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NEWS

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District receives United States Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 Clean Air Excellence Award

(Ventura, CA) The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District's **Public Information Division** was honored on May 13 at a ceremony in Washington DC by receiving the **2008 United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Excellence Award**. The winner was the APCD film, *Air – the search for one clean breath*. District public information manager and executive producer and co-author of the film, Barbara L. Page, was at the ceremony to accept the award. Out of 160 entrees nationwide, there were 15 winners. The film won in the Education/Outreach category. Additional sponsors include The Port of Long Beach, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Media 360, and Dubscape, Inc.

According to US EPA's Air Division director for the Pacific Southwest, Deborah Jordan, "Congratulations to these Clean Air Excellence Award winners – their innovative policies, cutting-edge projects and future-thinking products further launch our nation's commitment to cleaner, healthier air." California Congresswoman Lois Capps, 23rd District, comments, "I am so proud of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and Barbara Page," said Capps. "This film is an important tool that can be used in our community and across the country to better inform the public about the need for clean air and the importance of fighting pollution." According to Mike Villegas, the District's executive officer, "Some people who have seen this film have told me it's PBS quality. I think it is. We are very proud of this award and the film's

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outreach to people all over the world.” The District film was shown in Washington DC, prior to the awards ceremony.

According to Page, the 41-minute high definition film showcases air as a vital resource to be protected. Viewers take a guided tour of the story of air from its ancient beginnings to today’s clean air technologies. Filmed both nationally and internationally, the movie visually communicates to viewers the idea that they have a personal choice to help clean our air. It has been shown to thousands of viewers nationally and here in Ventura County. In addition, it has also been shown in Canada, Great Britain and Australia. A teacher’s guide to the film is also being developed and will be located on the film’s website, www.airthefilm.org.

The EPA’s Clean Air Excellence Awards Program was established in 2000 at the recommendation of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, a senior-level policy committee that advises EPA on implementing the Clean Air Act. This is the third time the District’s Public Information Program has won an award; the first was in 2000, and the second, in 2004. It is the only air district that has won the award three times in this category.

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