

County on Track to Meet Federal Smog Standard

Santa Barbara County
Air Quality News
Issue 54
November/December 1999

Thanks to cleaner air over the past three years, our county will attain the federal one-hour ozone (smog) standard, if we reach the end of the year without any additional exceedances of the standard.

“This is an important milestone,” notes APCD Director Doug Allard. “We want to celebrate this achievement with

all the agencies, businesses, and individuals working with us for cleaner air.”

It has been close. One exceedance of the one-hour ozone standard was recorded at a county monitoring station in 1999 in October. One more exceedance at this same station before December 31st could result in reclassification of the

county from a “serious” ozone nonattainment area to a “severe” ozone nonattainment area. This would mean additional regulations and stricter air quality requirements for businesses. However, providing we don’t have any more unhealthy days, the county will be considered an attainment area once we complete a maintenance plan

and obtain approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Existing rules and regulations remain in place, but APCD will have added flexibility to evaluate rules based on what’s feasible and cost-effective.

In addition, the county will also likely be considered in

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Deputy District Attorney Jerry Lulejian

Lulejian Honored for Pollution Cases

County Deputy District Attorney (DA) Jerry Lulejian (left) was recently named North County DA of the Year—in large part because of his work on environmental cases, including several cases involving air pollution regulations.

Notes County DA Tom Sneddon, who selected Lulejian for the honor, “Environmental cases have very important consequences for the safety and health of ourselves and our families. Jerry has done a tremendous job handling all the difficulties of these kinds of cases. He’s really turned the program around in North County.”

Last year, Lulejian successfully settled a case against an independent energy consultant who generated electric power illegally without required air pollution control equipment, and made false statements to the

APCD to conceal the operation. The consultant sold more than \$800,000 in electric energy to Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Lulejian is currently involved in several air pollution-related enforcement actions, including cases against an oil and gas company, and an anticipated civil case involving gas station vapor control equipment.

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attainment of the new federal eight-hour ozone standard when the USEPA releases these classifications next year, notes Clean Air Plan Coordinator Tom Murphy. However, the county's air continues to exceed the state ozone standard, which is more protective of public health.

Murphy emphasizes that the county could easily slip out of attainment of either or both federal standards next year, and is still required to show continuing reductions in smog levels. APCD will be preparing a Maintenance Plan for the federal standards to ensure a margin of safety that will keep the county in attainment. APCD will also continue efforts to meet the state ozone standard and to reduce emissions of air toxics, particulate matter, and other air pollutants.

Murphy attributes the county's decreasing smog levels to a combination of factors, including state Air Resources Board (ARB) efforts mandating cleaner cars, the county business community's actions in reducing pollution, the public's strong support for clean air goals, the steady course for improving air quality set by the APCD Board, and successful local clean-air efforts by APCD and other air districts across Southern California. "It takes all of us working together to do it—it takes a regional approach," he notes, pointing out that air quality continues to improve in both the Ventura and the Los Angeles areas,

which are still not in attainment of the federal ozone standard. Murphy adds that weather patterns over the last three years have not been conducive to smog formation, even though the patterns have differed from year to year. "With different weather patterns we could see more exceedances," he remarks.

In 1997, El Niño conditions produced fewer inversions, leading to less smog formation. In 1998, although temperatures

In fact, the 1999 exceedance of the one-hour standard occurred during an unusually warm October.

Since regulations call for review of three full years of air quality data, the county will officially reach attainment January 1 of 2000. Says Allard, "We've reached a major turning point. We're heading down a different path now, the maintenance path, instead of the path of more and stricter requirements.

"This is an important milestone. We want to celebrate this achievement with all the agencies, businesses, and individuals working with us for cleaner air."

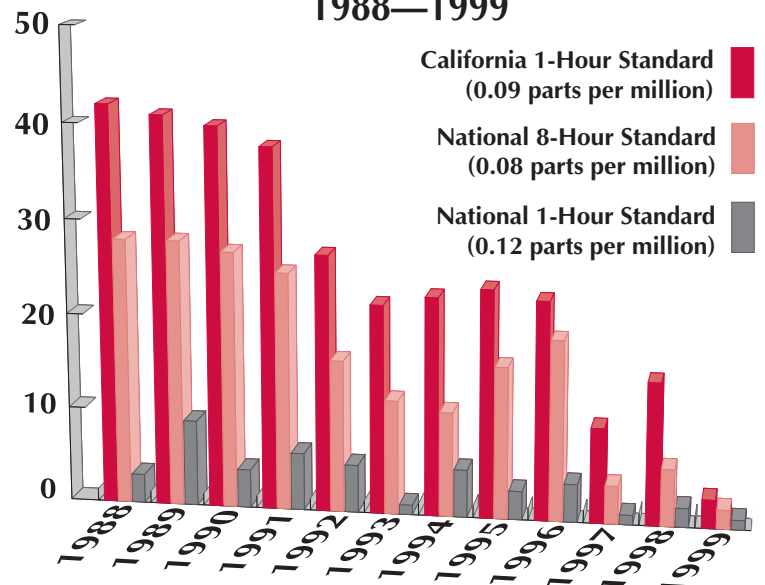
-- Doug Allard, APCD Director

were high in the summer (and smog forms more quickly at higher temperatures), tropical moisture made smog formation less likely. And cooler temperatures in the 1999 smog season, due in part to the La Niña conditions, also resulted in less smog formation.

We can't say we've reached our goal until we've met the state standard—but this is an important milestone."

He adds, "Everyone in this community plays a part in our clean-air efforts—and we can all be proud of this achievement."

Number of Days Exceeding State and Federal Ozone Standards 1988—1999





Lulejian Honored

APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the October and November Board meetings.

October

- ✓ Approved funding for UCSB's Clean Campus Program to go towards purchase of alternate fuel vehicles and low-emission boat engines.
- ✓ Received a briefing on emissions from international boats operating in local waters, and authorized a letter to USEPA asking for more efforts to reduce emissions from these vessels.
- ✓ Approved funding for transportation costs to exchange 39 mail delivery vans between the Los Angeles area and Santa Barbara, to allow the vans to operate on compressed natural gas in Santa Barbara.

November

- ✓ Adopted new classification specifications for selected positions.
- ✓ Received a report on the results of customer service surveys conducted on APCD permit and inspection activities.
- ✓ Received a report on the county's compliance status with the federal 1-hour ozone standard.
- ✓ Authorized pursuit of legislation to provide ongoing funding for Innovative Technology activities through an additional \$1 of DMV surcharge earmarked for ITG.

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Sneddon believes Lulejian's experience in both civil and criminal law is key to his effectiveness in these cases. Lulejian's background includes seven years as a patent attorney and business law litigator, and ten years in criminal law.

Patent law gave him experience in dealing with technical and engineering issues, and also enhanced his understanding of business operations. Notes Lulejian, "It's really important in environmental cases to have a knowledge of how businesses operate, how decisions are made."

The general experience in business and civil law is helpful as well, he notes, "In environmental cases you encounter the same question you have in a lot of civil law: 'how do you prove things that happen where people don't see them?' The answer is in the documentation, in the record-keeping. In civil law, you get used to working with volumes of documents. It's not unusual to have 25,000 documents in a civil case."

For several cases, Lulejian has requested much of this documentation from APCD. "It has been wonderful to work with the APCD," he remarks. "Of all the agencies I've worked with, the APCD has performed by far the best investigations—the most thorough, and the most technically accurate."

He continues, "I've been very impressed by the technical skill of the APCD staff. This is not to say that other agencies don't

have good staff—just that the APCD has in-house technical experts capable of dealing with the kinds of sophisticated technical questions I encounter in these cases."

APCD General Source Division Manager Peter Cante points out that while APCD staff provide technical support to Lulejian, very few air pollution violations overall are prosecuted by the DA's Office. He notes, "We make every effort to settle air pollution violations outside the court system. The DA's Office only steps in when there

notify the public when it releases a hazardous material, in this case hydrogen sulfide, into the atmosphere. Says Lulejian, "Hydrogen sulfide is a very nasty chemical. Even though many releases may be benign, the government has a legitimate interest in knowing who's venting it, where, and how much. Because the next release could be a killer."

Environmental enforcement actions protect the public in a variety of ways, notes Sneddon: "Our prosecutions produce not just the immediate, reactive

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-- Tom Sneddon, District Attorney, Santa Barbara County.

appears to be criminal conduct, or we've exhausted the settlement process."

Cante adds, "Most of the companies we work with are making every attempt to comply with our regulations. They're going the extra mile. They need to be protected from a situation where companies that are not doing the right thing benefit economically from violating pollution rules."

Lulejian stresses that air pollution and other environmental rules are designed to protect public health and safety. One case he has worked on, for example, involved the enforcement of laws that require a company to

benefit of making sure a particular company will follow the law. There's also the proactive effect of deterring other companies from breaking the law. Companies know that if someone demonstrates a lack of respect for the law, we're not going to look sideways on it. We will prosecute."

He adds, "We've always taken pollution cases very seriously in this county, dating from the 60s, and the time of the oil spill. Environmental enforcement actions have traditionally been part of a strong program in South County – Jerry has added a new dimension with a strong focus in North County."



APCD Board Calendar

Air Pollution Control District Board

- Supervisor Naomi Schwartz
First District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Susan Rose
Second District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Gail Marshall
Third District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Joni Gray
Fourth District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Tom Urbanske
Fifth District
Santa Barbara County
- Councilmember Russ Hicks
City of Buellton
- Councilmember Dick Weinberg
City of Carpinteria
- Mayor Sam Arca
City of Guadalupe
- Councilmember DeWayne Holmdahl
City of Lompoc
- Councilmember Elinor Langer
City of Santa Barbara
- Councilmember Larry Lavagnino
City of Santa Maria
- Councilmember Ed Andrisek
City of Solvang

All meetings start at 2 p.m.
For final meeting agendas,
call the APCD Board Clerk,
568-2245.

December 16, 1999
Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara



January 20, 2000
Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria

February 17, 2000
Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara

March 16, 2000
Solvang Municipal Center
Board Room
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, California 93463

Community Advisory Council

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

Permit & Compliance Summary

	SEP	OCT
ATC Applications Received	17	13
ATC Permits Issued	7	5
PTO Applications Received	8	6
PTO Permits Issued	6	2
Exemption Requests	5	1
Exemptions Determined	2	0
Inspections Made	94	85
Notices of Violation Issued	10	25
Administrative Infractions (subset of above)	2	2
Complaints Received	23	32

Holiday Clean Air Tips



When you light, do it right.

- Wood burning causes fine particle air pollution. Burning a gas log is better for the air. If you don't have a gas log, here are some clean air tips for your fire.
- * Use manufactured fireplace logs, made from sawdust and wax. These produce less smoke.
- * Never burn trash, glossy paper (including wrapping paper), or painted or chemically treated wood.
- * Burn only dry, seasoned wood.

Holiday by Bus

Santa Barbara MTD is offering non-stop express service between La Cumbre Plaza and downtown Santa Barbara every 30 minutes during holiday shopping hours. For more information call 683-3702.



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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@sbapcd.org.

Our Vision: Clean Air



Dry Cleaning Pollution Solutions

Most dry cleaners in our county and around the country currently use a substance known as perchloroethylene (perc) to clean clothes. Perc was classified by California Air Resources Board in 1991 as a toxic air contaminant, and is covered by the California Air Toxics "Hot Spots" program, established in 1987 through Assembly Bill 2588, implemented by local air districts in the state.

Next year, to satisfy the requirements of the "Hot Spots" program, the APCD will perform an industry-wide assessment of the risks associated with the use of perc in dry cleaning in the county. Says Jerry Schiebe, APCD Supervisor working on the toxics program, "The risks posed by perc can vary greatly since they are dependent on the amount of emissions, the proximity to people, and the type of equipment and procedures used."

He adds, "Fortunately, advances in equipment technology and operating procedures, and the development of new substances, give cleaners options to reduce emissions of perc."

On the Air asked Katy Wolf, of the Institute for Research and Technical Assistance (IRTA) to share her thoughts on perc, and alternatives available to cleaners. IRTA is an independent non-profit organization that provides technical assistance to businesses that are looking for

less polluting alternatives to substances they are using.

Says Wolf, "More shopping center owners and lenders are reluctant to rent store space to a dry cleaner who is using perc. In addition, the larger cleaners are faced with implementing requirements of Prop 65 because of their use of perc." Proposition 65 is a "right-to-know" state law requiring businesses to inform the public about their use of certain substances. It currently applies only to the larger (9 or more employees) dry cleaners.

From a health and environmental perspective, water-based cleaning systems referred to as "wet cleaning," and a carbon dioxide cleaning system are the superior options, says Wolf, "But we have to face reality. And the reality is that

cleaners simply don't believe they can go to 100 percent wet cleaning. It's extremely labor intensive, and they feel that it doesn't address all their cleaning needs. And carbon dioxide cleaning is far too high priced to ever penetrate the market, at least at this point."

She notes that some of the alternative substances currently being proposed are highly toxic, including a type of glycol ether, and a methyl siloxane substance that has an extremely low recommended worker exposure level of 10 parts per million (ppm). "I'm very concerned about the industry going to substances that are likely highly toxic, but that have not been tested for chronic toxicity. Use of these kinds of chemicals is of concern especially in dry cleaning applications where there's potentially high

exposure," she remarks.

However, a new petroleum solvent shows promise as "a good compromise technology at this point," says Wolf. "It has some toxicity, but nothing like some of the other substances being used or proposed." This particular solvent's recommended maximum exposure level is 300 ppm, compared to 25 ppm for perc. Petroleum-based substances emit reactive organic compounds (smog precursors) into the air, and are also associated with increased fire risk. The new solvent, however, has a higher flash point than similar substances used in the past. Wolf believes the new solvent should only be used in closed nitrogen inerted or vacuum systems, which minimize evaporative emissions

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How We're Doing

Results of APCD customer service surveys for the period covering January 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999 were announced at the November Board meeting. **More than 88 percent of survey respondents said they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the permitting and inspection services we provide.** This continues an upward trend, and compares to 85 percent in the 1998 report and 80 percent in the 1996 report. The upward trend continues even during a time of a reduction in the number of staff positions.

In other results, **97 percent of respondents said the APCD inspector was helpful or better** in helping the business owner understand permit conditions and/or air quality rules and regulations as needed. And **88 percent of respondents said the APCD permit engineer was helpful or better** in working with them on the permit process. APCD incorporates suggestions from surveys to improve service whenever possible, and we're developing new surveys to cover source testing and complaint response areas.

Breaking New Ground in Dry Cleaning

In 1998, a company with three One-Hour Martinizing dry cleaning stores in the Santa Barbara area switched over completely from perchloroethylene (perc) to a new petroleum solvent system. “We saw where the future for perc was—or rather, where it wasn’t,” remarks co-owner Andre Guilanians.

They bought three nitrogen inerted machines for use with the solvent at the three stores at



Andre Guilanians and Diane Honaker, co-owners of a One-Hour Martinizing franchisee with three shops in Santa Barbara demonstrate dry cleaning machine that uses a petroleum solvent.

a cost of \$250,000. “Looking at it strictly from a cost perspective,” says Guilanians, “the payback is definitely slower than for a new perc system. But cost was not the reason we did it. We wanted to take care of our customers, our employees, and the environment.”

Guilanians and co-owner Diane Honaker have found the new system to be effective. “The clothes don’t have that perc smell,” notes Honaker, “They come out brighter and softer, and we can clean things we couldn’t clean with perc, such as vinyl and polystyrene beads.”

It took time to train workers on the new system. “This is not as

aggressive a cleaner as perc,” reports Guilanians. “You have to be a better cleaner and spotter.” Says employee Javier Ordaz, “I never want to go back to perc, to working around that smell. It was hard to get used to the new system, but now I really like it.”

The three One-Hour Martinizing stores are the only dry cleaning shops in the county that have completely eliminated the use of perc. One other shop, Ablitt’s Cleaners, is using the new petroleum solvent—in addition to perc.

Owner Neil Ablitt reports that the shop currently has three machines—two using perc, and one using petroleum solvent. He plans to replace one of the perc machines with another petroleum machine next year. Ablitt finds the petroleum solvent process effective, especially in cleaning some clothes that can’t be cleaned with perc.



“It was hard to get used to the new system, but now I really like it.”

-- employee Javier Ordaz, One Hour Martinizing

Ablitt is also using a new vacuum system with perc and notes, “The clothes come out with far less perc on them with this system.” He adds, “We are also using wet cleaning with more clothes. It won’t work with everything, but we’re using it more and more.”

Dry Cleaning (cont’d from other side)

and fire risk. This new solvent is currently in use at four dry cleaning stores in the county (see above article).

More cleaners in other parts of the state are choosing to go with this new petroleum technology, notes Kelly Kelleher of Kelleher Equipment Supply, Inc., based in Long Beach. Says Kelleher, “I’m selling more petroleum machines, and fewer

perc machines. I’m also finding that when I do sell a perc machine, it’s often a smaller machine.”

Bacteria can be a problem in petroleum solvent systems. Since perc kills bacteria, perc systems don’t typically experience these types of problems. Kelleher believes the problem can be avoided by using petroleum machines that have distillation.

However, the still equipment adds significantly to the cost of the system.

Notes Schiebe, “As we continue in our implementation of the state air toxics program, high-risk dry cleaners will be mandated to reduce their risk to below the significant risk level. It’s fortunate that more options are available today to address these issues.”

For more information on APCD’s implementation of the state air toxics program, visit our website at www.sbcapcd.org

Correction: Gary Simpson, General Manager of Santa Barbara Home Improvement Center was incorrectly identified as Michael Owens in the September/October issue of Business Focus.