnard Beach Park on May 6, as APCD, the American Lung Association of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District celebrated Clean Air Month this year. "When people see these kites in the sky, we hope it reminds them that our air is a precious resource requiring protection and commitment," said APCD Director Doug Allard. Kids made clean-air pledges and received free kites, and adults entered to win a free electric bike at the *Flight for Life* events.

APCD's new kiosk also put in an appearance at the Shoreline Park event (see photo). **R2P2** (Robot Resource for Pollution Prevention) is an interactive kiosk with information on air pollution narrated by celebrities.

The computer system, originally developed as *Air World* by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, has been customized with information specific to Santa Barbara County. APCD first introduced this version of *Air World* on a computer at the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum last

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Smog Season (cont'd from page one)

Diesel-powered backup generators represent one of the dirtiest possible ways to generate electricity.

In addition to producing smog-forming pollutants, these generators produce diesel soot, also known as diesel particulate, which is considered the number one airborne carcinogen in California (for more information, see "Think Twice About Diesel Generators" in *Business Focus*).

It's especially important this summer that we do all we can to reduce air pollution. Here's how you can help:

❖ **Conserve energy**, and use energy during off-peak hours (after 6 PM in summer). Minimize the use of air conditioning, which pulls a large amount of electrical energy, and use compact fluorescent light bulbs to cut your energy bill (see article page three, for more).

❖ **Drive less**. Even considering additional pollution from older power plants and diesel generators, cars and trucks remain the major source of smog-forming pollution in our county. Choose to walk, bicycle, take the bus, share a ride, or telecommute.

❖ **Combine car trips**. Much of the pollution a car will cause occurs during the cold start, as the catalytic converter does not operate at full efficiency until the car warms up. This means

that one trip with three short stops will pollute much less than three separate trips.

❖ **Consider making your next car a clean-air car**. There are many choices on the market today. Look for a car that has been classified as a ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle), (SULEV) Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle or ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle).

Help keep our air clean!

Clean Air Month and Earth Day (cont'd from page one)

May for Clean Air Month 2000. Artist Daniel Girard (shown in the cover photo) has since designed (and just completed) the new housing to make this a stand-alone information kiosk.

R2P2 is made of recycled materials from equipment that can cause air pollution to demonstrate that we now have more clean-air choices. For example, its head is from a charcoal grill (gas grills pollute much less), and the base is from a gas-powered lawn mower (electric and push mowers pollute less than gas mowers). Older gas pump nozzles (without vapor recovery systems) and a gas tank make up the body and arms. Girard also had **R2P2** powder-coated, with the coating and services donated by Permacolor, Inc. (using powdered paint instead of spray paint greatly reduces the amount of volatile organic compounds released into the air).

Kids at the Shoreline Park May 6 event got the first glimpse of **R2P2**, which APCD will display around the county at schools,

businesses, and public agencies for weeks at a time.

To invite R2P2 to visit your facility, call 961-8800.

APCD also celebrated Earth Day in April, participating at events in Santa Maria (at the new Natural History Museum) and Santa Barbara. At the Santa Barbara event, APCD, working

with the Community Environmental Council, invited drivers of new clean-air cars to come to a Green Energy Leaders display and talk with people about their experiences with electric, hybrid gas-electric, and compressed natural gas vehicles.



Paul Cicileo of Santa Barbara County Vehicle Operations talks about the county's new gas-electric hybrid car at APCD's Green Energy Leaders display at Earth Day. The Toyota Prius has both a gas engine and an electric motor, and runs on gasoline, achieving a rated 52 miles-per-gallon (mpg) on city streets, and 45 mpg on the highway. The Prius is classified as a super ultra low emission vehicle (SULEV).

Energy Conservation Initiatives

APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the February, March and April Board meetings.

February

- ✓ Recognized APCD Inspector Glenn Gazdecki for a cost-saving suggestion on recertification training.
- ✓ Received and filed reports on: APCD customer service surveys; the Ventura County APCD land use conference; and permit, inspection, and the air quality impacts of the state's energy crisis.

March

- ✓ Executed grant agreements for the purchase of low-emission burners for two agricultural boilers, and a low-NOx diesel engine for a 10-wheeler dump truck.
- ✓ Received and filed the 2000 annual report on the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program, and approved the program budget for FY 2001-2002.

April

- ✓ Adopted a resolution proclaiming April 22, 2001 as Earth Day, May as Clean Air Month, and May 19-27 as Bike Week.
- ✓ Received a report regarding APCD assistance with applications for air quality mitigation funds by the City of Guadalupe.
- ✓ Transferred the Clean Air Express Commuter Bus Program administration to Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, and approved the associated agreements.

A coalition of local environmental organizations, businesses, and government agencies, including APCD, is working on several initiatives to promote energy conservation. Starting June 30, declared Energy Conservation Day, the coalition is recommending that energy users:

❖ *Change three light bulbs.*

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are easy to use, and can be found at most home improvement stores. While slightly more expensive than traditional bulbs, CFLs can last for a year or longer, are more convenient, and can save up to \$60 in electricity use over their lifetime. Start by replacing the 60 to 100W bulbs that you use several hours a day.

❖ *Check settings.*

Thermostats should be set at 74 to 78 degrees in the summer, refrigerators at 38 to 42 degrees, and freezers at 0 to 5 degrees. Find the lowest water heating setting comfortable for

your household – try 120 degrees (or "warm"). Consider putting your air conditioning system on a timer to ensure that it is not on when you are out of the building.

For more information and tips, visit www.greendifference.org. The campaign is organized by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, the Community Environmental Council, APCD, The Gas Company, The Sustainability Project, Get Oil Out!, and Environmental Defense Center, and will continue with ongoing events and initiatives.

Additional resources:

Qualifying for the California 20/20 rebate:

www.savepower.lbl.gov

Search for a grant, rebate, or incentive to help save energy or use alternate energy sources:

www.consumerenergycenter.org/rebate/index.php

Good general information:

www.flexyourpower.ca.gov

Award for *The Air We Breathe*

In April, APCD's new 15-minute video *The Air We Breathe* received an Award of Distinction from The Videographer Awards, a national awards program for video production. Coordinated by Bobbie Bratz of APCD, the video was written, produced and directed by Daniel Girard of Heyoka Studios.

Call 961-8800 to invite APCD to make a presentation to your group and show the video, or to receive a copy of the video to show at your organization or facility.

APCD Inspector Fred White (below) answered questions about air pollution at APCD's booth at the Santa Maria Earth Day event at the new Natural History Museum.





Air Pollution Control District Board

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Santa Barbara County

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Santa Barbara County

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Third District
Santa Barbara County

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City of Santa Barbara

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City of Solvang

APCD Board Calendar

*All meetings start at 2 p.m.
For final meeting agendas,
call the APCD Board Clerk,
961-8853.*

July 19
Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

August 16
Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

September 20
Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

October 18
Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Community Advisory Council

The APCD Community Advisory Council meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Days Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call Linda Beard, 961-8853.

Promises Flying High

“I’ll ride my bike to school more,” or “I’ll walk to my friend’s house,” are some of the clean-air pledges kids made at a recent event at Shoreline Park in Santa Barbara. Kids (and adults) decorated free kites with pictures and pledges as part of **Clean Air Month** events sponsored by APCD, the American Lung Association of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (see page one article).



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Air Pollution Control District

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On the Air is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Community Assistance Section of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.

For further information on items in this newsletter, or to be added to our subscription list, please call Bobbie Bratz, 961-8890 or Email bratzb@sbcapcd.org.

Our Vision: Clean Air



Running on Clean Energy



Clean-Air Vehicles

Twenty-four clean-air vehicles make up part of the fleet of the Housing and Residential Services Department of the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB). Shown above are: eight compressed natural gas trucks in the back row; eight electric Ford Ranger pickup trucks and one electric converted Ford Escort in the next row; two Honda Civic GX natural gas vehicles in the second row; and five electric grounds maintenance vehicles in the front row.

Mark Rousseau (above-right), Energy and Environmental Manager for the UCSB Housing and Residential Services Department brought one of UCSB's Honda GX natural gas



vehicles to display at APCD's booth at Earth Day in Santa Barbara. Honda calls the GX "the cleanest car on earth," claiming that the tailpipe emissions are cleaner than the surrounding air on a smoggy day.

Think Twice About Diesel Generators

Standby diesel generators represent one of the dirtiest – and most toxic – ways to generate electricity. They should only be used under emergency conditions, when there is no alternative.

Diesel exhaust contains carcinogenic diesel particulate, which represents our state's most significant toxic air pollution problem. California Air Resources Board estimates that operation of one uncontrolled one-megawatt

diesel generator for only 250 hours per year results in a 50 percent increase in cancer risk for residents within one city block.

A recent study by South Coast Air Quality Management District found that diesel particulate accounted for 71 percent of the total cancer risk from toxic air pollution in the Southern California region covered by that agency. The study is one of the most comprehensive studies of urban toxic air pollution ever performed.

Diesel generators also produce nitrogen oxides (NOx), a smog-forming pollutant. Per megawatt hour of electricity generated, standby diesel generators

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Attention: Dry Cleaners

The California Air Resources Board is holding a Dry Cleaner Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) Training at the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District office on *Thursday, July 26, 2001*.

The original certification course (*required* for new operators) is a full day course, and is subject to cancellation due to lack of attendance. If you are interested, please register as soon as possible.

The re-certification course (*required* for those who were

last trained in 1998) is a half-day course. A fee will apply for both courses. Operators will be required to bring to the class a halogenated hydrocarbon detector used in their shops for leak detection.

❖ *To register for the training, contact the California Air Resources Board Course Registrar in the Compliance Division at (916) 322-8272 or by email at cdtrain@arb.ca.gov.*

❖ *If you have any questions about the training and whether or not you need to attend, please contact John Garnett of APCD*

at 961-8935, or by email at garnettj@sbcapcd.org. You may also contact the course instructor, Tom Raschke of the California Air Resources Board, at traschke@arb.ca.gov.

❖ *For directions to the location of the training, contact the San Luis Obispo APCD at (805) 781-5912.*

Note: *Permit Fees and Asbestos Fees will be increasing as of July 1, 2001.*
See:
www.sbcapcd.org/new.htm
for information on new rates.

Charge It!

APCD now accepts credit card payments for permit fees, rules request fees, variance fees, and most other kinds of charges. APCD accepts Master Card, VISA, and Discover credit cards. For more information, contact Martha Gibbs at 961-8820, or by email at gibbsm@sbcapcd.org

Clean Energy (Cont'd from front)

produce 50 to 60 times the amount of NOx produced (per megawatt hour generated) by California's typical mix of gas-powered power plants.

Backup generators should only be used when absolutely necessary. Some generator installations may require permits, including APCD permits, or land use, fire, or building entitlements, and associated inspections.

Alternatives

Conserve energy: This is the first and most effective weapon against rolling blackouts. Search for a grant, rebate, or incentive here: www.consumerenergy-center.org/rebate/index.php.

Shift power use to off-peak hours: You are less likely to experience power interruptions during off-peak hours.

Plan ahead: Make a plan for rolling blackouts so you are prepared.

Use battery backup power: Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems can keep computer servers and networks operational until they can be shut off safely.

If you must have additional backup power: Buy or rent the smallest unit you can use, use it only when absolutely necessary, and consider the following options (in this order):

❖ A natural gas or propane fired unit with catalytic controls

❖ A natural gas or propane fired unit without catalytic controls

❖ A gasoline-fired unit with catalytic controls

❖ A gasoline fired unit without catalytic controls

❖ A diesel-fired unit manufactured after January 1996 that is certified to meet EPA and CARB Tier 1 Emission Standards, and is equipped with an exhaust particulate filter system.

Car-free and Carefree in Santa Barbara

In April, the Take a Vacation from Your Car project, led by APCD and the American Lung Association of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, launched a new website to help visitors get to, and around, the Santa Barbara area without a car. The project aims to promote car-free transportation options to tourists in order to reduce air pollution and alleviate traffic congestion. Many other partners are participating. For more information, check out:

santabarbaracarfree.org.