



Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District

Santa Barbara County Air Quality News • Issue 82 • Spring 2005

On the Air

State Adopts New Air Standard

In April, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted a new standard for ozone, a primary component of smog. "The state set a health-protective standard to help those who need it most—our children," says Tom Murphy, Director of APCD's Technology and Environmental Assessment Division.

He notes that health studies in recent years have established that ozone, and ozone-forming pollutants, can harm long-term development of children's lungs, and can cause early childhood asthma. Even lower levels of ozone and ozone-forming pollutants have been implicated in serious health effects.

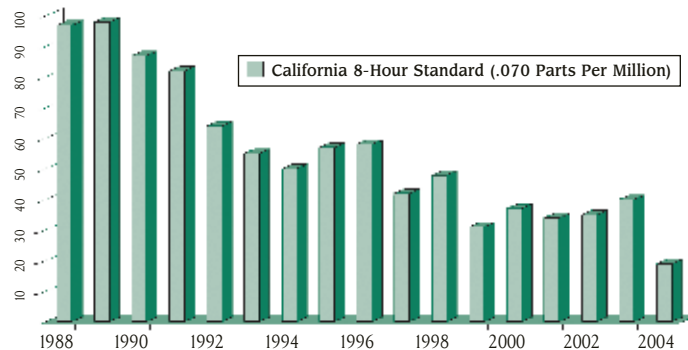
The state's review of its existing air quality standards, required by the Children's Environmental Health Protection Act of 1999,

resulted in the adoption of a new 8-hour average standard for ozone, established at 0.070 parts per million (ppm), which is not to

be exceeded. The existing 1-hour state standard for ozone of 0.09 ppm was retained. The federal 8-hour ozone standard is set at 0.08 ppm, and the federal 1-hour ozone standard is set at 0.12 ppm. Santa Barbara County air currently meets federal standards for ozone and particulate matter, and does not meet the state standards for these pollutants.

The new state ozone standard was exceeded on 19 days at Santa Barbara County monitoring stations in 2004, while the existing 1-hour state ozone standard was exceeded on only 2 days. Based on data collected from 2002 through 2004, seven monitoring stations in the county are out of compliance with the

Santa Barbara County
Days Over New California 8-Hour Ozone Standard
1988-2004



Santa Barbara County ozone data from 1988 through 2004 compared against the new state ozone standard shows a declining trend. In 2004, the new state standard was exceeded on 19 days.

(continued on page two)

Teachers Honored for Environmental Education Project



In May, Valerie Trenev, Debbie Hart, and David Greenelsh, teachers at Alice Shaw Elementary School in Orcutt (pictured), were honored by the Santa Barbara County Education Office for their project "Connections, Choices and Conservation for a Healthier Tomorrow." The project helped students at the school make a connection between choices we make to support our lifestyle, and the impact we have on our environment, and our own health.

(continued on page two)

Inside...

- Cleaner Diesel Fuel**
- Dry Cleaners**
- New on the Web**
- Funds for Local Businesses**
- Board Roundup**
- Clean Air Month**
- Air Monitoring Award**

New Air Standard (cont'd)

new standard, at locations in the following areas: Carpinteria, Las Flores Canyon, Lompoc, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Nojoqui Summit, Santa Ynez, and Paradise Road. Currently only the Paradise Road site does not comply with the existing state 1-hour ozone standard.

Murphy notes, "This new standard will not create any immediate changes in our operations, or result in us taking any specific new actions. The main effect will be to extend our planning and rulemaking process. We were getting pretty close to meeting the existing state 1-hour ozone standard, but it will probably take several years to meet this new standard." APCD develops a Clean Air Plan progress report and plan revision for the state every three years; this requirement will continue until the county is in compliance with the new standard. As Clean Air Plans form the basis for development of rules and regulations to reduce pollution,

the rule development efforts will also continue until the county is in compliance.

He adds, "The good news is that when we look at our ozone levels for the past decade against this new standard we are seeing a declining trend. So we know we don't need any drastic new actions; we're already going in the right direction. We just need

to continue in that direction longer." Existing permitting thresholds, and the process of analysis of projects under the California Environmental Quality Act will not change, but thresholds used in these areas will likely be extended.

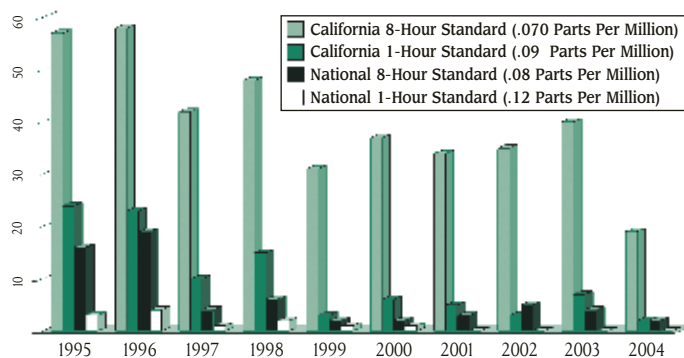
Murphy points out that there will be a regional benefit from the sustained effort across the state

to bring down ozone levels to meet the new standard. Other measures that are coming into effect in the state will also help this effort, including new standards for heavy-duty trucks, and for diesel fuel.

Murphy notes that Santa Barbara County faces a significant challenge in addressing the problem of the large amounts of pollution released by large ships moving through the Santa Barbara Channel. While not all the pollution from these ships reaches shore, the huge ship engines burn a particularly dirty form of fuel, and largely operate without emission controls of any kind. APCD is working cooperatively with a range of partners to develop and test ways to reduce emissions from these ships.

Murphy sums up: "Looking at the bigger picture, this new standard makes it clear that the amount of pollution emitted in the region is still much too high. We need to continue to work for cleaner air."

Santa Barbara County
Days Over Ozone Standards
1995-2004



The number of days on which Santa Barbara County air exceeds existing ozone standards is declining overall. In 2004 there were no exceedances of the federal 1-hour ozone standard for the fourth year in a row.

Teachers Honored (cont'd)

The teachers were awarded a Disseminator Grant in a program supported by APCD that is administered through the Education Office's Teachers Network Program. The grant is designed to help teachers share their successful classroom projects and curriculum development with other teachers in the county.

In the first phase of the teachers' project, students learned about the environment and air quality, reading books, viewing a video on air pollution's effects on children, and discussing ways to restore and protect the environment.

Then the students worked on an educational website, and wrote poems, made up songs, designed and drew pictures and posters, and made displays for two Days of Awareness. On these two days, more than 300 students visited the displays and learned about connections, choices and conservation from the students in the three classrooms.

Santa Barbara County Supervisor and APCD Board Member Susan Rose awarded the grant to the teachers at the annual Education Celebration of the County Education Office, held in May.

Rose praised the teachers, and the fact that the students learned by teaching other students, and added, "And the best part – the teachers tell me they want to do this again next year."

For more information on resources for teachers, and APCD-sponsored grants through the Santa Barbara County Education Office, see www.sbapcd.org/teachers.htm.

Clean Air Month

APCD Board Roundup

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

March

- Received and filed the Fiscal Year 2003-04 APCD Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and Audit Report
- Approved Call for Proposals for grants for emission reduction equipment in a range of applications.
- Adopted a Clean Air Month Resolution and selected Board Members to participate in Clean Air Month events.
- Held a public hearing, and approved revisions (required by a state law) to APCD Rule 202 covering diesel engines, and directed that initial permitting fees for these engines be less than currently required under the APCD fee schedule. Directed APCD staff to return in 8 months with a proposal for a revision to reduce the reevaluation fee for emergency stand-by engines.
- Held a public hearing and adopted revisions to APCD fees to base air toxic program fees on air toxic emissions rather than criteria-pollutant emissions.

May

- Received a briefing on the recently adopted California 8-hour ozone standard.
- Adopted and presented Resolutions of Appreciation to David Smyser and DeWayne Holmdahl for their service on the APCD Board.
- Held a hearing on the APCD proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2005/2006 and scheduled a budget adoption hearing for June 16, 2005.
- Received a report on SB 656 requirements (particulate matter) and directed APCD staff to conduct a management review of the requirements and return to the Board at the June meeting with recommendations that reflect a minimal program and outreach to the cities and County.

May was Clean Air Month, and APCD teamed up with the American Lung Association (ALA) of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to raise awareness of health effects of air pollution and how we can help keep our air clean.

"We all need to work together to clean our environment," said Sister Janet Corcoran, Vice President of Mission Services at Marian Medical Center, which co-sponsored a Clean Air Month event in May at the Center in Santa Maria. The event featured speakers, and displays of human lungs, a propane-powered school bus from Orcutt School District, pollution-control equipment for school buses, and hybrid gas-electric vehicles from Ford, Toyota and Honda.

Dr. Barry Feldman, a Marian pulmonologist (lung specialist), noted that asthma rates have risen dramatically in recent years: "Asthma is now the leading chronic illness among children, and the leading cause of absenteeism in school." Recent health studies have shown that air pollution can play a role in causing early childhood asthma, and exposure to high levels of pollution can worsen asthma symptoms. Feldman noted that

children are more susceptible to air pollution since they breathe faster, and spend more time outdoors.

Barbie Rozek, Regional Manager with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, remarked that in a 2001 Public Health study, more than 11 percent of respondents in the county had been diagnosed with

and these programs have eliminated more than 2700 tons of air pollution. In the next year, APCD will provide close to one million dollars in grant funds for cleaner engines, and will have additional funds in subsequent years. Said Mariscal, "We will help school districts buy cleaner school buses and pollution-control equipment, so our children are not exposed



Barbie Rozek (left), Regional Manager with Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, with Jayne Brechwald, Executive Director of the American Lung Association of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties at a May Clean Air Month event at Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria.

asthma, and about one in ten children and adolescents had been told by a health professional that they have asthma.

Jayne Brechwald, Executive Director of the American Lung Association of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties emphasized the serious health effects of diesel exhaust particulate, which is very harmful to breathe, and is considered the number one airborne carcinogen in the state.

Marty Mariscal, Santa Maria City Council Member and APCD Board Member noted that since 1988, APCD has provided more than \$20 million in grant funds for cleaner engines,

to toxic, harmful levels of diesel exhaust at school, or on their way to and from school every day. We will help farmers and businesses and truck operators buy cleaner, more efficient engines and pollution-control equipment. We'll be continuing the progress towards cleaner air – from high smog levels twenty and thirty years ago to cleaner air today – and hopefully even cleaner air tomorrow."

APCD and ALA are distributing English and Spanish posters showing health effects of air pollution to medical centers, doctors' offices, schools, and other locations for public display around the county.

For more information, call 961-8800.



Joe Azevedo with the propane-powered school bus he drives for Orcutt School District. The bus, which produces much less pollution than the older diesel bus it replaced, was purchased with help from APCD's grant program for cleaner diesel engines (see Business Focus).

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APCD Board Calendar

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

August 18

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

October 20

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

December 15

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.

APCD Receives Air Monitoring Excellence Award

In May, APCD's air monitoring program received an award from the California Air Resources Board for excellence in air monitoring. The awards were based on evaluation of three years of data, from 2001-2003, from air monitoring equipment. Data were evaluated for precision, accuracy, and completeness for each of the three years.

APCD was considered in the category of a large monitoring network (10 monitoring sites or more), and tied for first place in that category with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The Chief of the Air Quality Management Branch at the Air Resources Board presented APCD Director Terry Dressler with the award at a May conference. Said Dressler, "Dedication to technical excellence is one of our core values here at the APCD. This award is evidence that the members of our air monitoring and information technology teams have internalized this value. We are proud of their accomplishment."

APCD has a network of 17 monitoring stations in Santa Barbara County that measure air pollutants and transmit data electronically to APCD's Data Acquisition System. Some pollutants, such as ozone, are monitored continuously over a 24-hour period, and ozone levels are posted hourly on this website. For data and more information on APCD's air monitoring network, see www.sbcapcd.org.



Pictured (left to right) APCD Air Monitoring and Information Technology Staff: Paula Gregoire-Jones, Mike Willis, Howard Hammeren, Bob van Beveren (Information Technology Supervisor), Marc Moritsch, Bobbie Bratz (Community Programs Supervisor), Joel Cordes (Principal Monitoring Specialist), Jim Swihart, and Janice Kettler.

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Daily Air Quality Report

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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.



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Cleaner Diesel Fuel is Coming

Highway-grade diesel fuel in California will be ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) starting in mid 2006, as required by state law. ULSD has less than 15 parts per million (ppm) sulfur content, compared to a sulfur content of up to 500 ppm for the regular diesel currently available.

Use of ULSD in diesel engines immediately reduces sulfate emissions across the board. Even more important, ULSD makes it

considered the number one airborne carcinogen in California. Use of ULSD in diesel-powered buses, trucks, school buses, and other equipment will cut pollution significantly and benefit public health.

ULSD can be used in diesel engines without need for adjustments to the engine, and several fleets in Santa Barbara County have been using ULSD for some time. Jay Sullivan,

engines, including the older ones, are running fine on the low-sulfur fuel."

Three years ago with help from APCD's incentive program, the Goleta School District purchased a new, low-emission school bus with an engine designed to run on ULSD. "Since we needed the low-sulfur fuel to run the new bus, we decided rather than install a second fueling station, we'd run everything on the

low-sulfur fuel," reports Sullivan. The District also fitted three of its existing school buses with particulate traps with help from APCD's funding program.

Initially, Sullivan remembers, it took some time to identify a supplier who would deliver ULSD. As with any fuel, the price per gallon fluctuates, and the cost to the District for the ULSD fuel has ranged from \$2.20 to \$2.36 per gallon in recent months.

Jack Dempsey, Technical Manager for General Petroleum at the company's Oxnard office, notes that ULSD generally costs anywhere from 8 cents to 20 cents a gallon higher than the price of traditional diesel, due to expenses in the refining process removing the sulfur. General Petroleum, the largest Chevron distributor in the U.S., is based in Rancho Dominguez in Southern California, and has a branch office in Oxnard.

General Petroleum supplies the Goleta Union School District and other Santa Barbara County customers with ULSD, and Dempsey has not heard of any problems making the switch to the cleaner fuel. He points out that fuel pumps in diesel engines are sensitive to wear and tear, and the sulfur in regular diesel acts as a lubricant in the fuel pump: "The only concern you might expect with ULSD would be related to losing some of that lubricity. But the companies have anticipated this, and put some lubricity additives in the ULSD, so there haven't been any problems with that."

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APCD Air Quality Engineer Anthony Fournier with Jay Sullivan, Director of Maintenance, Operations & Transportation for Goleta Union School District.

possible to use advanced pollution controls including catalytic converters and particulate traps with diesel engines. The higher sulfur content of traditional diesel fuel interferes with the operation of pollution-control equipment.

Diesel exhaust particles harm human hearts and lungs, and diesel particulate is

Director of Maintenance, Operations & Transportation for Goleta Union School District, made the switch to ULSD three years ago. Says Sullivan, "We had heard that the engines would run fine on it, but the true test in our minds came when we switched over. And we have never had a single problem with it. Like any school district, we don't have all new equipment—and all our

WWW.sbcapcd.org New On The Web

- ❖ New factsheets on What One Person Can Do for Clean Air (English and Spanish) and Agricultural Permitting
See "Publications"
- ❖ Call for Proposals for Grants Program for Cleaner Engines (released June 1)
See "Incentive Programs"
- ❖ Compliance Advisories for Businesses
See "Compliance"
- ❖ New Pages for Agricultural Businesses
See "Agricultural Permits"

Business Focus

Agricultural Permits Update

Agricultural sources of air pollution in California became subject to regulation in September of 2003, when state Senate Bill 700 was signed into law, repealing the state's previous permit exemption for agricultural sources (except motor vehicles).

Working closely with a coalition of agricultural associations, APCD completed the first phase of implementation of the state law in 2004, identifying farming operations that might require federal permits, based on how much air pollution they could create, termed their "potential to emit."

APCD is now working with the coalition on the next phase of implementation of the state law, identifying farming operations that may require local permits.

For more information, see "Agricultural Permits" on APCD's website at www.sbcapcd.org.

Dry Cleaner Alert Change in APCD Fees Calculation

The APCD Board recently adopted changes to the way fees are calculated for businesses that emit air toxics, chemicals in the air that can cause cancer or other health effects. Perchloroethylene, or perc, commonly used by dry

cleaning operations, is considered an air toxic. Businesses that emit more than 2,000 pounds of air toxics per year will be charge a fee for each pound of air toxics released. The current fee is \$0.25 per pound. Businesses that emit 2,000 pounds or less of

air toxics per year are exempt from the fee.

For more information, visit www.sbcapcd.org/eng/compliance/dc/dc.htm, or call APCD's Business Assistance Line at 961-8868.

Cleaner Diesel (cont'd)

APCD currently has funds available to help replace older diesel school buses with newer, cleaner ones that run on ULSD, and to retrofit existing school buses with advanced pollution controls that can work to reduce pollution in engines that are

operating with the low-sulfur fuel. These pollution controls can cut pollution significantly – even operating in conjunction with older diesel engines.

For information on local availability of ULSD, contact your

local fuel supplier.

For more information on diesel in California, view this web page on the California Air Resources Board website: www.arb.ca.gov/fuels/diesel/diesel.htm.

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
Call the Business Assistance Line at 961-8868, Email business@sbcapcd.org.



APCD Grants for Local Businesses

Close to \$ 1 Million for Cleaner Engines

APCD issues June 1 Call for Proposals

Applications for APCD grant funds for cleaner engines are now available, and completed applications will be accepted starting July 1. Equipment that is eligible for grants for repowers or retrofits includes:

On-Road Vehicles

Off-Road Vehicles/ Equipment

Agricultural Water Pumps

School Buses

Marine Engines

Other (Forklifts, Locomotives and more)

Contact Information:

Gary Hoffman at
(805) 961-8818,
gah@sbcapcd.org or

Anthony Fournier at
(805) 961-8874
adf@sbcapcd.org.

For more information visit:
www.sbcapcd.org/itg/itg.htm