



Who We Are and What We Do

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) is a local government agency that works to protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution. Our jurisdiction covers the entire County, including the incorporated cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang. We also have jurisdiction over waters up to three miles off the county's shore.

Management

The District Board of Directors, made up of the five county supervisors, plus a representative from each of the county's eight cities, oversees programs and operations, and actions of the **Air Pollution Control Officer**, who serves as the Director of the agency.

The District Hearing Board, made up of five members appointed by the Board of Directors, makes decisions on permit appeals and revocations, variances, and abatement orders.

The District Community Advisory Council, made up of community members appointed by each Board Member, reviews rules and air quality attainment plans, and advises the Board.

District staff are organized into four divisions (see reverse).

What We Do and Do Not Regulate

The District regulates stationary sources of outdoor air pollution in the County — in California, the state Air Resources Board is responsible for regulating cars and trucks and other mobile sources. The District's regulations do not apply to indoor air quality.

Air pollution sources need a District permit before constructing, changing, replacing, or operating any equipment or process that may cause air pollution.

Examples of businesses that need permits are oil and gas facilities, gas stations, dry cleaners, auto body shops, refinishing operations, printers, and operators of certain gas- or oil-powered combustion devices. Certain agricultural businesses are also regulated, and the District also enforces federal laws covering asbestos.

As new state and federal programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are introduced, District regulations and permits will be revised to reflect standards for greenhouse gases, as mandated.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the District a County Agency?

No. While our jurisdiction covers Santa Barbara County, in 1995 we became an independent special district.

How is our air quality?

Levels of ozone, a primary component of smog, have been decreasing over the past decades. Based on current data, the county is in attainment of the new federal ozone standard (announced in October 2015); the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has indicated that attainment/non-attainment designations will be made in October 2017. The county does not meet the state eight-hour ozone standard or the state standard for PM10.

What are our major sources of air pollution?

Cars and trucks are a major source of smog-forming air pollution in our county. Other pollution sources include businesses and industrial operations, facilities using solvents or toxic air pollutants, and operations that use combustion devices such as engines, boilers, and flares. Large ships passing through the Santa Barbara Channel region also produce significant amounts of pollution.

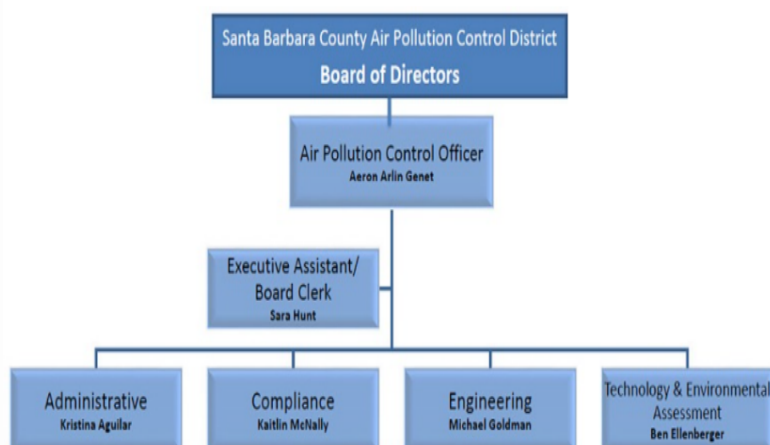
Organization of Agency Staff

The **Administrative** Division includes air monitoring, data management, information technology, facilities management, budget and fiscal management, and human resources.

The **Compliance** Division covers enforcement, inspections, compliance response, violation settlement agricultural burning, asbestos demolition and renovation, compliance safety and training, and Hearing Board issues.

The **Engineering** Division includes permitting, engineering analysis and support, GIS applications, federal permits, agricultural engine registration, emissions testing, air toxics, air quality modeling, and public records requests.

The **Technology and Environmental Assessment** Division covers business assistance, clean-air planning, innovative technologies, clean-air grants, rule development, CEQA review, public outreach, public information, transportation, and Community Advisory Council issues.



Highlights

Recognition and Milestones

Marine shipping in the Santa Barbara Channel is a major source of air pollution outside of the District's regulatory authority. Reducing ship speeds cuts emissions and also reduces the risk of fatal ship strikes on whales. In 2014, the District and partners launched a Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) trial incentive program. The trial was followed by a yearlong effort in 2015 by the Marine Shipping Working Group (under the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council) to develop strategies for further improvements. These efforts were recognized by the U.S. EPA with a national Clean Air Excellence Award in June 2016. A second, expanded incentive program ran July-November 2016.

The District has won numerous other state and federal awards over the years.

Funding Programs

The District has many voluntary funding programs. Some provide funding to cut pollution from diesel-powered engines and equipment, including agricultural water pumps, school buses, tractors, and marine vessels. The popular Old Car Buy Back program buys older cars that meet certain requirements. The District's teacher grant program provides grants to teachers for environmental service projects.

Learn More

Visit www.OurAir.org, or call (805) 961-8800. Follow the District on Twitter: @OurAirSBC and @OurAirAdvisory