

# On the Air

## Old Car Buy Back Program Returns \$1,000 for your Old Car, Pickup, Van or SUV, 1993 and Older

**I**n November the District re-launched the popular Old Car Buy Back Program, which was suspended in February after funds ran out. There are a few changes: the program now accepts gasoline or diesel vehicles of model year 1993 and older (instead of 1992 and older); vehicles must be under 10,000 pounds (instead of 8,500 pounds); and consumers will get a check in hand after their vehicles have qualified (instead of receiving the check by mail).

Cars and trucks are a major source of smog pollution in Santa Barbara County, and older vehicles pollute much more than newer ones. The vehicles that qualify for this program represent only 15 percent of vehicles in the county, but contribute two-thirds



*(from left) Jim Fredrickson, manager of the Old Car Buy Back Program at the District and Travis Beifuss, owner of Steelhead Recyclers, inspect a vehicle. Before cars purchased by the program are crushed, tires and wheels and other recyclables are removed.*

of the air pollution from vehicles. District Director Dave Van Mullem noted, "We estimate the program has cut almost 67 tons of smog-forming air pollutants since 2006 by taking more than

1,900 of these higher-polluting vehicles off the road."

The program is funded by vehicle registration fees designated for use by local air districts

to reduce air pollution. The District has approval to purchase approximately 450 cars a year over the next five years. In the first few weeks of the program, the District purchased more than 60 vehicles. Travis Beifuss of Steelhead Recyclers in Goleta noted that people coming by his facility in November were looking to sell their cars for some extra holiday cash.

Three automobile dismantlers, in Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Goleta, crush the vehicles bought by the program to ensure they are retired permanently. Beifuss explained that once the vehicle is bought, after a ten-day waiting period, tires and wheels are taken off for re-use, the battery is taken out, and the fluids are drained. After the recyclables are pulled,

*(continued on page two)*

## Federal Ozone Standard Update

**T**he U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in late September that it would implement an eight-hour ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million (ppm). Ground-level ozone, a principal component of smog, causes a range of respiratory problems, and can harm lung development in children (see box page two).

EPA initially noted that Santa Barbara County would be considered "marginal nonattainment" for the standard, based on 2008-2010 data. However, by the end of October

the California Air Resources Board and the EPA indicated 2009-2011 data could be used for Santa Barbara County. Using these data the County would be in attainment of the standard. Final designations are expected sometime in 2012.







In 1997, EPA issued an eight-hour ozone standard of 0.084 ppm. Santa Barbara County attained this standard in 2000. In 2008 the EPA issued a new ozone standard of 0.075 ppm, a level higher than that recommended by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

(CASAC), an independent committee established under the Clean Air Act to advise the EPA on setting of air quality standards. After a new administration came in, EPA announced it would reconsider the ozone standard, and so the 2008 standard was not fully implemented.

In January of 2010 the EPA announced it would propose a new eight-hour ozone standard in the range of 0.060-0.070 ppm, a range in line with CASAC recommendations. Then on September 2 of this year, the

*(continued on page two)*

## Inside...

-  **Tractor Saves Energy, Cuts Pollution**
-  **Coast Guard Issues Study**
-  **Transportation Plan**
-  **Clean Vehicle Rebates**
-  **Carbon Monoxide Dangers**
-  **Cleaner Fireplace Burning**

## Old Car Buy Back Program (cont'd)



the car is crushed and the scrap steel is sold. He said his business benefits from participation in the program: "It provides us with a revenue stream from the recyclables, and the sale of the scrap steel."

The District will pay \$1,000 for 1993 and older gasoline or diesel cars, light-duty trucks, vans, or sport utility vehicles (SUVs), if certain conditions are met. Vehicles must be registered in Santa Barbara County for the past two consecutive years, be in working condition, and be

smog certified, and must meet additional requirements as listed on the District website. Van Mullem explained, "The point of the program is to take the high-polluting vehicles that are operating on the road off the road. If a vehicle has failed smog check, or does not have a current registration, then it is not legally operating on the road." The state's Bureau of Automotive Repair operates a program for vehicles that fail smog check.

For more information see [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org), or call 961-8814.

## Federal Ozone Standard Update (cont'd)

President announced the EPA would not propose this standard. On September 22 the EPA announced it would follow through with implementation of the 2008 standard of 0.075 ppm.

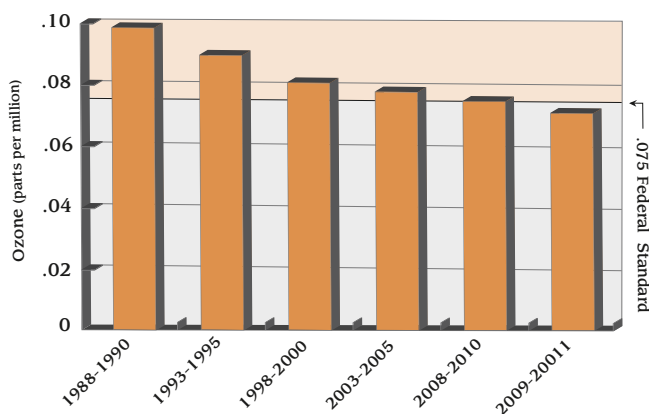
Attainment with the standard is determined based on data from the monitoring station with the highest levels of a pollutant as follows. Using the fourth highest level for each year, three years are averaged to determine the design value. As shown in the graph, the County's design value for 2009-2011 data is 0.073 ppm, in

attainment with the standard. The value for 2008-2010 data is 0.076 ppm, just over the standard.

EPA will be required to revisit the ozone standard starting in 2013, and can choose to propose a new standard at that point, or to reissue the existing standard. Santa Barbara County does not attain the state eight-hour ozone standard, which is set at 0.070 ppm and calculated differently from the federal standard.

For more information, see [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).

Santa Barbara County  
Federal Eight Hour Ozone Design Value Trend



The chart shows design values developed through a process using three-year averages. As shown in the chart, if the design value is derived from 2009-2011 data, the County should be considered in attainment of the federal ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million (ppm). Final designations are expected sometime this year.

## Ozone: Good Up High, Bad Nearby

High in the atmosphere, ozone occurs naturally and helps protect the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. At ground level, ozone, considered a principal component of smog, is produced when nitrogen oxides and reactive organic gases react chemically in the presence of sunlight and heat. Cars and trucks produce both nitrogen oxides and reactive organic gases, and are considered a major source of smog-forming pollution. Other sources of smog-forming pollution include other mobile sources (planes, trains, boats, and off-road equipment), oil and gas processing facilities, facilities that use solvents, engines and equipment that burn fossil fuels, and prescribed burning.

Ozone is made up of three atoms of oxygen, and is represented chemically as O<sub>3</sub>. Ozone is highly reactive, and because it is so similar to the oxygen we breathe, ozone is taken deep into our lungs where it reacts with lung tissue, and causes a range of respiratory symptoms. Health studies have shown that exposure to higher levels of ozone can harm long-term lung development in children, and contribute to the risk of developing early childhood asthma.

## \$15 Million for Clean Vehicle Rebates

### APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the October Board meeting.

#### October

- ☛ Delegated authority to the Air Pollution Control Officer to amend, enter into, and renew contracts for multiple employee benefit insurance plans to become effective January 1, 2012.
- ☛ Adopted the schedule for 2012 APCD Board meetings.
- ☛ Adopted proposed amended Rule 352 to incorporate requirements for small water heaters.
- ☛ Approved Old Car Buy Back Program contracts with three dismantlers.
- ☛ Received and filed an update on the implementation of the 2008 federal eight-hour standard for ground-level ozone.
- ☛ Executed interim office lease agreement with Aquistapace Ranches LP for real property located at 301 E. Cook Street, Suite L, Santa Maria, CA, for a lease term of 3 months.

### Electric Vehicle Workshop

Find out more about clean car incentives, and how to set up home charging, at a workshop:

**January 28, 2012  
10:30 a.m.-12:30p.m.  
Santa Barbara  
Metropolitan Transit District  
550 Olive St., Santa Barbara.**

For more information, and the link to register for the workshop, see the Clean-Air Cars page at [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).

In November, the California Air Resources Board announced an additional \$15 million to fund 6,000 to 8,000 clean vehicle rebates. The incentives are available for electric, plug-in hybrid electric, fuel cell vehicles and electric motorcycles.

Rebates range from \$900 to \$2,500, depending on the vehicle type, model year and fuel technology. For example, the highest level of rebate, \$2,500, is available to consumers for purchase of the all-electric Nissan Leaf. The rebate program is managed by the California Center for Sustainable Energy.

Consumers who purchase electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles will set up home charging for their vehicles. Many will charge vehicles at night, when there is



In October, The Sustainability Project and other partners, including the District, sponsored a showing of the movie "The Revenge of the Electric Car" at the Marjorie Luke Theatre in Santa Barbara. Electric vehicle and plug-in hybrid vehicle owners brought their cars to the event for a car show; pictured is the all-electric Tesla Roadster.

less electrical demand on the system and rates are lower. The California Air Resources Board has calculated that electricity costs for EV charging are several dollars less for an average commute trip than gasoline costs for the same trip in a gasoline-powered car.

The District is also working with the Community Environmental Council and other partners to help bring public vehicle charging stations to locations around the county. Federal and state grants will be funding a majority of the costs, including the purchase of the charging equipment.

## Carbon Monoxide Dangers Indoors

Carbon monoxide poisoning can strike wherever combustion occurs in enclosed areas. More than half of all carbon monoxide poisoning deaths are from malfunctioning or improperly vented gas appliances in homes. The others come from a variety of combustion sources including: barbecues, kerosene space heaters, generators and fireplaces.

This past summer, a new state law became effective requiring every California home with an attached garage or gas-using appliance to have an operational carbon-monoxide sensor installed. Warning signs of exposure are headache, drowsiness, nausea and inability to concentrate; these symptoms will go away when

the affected person is removed from the area and given fresh air. The California Air Resources Board recommends the following steps to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Properly use and maintain appliances that produce a flame.
- Never use gas ovens to heat the home; never use kerosene or propane space heaters, charcoal grills, barbecues, or unvented gas logs indoors.
- Place emergency generators outdoors away from windows and doors to prevent fumes from entering the home.
- Be especially careful with appliances in recreational vehicles,

cabins and houseboats, and use carbon monoxide detectors specifically made for these locations.

The District does not monitor or regulate indoor air quality. The District measures carbon monoxide levels in outdoor air at monitoring stations; levels are well under health-based air quality standards.

For more information on dangers of carbon monoxide indoors, see this page: [www.OurAir.org/edu/carbonmonoxide.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/edu/carbonmonoxide.htm). Also see page four of this newsletter for tips for cleaner, safer fireplace burning.



## District Board Calendar

### Board of Directors

Supervisor Salud Carbajal

*First District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Janet Wolf

*Second District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Doreen Farr

*Third District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Joni Gray

*Fourth District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

*Vice Chair*

*Fifth District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Mayor Holly Sierra

*City of Buellton*

Councilmember

Kathleen Reddington, Chair

*City of Carpinteria*

Mayor Lupe Alvarez

*City of Guadalupe*

Councilmember Cecilia Martner

*City of Lompoc*

Mayor Helene Schneider

*City of Santa Barbara*

Mayor Larry Lavagnino

*City of Santa Maria*

Mayor Jim Richardson

*City of Solvang*

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Aceves

*City of Goleta*

*All meetings start at 1:30 p.m. For final meeting agendas, call Sara Brumit, 961-8853, or see [www.OurAir.org/apcd/agenda.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/apcd/agenda.htm).*

#### January 19

Board of Supervisors'

Hearing Room

511 East Lakeside Parkway

Santa Maria, California 93455

#### March 15

Board of Supervisors'

Hearing Room

511 East Lakeside Parkway

Santa Maria, California 93455

#### May 17

Board of Supervisors'

Hearing Room

511 East Lakeside Parkway

Santa Maria, California 93455

#### June 21

Board of Supervisors'

Hearing Room

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, California 93101

## Community Advisory Council

The APCD Community Advisory Council meets as needed at the Days Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call Sara Brumit, 961-8853.

## Safer, Cleaner Fireplace Burning

This fall the District and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department issued tips for cleaner, safer fireplace burning. Fireplace fires can cause emergencies, and breathing wood smoke reduces lung function, aggravates heart and lung diseases, and can trigger asthma. Some simple actions listed below can reduce the volume of smoke produced by a wood-burning fireplace, and improve safety and health.



1. Don't burn trash. Don't burn: plastics, chemicals, wrapping paper, magazines, or colored or coated papers (including newspaper inserts, junk mail, etc.). Also don't burn charcoal, coal, or holiday greens.
2. Be a good neighbor and notice your smoke. Build small hot fires rather than large smoldering ones. Use seasoned hard woods that burn hot and provide complete combustion.
3. Save your fireplace or woodstove for special occasions.
4. Use a gas log if you can.
5. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned regularly by a professional chimney sweep (pictured).
6. Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light or relight a fire because the vapors can explode.
7. Do not allow small children near the fireplace.
8. Never leave a fire unattended.
9. Be sure no flammable materials hang down from or decorate your mantel.
10. Make sure you have basic fire safety equipment.

*For more information, see [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).*

#### Office

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

#### Business Assistance

(805) 961-8868

#### Daily Air Quality Report

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

#### Complaints/Public Information

(805) 961-8800

#### Air Quality Advisory Information

(805) 961-8802

#### World Wide Web

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

**On the Air** is a quarterly newsletter written by Mary Byrd, published by the Community Programs Section of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.



Printed using organic-based toner on 100% recycled chlorine-free paper that is manufactured using 100% wind-generated power.



# Business Focus

## New Tractor Saves Money, Cuts Pollution

**I**n November, a 14-ton new tractor, purchased with the help of a clean-air grant from the District, was delivered to Acquistapace Farms in Santa Maria. The 2011 tractor is 90 percent cleaner than the 30 year old high-polluting tractor it is replacing, reducing emissions of smog-forming pollution and toxic diesel particles by 4 tons every year. District Director Dave Van Mullem said, "This is a win for the farmers, and it's a win for Santa Barbara County and clean air."



*(from left) Dave Van Mullem, Director of Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, and Ryan Acquistapace, Operations Manager of Acquistapace Farms in Santa Maria, greet the arrival of a new 2011 tractor at the Farms, purchased with the help of a clean-air grant from the District.*

Ryan Acquistapace, Operations Director for the Farms, noted "I feel agriculture has been working very hard to help clean up its environmental effects, and I'm proud to be part of that effort."

The new tractor is also very fuel efficient, and is expected to use 1-2 gallons of diesel fuel per hour

less than the tractor it is replacing. Acquistapace remarked, "We'll be saving on fuels costs. This tractor

will be operating continuously, ten to twelve hours a day every work day—60 to 70 hours a week—over 500 acres, so saving 1 gallon of fuel an hour or more will add up to a lot in fuel savings." Acquistapace Farms grows broccoli, cauliflower, head lettuce, romaine, and celery.

The District funded 80 percent of the purchase of the new tractor with clean-air grant funds; the Farms paid 20 percent. Some of the grant funds came from the state's Carl Moyer Program, an initiative to reduce pollution from diesel engines. The grant program requires that the previous tractor be retired, to ensure that clean-air benefits are realized.

*(continued on back)*

## Coast Guard Issues Study of Shipping Lanes

**I**n November the U.S. Coast Guard released a Port Access Route Study on the location of internationally-designated shipping lanes (also known as

traffic separation schemes, or TSS) through the Santa Barbara Channel to and from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The Study recommended: retaining

the designated lanes through the Channel; decreasing the distance between northbound and southbound lanes, to move the southbound lane further away from the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary; creating traffic lanes south of the Channel Islands to accommodate any periodic increases in vessel traffic in the region; and creating a western approach south of the Channel Islands.

The Study was initiated to address concerns that arose when a number of ships started traveling outside the Channel in July of 2009 to avoid a new state rule requirement that ships use lower-sulfur fuel when traveling up to 24 nautical miles off the California coast. After

safety concerns were expressed because there are no officially designated shipping lanes outside the Channel, and considering the fact that the U.S. Navy conducts missile tests in the Point Mugu Sea Range located in that area, the Coast Guard initiated the Study to evaluate options for ship routing. The state's fuel rule has since been extended to 24 nautical miles outside the Channel Islands, which is expected to result in the return of most ships to the Channel route.

The Study stated, "The Coast Guard believes the proposed modifications will provide well-defined traffic corridors to facilitate the safety of navigation while helping to preserve the

*(continued on back)*



*Large container ships travel off the coast of Santa Barbara County on their way to or from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.*

# Business Focus

## New Tractor (cont'd)

Over the past thirteen years, the District has provided grants to reduce thousands of tons of air pollution, funding cleaner school buses, new farm water pump engines, cleaner engines on boats, less-polluting construction equipment, and more.

Van Mullem remarked, "I invite anyone who is interested to contact us to participate in the program. It's good for businesses, for schools, and for all of us who want to breathe clean air."

Acquistapace noted, "I definitely recommend this program to other businesses. It will help you out on fuel costs, and it's good for the environment."

The District currently has \$500,000 available to help businesses purchase cleaner engines and equipment.

*For more information, visit  
[www.OurAir.org/funding](http://www.OurAir.org/funding)  
or call 805-961-8800.*



## Study of Shipping Lanes (cont'd)

marine environment. A proposed TSS south of the Channel Islands may at times see increased use above historical norms and thus operations in the Point Mugu Sea Range may be impacted, but a well-defined traffic route will increase predictability for vessel traffic passing through the range. Keeping a TSS through the Santa Barbara Channel gives vessels the option of avoiding Navy operations in the Sea Range south of the Channel Islands."

Several organizations and agencies, including the District, called on the Coast Guard to propose vessel speed restrictions. The District estimates that

air emissions could be cut significantly—possibly by as much as 50 percent—if ships traveling through the Channel were required to travel at speeds of 12 knots or less. Vessel speed reduction was also suggested as a strategy to reduce ship strikes on whales. While the Study stated the Coast Guard does not have the authority to impose speed restrictions to protect the marine environment, the proposal to move the southbound lane further away from the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary was designed to help reduce the number of ship strikes on whales in that area. The National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration is currently reviewing a petition from several organizations to establish a 10-knot speed limit for large commercial vessels within the national marine sanctuaries off the California coast.

Before the Port Access Route Study's proposed modifications to ship routing can go into effect, approval from the International Maritime Organization is necessary, and a federal rulemaking process must be carried out.

*For more information, visit:  
[www.OurAir.org/itg/shipemissions.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/itg/shipemissions.htm)*

## CASH for Cleaner Engines



**Funds to repower or retrofit engines in: off-road mobile equipment, farm equipment, fishing boats, school buses, and more.**

*Contact Al Ronyecz at  
961-8877 or [axr@sbcapcd.org](mailto:axr@sbcapcd.org).*

**Apply NOW!**

**[www.OurAir.org/funding](http://www.OurAir.org/funding)**

## Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy

**S**anta Barbara County Association of Governments is developing a Regional Transportation Plan identifying how the region will invest in transportation over the next

twenty years to meet regional goals. As required by State Bill 375, the Plan will now include a Sustainable Communities Strategy to show how greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks

can be reduced to achieve targets. Santa Barbara County must achieve a zero per capita increase in greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles and light trucks in 2020 and 2035 when

compared to 2005 emissions.

*For more information, and to receive updates, visit: [www.sbcag.org/planning/2040RTP.html](http://www.sbcag.org/planning/2040RTP.html)*