

# On the Air

## Smog Season Starts Early

**A**lthough Santa Barbara County's smog season runs from April through October, early hot weather this year contributed to an exceedance of the state one-hour ozone standard in March, the first time in nine years that this standard has been exceeded before April in the county. Hot and dry conditions also resulted in an early start to the fire season this spring in this county and in Southern California (see separate article below).

Ground-level ozone, a principal component of smog, is a gas created when NOx (nitrogen oxides) and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) react in the presence of sunlight and heat. Ozone harms human lungs; it can affect lung development in children, and can play a role in causing early childhood asthma.

As of the end of May, county monitoring stations have recorded

exceedances of the state ozone standard on seven days. One day included an exceedance of the state one-hour standard, and all seven days included exceedances of the state eight-hour ozone standard. This compares with only one exceedance of the state eight-hour ozone standard recorded in this same time period last year. No exceedances of the federal ozone standard have been recorded thus far this year, and none were recorded in 2006 or 2005.

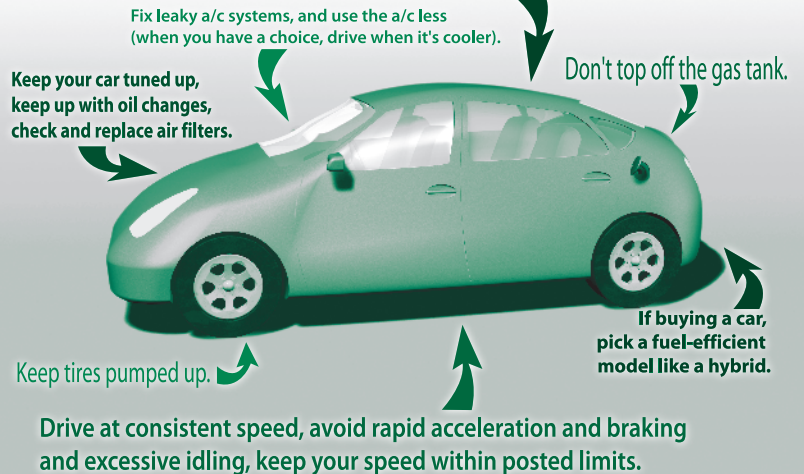
Cars and trucks are the major onshore source of smog-forming pollution in Santa Barbara County. Check the graphic on the right for tips on how to improve your

gas mileage, and reduce smog-forming pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases contributing to global climate change.

*To view ozone levels, updated hourly, and for more on what you can do for cleaner air, see [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).*

### How to Cut Gas Costs this Summer – and Spare the Air

**Drive less - walk, bike, take a bus or train, carpool, combine car trips - and consider a car free vacation.**



**Fix leaky a/c systems, and use the a/c less (when you have a choice, drive when it's cooler).**

**Don't top off the gas tank.**

**Keep your car tuned up, keep up with oil changes, check and replace air filters.**

**Keep tires pumped up.**

**If buying a car, pick a fuel-efficient model like a hybrid.**

**Drive at consistent speed, avoid rapid acceleration and braking and excessive idling, keep your speed within posted limits.**

## Fire Season Ends Late, Starts Early

**M**ay 14 was declared the start of the fire season in Santa Barbara County – several weeks earlier than last year's start of June 7. "There's no question that our weather is changing. We're seeing an earlier start to the fire season, and it is also ending later than usual," noted Captain Eli Iskow, Public Information Officer with the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

He adds, "The last couple years I've noticed we've been going out to a lot of fires during the off season, too. We had an extremely busy year last year." The department responds to calls with more staff and equipment during fire season, particularly on red flag days when weather conditions indicate a high risk of fires spreading. Most Southern California counties declared

May 14 as the start of the fire season, although some, including Ventura County, remain in fire season year-round and alter their response levels as conditions change throughout the year.

Smoke from fires is very harmful to breathe. APCD issued several smoke advisories last year on days when smoke levels from wildfires were high.

*(continued on page two)*

## Inside...

-  **Earth Day 2007**
-  **Global Warming Science Fair**
-  **Remembering Vijay Pawar**
-  **New Shipping Legislation**
-  **APCD Staff Retirements**
-  **New Farm Engine, Auto Body Rules**

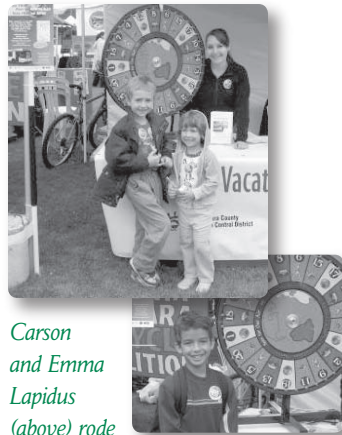
# Earth Day 2007

## South Coast Earth Day Festival

More than 8,000 people celebrated April 22 at the 2007 South Coast Earth Day Festival hosted by the Community Environmental Council and the UCSB Donald Bren School for Environmental Science & Management. It was a record turnout at the event in the County Courthouse Sunken Gardens, especially given the rainy weather. The event featured an impressive display of photographs of polar bears by Howard Ruby, a Green Car Show, and booths showcasing new technologies and ways people can reduce their own contributions to the global climate change problem.



there were 1,714 more bus and shuttle trips than on Earth Day in 2006 – a 15% increase in ridership, a particularly significant result given the rainy weather for this year's Earth Day.



*Carson and Emma Lapidus (above) rode free on MTD to the Festival from their home in Carpinteria. They visited APCD's booth and spun the "Wheel of Change" for prizes, helped by APCD Air Quality Engineer Kaitlin Ergun. Aidan Gilkes (above) also rode free on MTD to Earth Day from the Upper State Street area of Santa Barbara.*

## Green Car Show Highlight: Fuel Cell Vehicle from SCAQMD



*Tina Cherry of South Coast Air Quality Management District (pictured on right with the APCD's Vijaya Jammalamadaka) drove a Honda FCX fuel cell vehicle up to display at the South Coast Earth Day Festival in Santa Barbara. Fuel cell vehicles are essentially electric cars that use hydrogen to produce the electricity. Since there are no emissions from the fuel or vehicle, this technology promises zero-tailpipe-emissions commuting.*

## Isla Vista Earth Day

Nearly 2,000 people celebrated April 14 at the Isla Vista Earth Day music festival organized by the UCSB Environmental Affairs Board, and hosted by the Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District.

It was a zero-waste event, and emissions and energy use were offset through the planting of 45 trees in Isla Vista in the weeks before. All the garbage was sorted, and people turned in recyclables for prizes at a special recycling store at the event. T-shirts were printed on thrift store shirts and all the signs were made from recycled or used material, such as cardboard scraps and old sheets.



Isla Vista Earth Day

## Do Your Part on Earth Day – Ride Free on MTD

Free MTD bus and shuttle service on Earth Day was promoted this year by a community partnership made up of APCD, Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), the Community Environmental Council, UCSB Bren School, the Santa Barbara Car Free project, SBCAG Traffic Solutions and the City of Santa Barbara. On Earth Day in 2007,

## Fire Season (cont'd)

Here are some tips on how to protect your home, and how to reduce your exposure to harmful smoke.

- ❖ Check out the Santa Barbara County Fire Department website, [www.sbcfire.com](http://www.sbcfire.com), for information on assembling a disaster kit, establishing a "defensible space" directly around your home, and more.

- ❖ Check our website at [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org) for smoke advisories and updates. But also use common sense. If it smells smoky outside, it's not a good time for you or your children to exercise outdoors.

- ❖ If you are advised to stay indoors, keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep your windows and doors closed – unless it's

extremely hot outside. If you have an air conditioner, run it with the fresh air intake closed and the filter clean. Don't use fireplaces, gas logs, or candles, don't vacuum, and don't smoke.

- ❖ When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them. If you have heart or

lung disease, are an older adult, or have children, talk with your doctor about whether and when you should leave the area.

- ❖ Be sure to call your doctor if your symptoms worsen.

## Global Warming Science Fair

### APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the March and May Board meetings.

#### March

- Adopted a resolution recognizing Earth Day and Clean Air Month.
- Approved \$250,000 in additional funding for the Marine Diesel Engine Repower Program, \$400,000 in additional funding for the Agricultural Water Pump Repower Program, and \$100,000 in additional funding for the Old Car Buyback Program.
- Presented Resolutions of Appreciation to Gary Hoffman and James Moraga for their service.
- Approved \$150,000 in funding for implementation of the Old Car Buy Back program.
- Recognized the magnitude of marine vessel emissions and directed the APCD Director to take actions to reduce emissions from this source.
- Received an update report on new state emission standards for agricultural engines.

#### May

- Received financial reports for Fiscal Year 2005-2006.
- Considered Fiscal Year 2007-08 Proposed Budget, held a public hearing to receive comments, and scheduled a budget adoption hearing for June 21.
- Received and filed a report regarding nomination procedures and voting responsibilities for the 2007 election of the Special District Risk Management Authority Board of Directors.

Students at El Camino Middle School in the Lompoc Unified School District learned about fuels, energy, greenhouse gases, and global warming, and showed off their knowledge in March at their Global Warming Science Fair. Teacher Kristen Lewis received a grant funded by APCD through the Santa Barbara County Education Office for support of the project, including purchase of materials for the poster displays.

"What I'm going for is authentic inquiry by the students. I gave them the theme, and they pursued the directions that interested them," said Lewis. The student projects incorporated writing, speaking, and display components.



Above: (Left to right) Sean Johnston, Joel Vongpanya, and Kevin Noum learned about coal energy as part of their project. Johnston pointed to an X-Ray of a miner with black lung and talked about the dangers of coal mining: "Almost every week there's a coal accident in China... Coal mining companies lose \$4.7 million a year to lawsuits." Noum researched synfuel, a liquid fuel that can be derived from coal that can potentially be used as an energy source.



Left: Louise Fisher (left), Director of Teacher Programs at the Santa Barbara County Education Office with Kristen Lewis, El Camino Middle School teacher, at the Global Warming Science Fair at the Lompoc school.

### Remembering Vijay Pawar

Vijay Pawar, an Air Quality Engineer in APCD's Engineering and Compliance Division, passed away January 23rd. He joined APCD in April 1988, and was hired initially to assist with air quality impact modeling due to his experience working with the state of Virginia. In his career with the APCD, Vijay branched out into other project areas, such as source testing and contaminated soil clean-up permitting, and became

the lead engineer in these areas. Vijay was loyal to the APCD's mission and was a hard-working individual.

Vijay possessed a kind and gentle nature. He had an interest in tennis and enjoyed chatting about the big stars in the major tournaments. He loved his family and gave considerable time to foster the development and growth of his children. He is survived by



his wife Sujata, and sons Amar and Sandesh. He will be missed by his family and by his friends here at the APCD.



# APCD Board Calendar

## Board of Directors

Supervisor Salud Carbajal

*First District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Janet Wolf

*Second District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Brooks Firestone

*Third District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Joni Gray

*Fourth District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Joe Centeno

*Fifth District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Mayor Pro Tem Russ Hicks

*City of Buellton*

Councilmember Al Clark

*City of Carpinteria*

Mayor Lupe Alvarez, Vice Chair

*City of Guadalupe*

Mayor Pro Tem Will Schuyler, Chair

*City of Lompoc*

Mayor Marty Blum

*City of Santa Barbara*

Mayor Larry Lavagnino

*City of Santa Maria*

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Richardson

*City of Solvang*

Councilmember Eric Onnen

*City of Goleta*

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

### August 16

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

### October 18

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

### December 20

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 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.

## Learning about Our Air

APCD has developed a CD with games, video, and lessons about air for distribution free to county teachers and educators. The CD materials are taken from APCD's interactive touchscreen kiosk R2P2 (Robot Resource for Pollution Prevention), which is on permanent display at the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum (below, left).



Elements on this CD can appeal to a variety of ages and audiences. Games at the beginning are designed for young



children through elementary school age. The Planet Polluto game is designed for upper elementary through middle school ages. Movies, including "Don't Top Off" and "The Air We Breathe" can be enjoyed by high school through college and adult ages. The CD works on both Mac and PC systems.

For more information, visit the "Kids and Teachers" page on our website at [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org). To receive a copy of the CD, contact Mary Byrd at 961-8833 or [byrdm@sbcapcd.org](mailto:byrdm@sbcapcd.org).

Thanks to California Air Resources Board for permission to use excerpts from the video "With Every Breath: Health Effects of Smog," and to Sacramento Air Quality Management District for the game "Planet Polluto."



### Office

260 N. San Antonio Rd. Suite A  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1315

### Business Assistance

(805) 961-8868

### Daily Air Quality Report

[www.sbcapcd.org](http://www.sbcapcd.org)

### Complaints/Public Information

(805) 961-8800

### World Wide Web

[www.sbcapcd.org](http://www.sbcapcd.org)

### E-Mail

[apcd@sbcapcd.org](mailto:apcd@sbcapcd.org)

**On the Air** is a quarterly newsletter published by the Community Programs 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](mailto:bratzb@sbcapcd.org).



Printed on 100% recycled paper.

## Legislation Proposed to Cut Pollution from Ships

In May, identical bills were introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions from large ocean-going ships. The bill, termed the Marine Vessel Emissions Reduction Act of 2007, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set emissions standards for ship engines, and also to set limits on sulfur content of fuels used by ships – both domestic and foreign-flagged vessels – entering or leaving U.S. ports.

“This proposed legislation is great news for us here in Santa Barbara County, and is critically important for our air quality. EPA’s delays in setting standards for these heavily-polluting ship engines have been deplorable. We applaud this action requiring the EPA to move forward,” said APCD Director

Terry Dressler. He explained that the EPA was expected to set requirements for ship engines by April 27 of this year, a deadline that was set for the agency in January of 2003. Instead, on April 23, the EPA Administrator announced another postponement until December of 2009.

The engines of large ocean-going ships are one of the last unregulated major sources of air pollution. Their massive two-stroke engines produce as much power as a small power plant and burn an unrefined and dirty fuel. Ships that traverse the Santa Barbara County coastline are responsible for nearly 45 percent of the nitrogen oxides (NOx) emitted in the county – more than all on-road motor vehicles combined. Although not all of the pollution from

ships affects air onshore, if trade volumes continue to grow and ships remain unregulated, marine vessels could produce more than 75 percent of the county’s NOx emissions by 2020.

Many marine vessels currently burn fuel with an average sulfur content of 27,000 parts per million. The proposed legislation requires the EPA to set the sulfur content limit at no more than 1,000 parts per million unless EPA determines that such a level is not technically feasible by December 31, 2010. EPA may set an interim standard as high as 2,000 parts per million, but must lower the standard to 1,000 parts per million by the earliest date that level is achievable, according to the bill.

The bill also calls on the EPA to require ship engines to achieve

the same level of emission control achieved by similar engines in other types of vehicles or pollution sources unless EPA determines that level is not achievable by marine engines by January 1, 2012. If EPA makes that determination, the agency must set a second tier of more stringent standards to apply beginning January 1, 2016.

Dressler summed up: “If this legislation is approved and signed into law, we will finally start to see emissions reductions from this huge source of pollution off our coast. Our Santa Barbara County air – and our residents’ health – will benefit.”

*For more information see the marine shipping pages on our website at [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).*

### APCD Staff Retirements

Two longtime APCD employees retired in March, and were honored by the APCD Board at the March meeting. Their tasks will be reassigned as part of a downsizing at the APCD that has been going on for several years. APCD’s budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 includes 51 full-time staff positions, down from 80 positions ten years ago.



*After 19 years as an APCD Air Quality Inspector, Jim Moraga retired March 23rd. During his service, Jim conducted more than 1,500 inspections. In his first years at APCD, he inspected small businesses and responded to citizen complaints. As he gained experience he took on challenging assignments and for the last few years he was the primary inspector for the majority of the oil and gas platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel (see photo). He could always be counted on to pitch in to help with school presentations and community events and initiatives – even playing the role of the man trying to fix his old car in advertisements for the APCD Old Car Buyback Program.*

*APCD Air Quality Engineer Gary Hoffman retired in March after 17 years. During his service, Gary was responsible for developing and issuing more than \$1,000,000 in pollution-reducing grant funding to local businesses through APCD’s Innovative Technologies Program. He was known for his high standards for customer service, a can-do attitude and for always requiring grant applicants to “show me the emission reductions” before showing them the money.*



## Implementing New Rules for Farm Engines

**A**PCD is preparing to implement new state rules for diesel farm engines, expected to become effective in late summer this year.

According to the state regulation, by March 1, 2008, all existing stationary diesel agricultural engines 50 horsepower and greater must be either registered or permitted with the APCD. New engines purchased after the state rule is final must be registered or permitted with the APCD within 90 days of installation.

The regulation does not apply to mobile equipment such as tractors and trucks; it primarily affects diesel-powered water and well pumps.

APCD is working with the San Luis Obispo County and Ventura County air districts to develop a registration program that can be consistent across the three counties. APCD has also been meeting with farmers and agricultural industry representatives, and will be holding additional meetings to make sure the new state requirements are well understood.

A public workshop on the proposed registration program and fee rules will be held on July 11 to coincide with the meeting of the APCD Community Advisory Council. The proposed registration rule is scheduled for adoption at the August APCD Board meeting, while the fee rule will be

considered at the August meeting, and recommended for adoption at the October meeting.

APCD Director Terry Dressler encourages farmers to contact the APCD as soon as possible about receiving funds to replace higher-polluting diesel engines: "To award funds, we have to show that emissions reductions will be achieved for a certain period of time before those same reductions are required by law. Now is the time to give us a call – we'd like to help as much as we can."

*For more information, see "Rules for Farm Engines" and "Funds for Cleaner Engines" on the APCD website at [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).*

## New Rules and Tools for Auto Body Shops

**A**PCD's Rule 339 will be revised to adopt provisions of the California Air Resources Board's Suggested Control Measure for Automotive Refinish Coatings.

The most significant components of this rule revision involve: separate volatile organic compound (VOC) limits for clear and color coatings, simplified and combined coating categories, and a 25 gram per liter VOC limit for cleaning solvents. Public workshops will be held August 2007, with possible adoption in December 2007. Most elements of the new rule will take effect on January 1, 2009. Autobody industry stakeholders will be notified about the workshops

and rule proceedings by mail; for more information, contact Rebecca Armstrong at 961-8888 or [armstrongr@sbcapcd.org](mailto:armstrongr@sbcapcd.org).

Cost-effective and innovative ways to reduce air pollution, wastewater discharges, and generation of hazardous waste at auto body and paint shops are outlined in a new toolkit now

available from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The kit is part of a larger outreach effort that also includes training workshops and videos, and online materials.

*To access the toolkit and additional materials directly, see [www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/ABP/index.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/ABP/index.cfm).*



### APCD Grants for Local Businesses

#### Funds for Cleaner Engines

*Equipment that may be eligible for grants to repower or retrofit includes:*

**On-Road and Off-Road Vehicles/ Equipment, Agricultural Water Pumps, School Buses, Marine Engines, and Other.**

*For applications & more info visit: [www.sbcapcd.org/itg/itg.htm](http://www.sbcapcd.org/itg/itg.htm).*

*Contact Information:*

*Anthony Fournier at (805) 961-8874  
[adf@sbcapcd.org](mailto:adf@sbcapcd.org)*

### APCD's Business Assistance Program



Our Business Assistance Representatives offer help to businesses over the phone and by email, and we also provide educational site visits to help owners understand and comply with our rules and requirements. The site visits are educational, not regulatory, and are conducted by a business assistance representative, not an APCD inspector. A site visit can help business owners: understand and comply with our permit conditions, rules and record keeping requirements; learn about new regulations that might be coming up; and find out about ways to prevent pollution.

#### Find out more:

*Visit this page on our website: [www.sbcapcd.org/biz/business.htm](http://www.sbcapcd.org/biz/business.htm)  
Call the Business Assistance Line at 961-8868, Email [business@sbcapcd.org](mailto:business@sbcapcd.org).*