

THE VENTURA COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

To protect public health and agriculture from the adverse effects of air pollution by identifying air pollution problems and developing a long-range comprehensive program to achieve and maintain state and federal air quality standards.

The District was formed by the County Board of Supervisors in 1968, in response to the county's first air pollution study that identified Ventura County as having a severe air quality problem. Currently, Ventura County does not meet the federal air quality standard for ozone. It also exceeds the state standard for ozone and particulate matter (PM10).

The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has a staff of fifty-four employees including inspectors, engineers, planners, technicians, and support staff. The District works with business and industry to reduce emissions from new and existing sources. The District is divided into divisions each having a division manager: Administration, Compliance, Engineering, Monitoring, Planning, and Public Information.

MAJOR DISTRICT PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) implementation.
- Permit processing and renewal.
- Enforcement of APCD rules and applicable state and federal laws.
- Air quality and meteorological monitoring at seven locations throughout the county.
- Air quality impact analyses of sources and projects for AQMP consistency.
- Air quality, meteorological, and agricultural burning forecasting.
- Rule development.
- Air pollution emissions inventory.
- Air toxics inventory and risk assessment.
- Transportation control measure development.
- Employer transportation outreach program.
- Clean-burning fleet program development.
- Public information and education.

PLANNED FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Implement the requirements of the California Clean Air Act and 1990 Amendments to the federal Clean Air Act.
- Continue public awareness program and education program.
- Develop attainment plans for new U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ambient air quality standards.

MONITORING DIVISION OBJECTIVES

To provide continuous measurement and analysis of countywide air quality and meteorology.

The District monitors air quality to assess the county's ongoing status with respect to federal and state health-based ambient air quality standards. Air quality and meteorological conditions are recorded at seven aerometric monitoring stations located in Ventura, El Rio, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley (2), Ojai, and Piru.

Field operation technicians and meteorologists maintain and operate pollutant analyzers and sensors at the monitoring sites so that continuous ambient air quality and meteorological data can be gathered. Staff also maintains a strict quality assurance and quality control program to ensure collected data are valid and representative. Data are processed and validated through the District's aerometric data center for submittal to state and federal air quality data banks.

District chemists also operate an atmospheric chemistry sampling and analysis program. The District's air quality laboratory is one of five regional labs in California funded to process fine particle sample filters from other counties, as well as Ventura County.

To notify school districts and the general public of air pollution health advisory episode predictions and occurrences.

Whenever an air pollution health advisory episode is forecast or whenever a health advisory episode level is attained, the District immediately notifies local cities, school districts and the general public through local media. Notifications are made by contacting a list of designated persons by fax, e-mail, or telephone. These persons then make further notifications to affected parties.

To provide the public with a variety of air quality, climatological, and forecasting information.

Staff develops air quality summaries and reports for periodic publication and for response to public inquiries. Pollution and agricultural burning forecasts are prepared twice daily and made available via recorded message, e-mail, and the District's web site to media and school districts. During smog season (May through October), daily air quality forecasts and smog (ozone) measurements are placed on the EPA's national air quality website (AIRNOW). At times, District staff also prepares forecasts in conjunction with outside agencies for special projects or problems.

PLANNING DIVISION

OBJECTIVES

To develop a comprehensive plan for achieving health-based federal and state clean air standards.

Ventura County residents currently breathe air that does not meet federal and state health standards for ozone or state particulate matter standards. In an effort to clean up the air to meet health standards, the Air Pollution Control Board has adopted an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), which identifies the necessary programs to achieve healthful air. These programs include mobile source measures to be implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, mobile and area-wide measures to be implemented by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and other state agencies, and a variety of other measures to be implemented by the District, local cities, and other local agencies.

As part of the District's ongoing planning effort, staff evaluates current and historical air quality levels, estimates current air pollutant emissions from a wide range of sources, develops emission control programs to achieve clean air countywide, calculates the level of emission reductions associated with current and future control programs, forecasts future emission levels accounting for growth and control trends, and uses air quality models to determine the required emission reductions to meet air quality goals.

To evaluate the air quality impacts of projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The primary goal of CEQA is to provide and maintain a high-quality environment. To achieve this goal, CEQA requires that public agencies in California identify and disclose the significant environmental effects of their actions and avoid or mitigate those effects, where feasible. Staff participates in the preparation and review of environmental documents prepared by the County of Ventura, local cities, and other public agencies to determine potential adverse air quality impacts from projects, and identifies measures to mitigate those impacts.

Staff has also developed *Air Quality Assessment Guidelines*, for use by local agencies, environmental consultants, and project proponents. These guidelines recommend procedures to evaluate the air quality impacts of proposed projects and mitigate those impacts to acceptable levels. They are revised on a periodic basis to update emission factors, alternative mitigation measures, air quality information, and other information.

To develop and implement measures to reduce motor vehicle emissions associated with urban growth.

On-road motor vehicle emissions account for more than half of the ozone-forming emissions in Ventura County. Consequently, the District's AQMP relies on a wide range of programs implemented by federal, state, and local agencies to reduce mobile source emissions to achieve clean air. Staff coordinates with these agencies to ensure that programs are implemented as expected, identifies opportunities where additional emission reduction programs can be implemented, and reviews agency actions to ensure that they will not interfere with efforts to reduce mobile source emissions.

To prepare and update the area, natural, and mobile source county emissions inventory on an ongoing basis.

An air pollutant emissions inventory is one of the cornerstones on which the District's comprehensive air quality plan is based. This inventory allows the District to determine which programs are necessary to achieve clean, healthful air, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the individual emission control measures. District staff works with staff of the California Air Resources Board and industry representatives to compile and update information on quantity of air pollutants emitted in Ventura County from mobile sources (on- and non-road), natural sources, and dispersed area wide sources (such as consumer products, pesticides, and architectural coatings.)

COMPLIANCE DIVISION OBJECTIVES

To conduct the APCD inspection program.

Compliance staff inspects all permitted air pollution emitting facilities to assure their compliance with APCD rules and regulations and applicable provisions of the California Health and Safety Code and Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Permitted sources include, but are not limited to, gas stations, dry cleaners, auto body shops, oil field operations, semiconductor and electronics manufacturing facilities, municipal government operations, power plants, and chemical processing plants. Inspectors ensure that pollution-emitting facilities are properly permitted, operated, and source tested according to applicable rules and permit conditions. Source records are verified for all equipment, including continuous emission monitors. Unpermitted facilities are inspected to determine if they are subject to the District's permit requirements and rules and regulations. Inspectors may issue Notices of Violation, Notices to Comply, or Notices to Supply Information.

Inspectors receive on-going training and attend courses on source-specific inspection techniques, air pollution control technology and other methods of improving compliance.

To investigate citizen complaints.

Air pollution related complaints from citizens are investigated to determine the source of odors, dust, fumes, and other pollutants that may cause harm or discomfort to the public. Complaint investigations often require interaction with other federal, state, and local agencies such as the County's Environmental Health Department, fire, building and safety, and code enforcement.

To conduct the APCD Mutual Settlement Program.

The Mutual Settlement Program offers a violator the opportunity to settle violations by payment of penalties in lieu of litigation. If compliance is achieved and the penalty is paid, the matter is resolved. This program allows the District staff to educate the violator about the District requirements for that source and the necessity for compliance.

To monitor and evaluate source tests conducted by independent contractors at selected facilities.

District rules or conditions placed on permits may require regular measurement of pollutants being emitted by a facility. These "source tests" are conducted by independent contractors. District staff reviews the proposed test procedures prior to the test, monitor the testing process, and evaluate the test reports prepared by these contractors.

To organize and conduct special enforcement programs.

State law requires air districts to give approval before building occupancy permits are issued. This helps prevent the installation of unpermitted sources of air pollution, and unsupervised asbestos renovation and demolition projects. Staff interviews applicants for certificates of occupancy and building permits, and issues authorization to the planning or building and safety department only after the applicant complies with, or has been determined to be exempt from, APCD requirements.

Asbestos renovation and demolition projects are reviewed and inspected by District inspectors to assure that the projects are conducted according to District and federal rules and regulations. This District program ensures that asbestos renovation and demolition projects will not release asbestos containing materials that may harm the public health.

Annual compliance certifications submitted by companies that have been issued Part 70 (Title V) federal operating permits are reviewed by Compliance Division staff to assure that the certifications are complete and accurate. Enforcement action is initiated where the certifications indicate non-compliance.

Compliance Division staff participates in various local and state-wide compliance programs: the Ventura County Environmental Crimes Task Force; the California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association (CAPCOA) Enforcement Manager's Committee; and the CAPCOA Vapor Recovery Task Force.

To represent the District before the Air Pollution Hearing Board.

Compliance staff represents the District before the Air Pollution Hearing Board; assists companies seeking variances; initiates petitions for Orders of Abatement; and assures that sources operating under variance and abatement orders maintain compliance.

To encourage the use of alternate forms of transportation.

The Transportation Outreach Program's objective is to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles operated by employees traveling home-to-work commutes. Transportation staff works with employers to develop voluntary programs that encourage the use of alternate forms of transportation such as ridesharing, public transit, bicycles, telecommuting, and flexible work schedules. Transportation staff conducts annual registration and assists employers conducting biennial employee commute surveys.

ENGINEERING DIVISION OBJECTIVES

To evaluate and issue Authorities to Construct and Permits to Operate to all applicable air pollution-emitting facilities.

The District has a two-step permit processing program. Permits are required for new air pollution-emitting facilities and modifications to existing air pollution-emitting facilities. Facility operators are required to obtain an Authority to Construct before construction or modification begins. This allows District staff time to review the project plans and determine if the project will comply with all applicable District rules. The District integrates state and federal requirements for new source review into its Authority to Construct process. After construction is completed, but before operation begins, operators are required to obtain a Permit to Operate. A temporary Permit to Operate may be issued so that emissions testing or a District inspection may be conducted while the new or modified facility is operating. Upon determining that the facility is complying with all applicable APCD rules, District staff issues a Permit to Operate with enforceable permit conditions to ensure continuing rule compliance.

To issue federal operating permits to all major facilities.

The District is required to issue federal operating permits to all major air pollution-emitting facilities in the District pursuant to Title V of the Clean Air Act. The permits must reflect all air pollution requirements applicable at the facility. All federal operating permits are subject to public review and approval by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Modifications to these facilities may require additional review by the public and the Environmental Protection Agency.

To review and renew all Permits to Operate annually and collect fees.

Permits to Operate are reviewed and renewed annually. Permit renewal fees are a primary funding source for the District. Therefore, an important aspect of the renewal process is preparing bills and collecting renewal fees. The permit renewal process also affords staff the opportunity to review the enforcement history of the facility for the last year and to review the applicability of any new or amended District rules to the facility in order to determine if any changes in permit conditions or permitted emissions are necessary.

To implement state and federal air toxics programs.

The District implements three air toxics programs: the state air toxics “Hot Spots” program, air toxics regulations promulgated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and air toxic regulations promulgated by the state Air Resources Board.

The goal of the air toxics “Hot Spots” program is to identify any facility whose emissions of toxic air pollutants may be creating a potential significant health threat to the surrounding community. Operators of facilities that have the potential to emit toxic air pollutants are required to submit an emissions inventory of toxic pollutants emitted from their facilities to the District. Based on the information contained in the inventories, the District determines which facility operators must prepare formal health risk assessments. If the health risk assessment shows that the risk is significant, the facility operator must notify the public of the health risk assessment results. The facility operator must then prepare and implement a plan to reduce the health risk.

The Environmental Protection Agency promulgates standards designed to require the application of the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) to facilities that emit hazardous air pollutants. The Air Resources Board promulgates airborne toxic control measures (ATCM), which supplement or supersede the federal MACT standards. The goal of the District program is to identify facilities subject to a MACT standard or an ATCM and to make appropriate modifications to the facilities’ Permits to Operate.

To prepare and update the county stationary source emissions inventory on an annual basis.

An air pollutant emissions inventory is one of the cornerstones on which the District's comprehensive air quality plan is based. The Engineering Division staff collects information from stationary sources (generally, the larger industrial facilities) annually. The emissions inventory data is reviewed for accuracy and entered into the California Air Resources Board’s CEDIERS database. The stationary source inventory is part of a larger overall effort conducted by the District and the state to update the inventory of all sources of air emissions in the County.

RULES AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM DIVISION

OBJECTIVES

To develop rules and regulations protecting public health and welfare leading to the county's attainment and maintenance of state and federal air quality standards.

APCD rules are requirements for business, industry, and the public. These rules result in the reduction or prevention of air pollution. The Division's primary focus is to reduce reactive organic compounds (ROC or hydrocarbons) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). These two pollutants are responsible for the formation of ozone. Currently, Ventura County does not meet the state or federal ambient air quality standards for ozone. Other rule development activities include air toxic control measures, permit streamlining, new source permitting rules, and administrative rules (fees, etc.). Rules are developed on the basis of need and mandates. They can come from several sources: APCD staff, the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or the state legislature.

To minimize the socioeconomic impacts of these rules, staff strives to involve all members of the public that will be affected by each new rule. Draft rules and reports are prepared by staff and disseminated to industries, trade associations, and other interested parties. Multiple public meetings are conducted on each proposed rule revision. Written comments are solicited from industry, the public, the ARB, and the EPA. Draft rules are then presented to the APCD Advisory Committee for their recommendation. The final version of a proposed rule is presented to the Air Pollution Control Board for adoption at a public hearing. After rules are adopted by the Board, compliance assistance advisories are sent to all affected parties.

District staff is also responsible for updating and revising the District's master rulebook. Staff also provides quarterly updates of new rules to a mailing list of subscribers.

To obtain emission reductions from unregulated sources in Ventura County.

The Incentive Programs staff administers various grant programs for the District with the goal of maximizing ozone precursor and particulate emission reductions realized through these programs. Staff works closely with engine manufacturer representatives, representatives of firms manufacturing pretreatment technologies and after-treatment devices, and equipment owners to develop projects meeting the emission reduction goals and program guidelines for the programs administered by staff. Specific programs and targeted emissions are:

- Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program – NOx emission reductions from heavy-duty diesel engines
- Lower Emission School Bus Program – Particulate emission reductions from heavy-duty diesel school buses
- Toland Landfill Expansion Emissions Mitigation Program - NOx emission reductions from heavy-duty diesel engines in the Santa Clara River Valley
- Reliant Energy Mitigation Program - NOx emission reductions from heavy-duty diesel engines
- Clean Air Fund - Ozone precursor emission reductions from any source in Ventura County

To provide staff support for special air quality projects and programs.

The Incentive Programs staff consults on special projects, such as commenting on legislation; researching and responding to Board comments, questions, and concerns; analyzing EPA and ARB mobile source emission control measures to determine impacts on Ventura County air quality; and, supporting the Bureau of Automotive Repair's enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program. Staff represents the District on various mobile sources working groups such as the ARB Incentive Programs Implementation Committee, the STAPPA/ALAPCO Mobile Sources and Fuels Committee, CAPCOA Mobile Sources and Fuels Committee, and the ARB Maritime Working Group.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION OBJECTIVES

To advance a comprehensive public information air quality agenda for Ventura County.

Public Information (PI) reaches many Ventura County audiences to inform them about air quality. Responsibilities include (1) publications & creative materials (2) educational programs (3) outreach events (4) advertising programs (5) media relations, and (6) Special projects.

Publications & Creative Materials

In 2006, PI distributed 134,245 air quality materials, including brochures, booklets, Skylines newsletters, and promotional items. The division was also recognized nationally as the recipient of the 1st Place Blue Pencil Award of Excellence from the National Association of Government Communicators.

Outreach

In 2006, the PI division reached over 2,300 people at outreach events. PI staffs and coordinates educational events including the Interactive Science Career Expo in conjunction with the Ventura County Science Fair. We also give three Science Fair awards to air quality projects. In 2006, we attended the Venatura County Spring Home & Garden Show, Earth Day at Amgen and at California State University, Channel Islands. We were also a sponsor of the 2006 Simi Valley Community Games and the American Cancer Society Walk in Camarillo.

Summer Public Awareness Campaign

This year, the campaign informed residents about the health effects of air pollution on the heart. Continuing research during the last decade shows a steady, increased risk for heart and stroke deaths in relation to short and long-term exposure to air pollution. This awareness campaign gave residents a message they might not have known – **air pollution isn't just about the lungs anymore.**

The District was fortunate to have the help of Curves fitness centers and the American Diabetes Association for this campaign. The 16 Ventura County Curves distributed a total of 1,600 Clean Air Bags containing information on heart health and ways to reduce pollution. In total, Curves distributed 11,200 items for us. Women also received a free one week workout and a chance to win a one year membership to Curves. Sixteen annual memberships were given away.

Based on the research linking air pollution, heart disease, and diabetes, the American Diabetes Association was an enthusiastic partner.

The campaign advertised 476 radio ads on six local radio stations. APCO Mike Villegas and Pam Plummer, a Curves owner, voiced the radio ads. Spanish radio station did a two van hits at the Curves in Oxnard and Santa Paula. Air bags were distributed at the Van hits along with another 200 *Places in the heart* air quality information cards and the Spanish version of the *7 Days to Cleaner Air* brochure. In addition, 55 *Places in the Heart* print ads ran in The Santa Paula Times, The Acorn, The Ventura County Reporter, The Fillmore Gazette, and The Ojai Valley News. The Ventura County Star newspaper did a feature story about the campaign on August 12, 2006.

Media Relations

The division handles media calls and news releases and provides local reporters with ideas for feature articles. News conferences, radio and print interviews, and media sponsorships are all coordinated by Public Information. It also tracks local media clippings.

Special Projects

The project, *Air - The search for one clean breath* (originally titled *Air – the biography*) is currently being produced by the Public Information Division with a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The project is ambitious. The following summarizes *Air – The search for one clean breath*.

- 30-40 minute film on the history of air using high-end film techniques with IMAX application and THX sound.
- Original screenplay by Barbara L. Page and Sandra Holden, president, Media 360, with input from a nationwide technical review committee.

The following tasks for the film were completed in 2006:

- principal filming on the East Coast, Utah, California, Iceland, London, Los Angeles, and Ventura County. Project is scheduled for completion in 2007.