



Skylines

Jan./Feb. 2015



Message from Mike Villegas

The VC Air Pollution Control Officer makes some New Year's predictions

I predict that 2015 will be quite an exciting year in the air quality business. In November of 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed a more stringent National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. (See article on page 3.) The current standard for ozone is 75 parts per billion (ppb) averaged over eight hours. U.S. EPA has proposed a new standard within a range of 65 to 70 ppb averaged over eight hours. A final decision on the standard must be made by October 15, 2015, under court order.

This proposal will increase both the complexity and difficulty of the task facing our District. Be assured District staff is ready to work towards achieving this new standard. We will need to implement innovative programs, such as the marine vessel shorepower program, if we hope to reach this new standard while minimizing socioeconomic impacts in our county.

U.S. EPA has assured us that this new proposed

standard is based on extensive evidence regarding ozone's effects on public health. EPA's proposal finds

While attaining the new federal ozone standard will be challenging, the District has experienced and motivated staff that will find creative strategies to get the job done

that the current level of the standard (75 ppb) is not adequate to protect public health. EPA staff experts and the agency's independent science advisors, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, concluded that scientific evidence supports a standard within the range of 60 to 70 ppb. EPA did not include a standard of 60 ppb in the proposed range because of uncertainty in the

scientific evidence at lower ozone levels.

Both the current and proposed standards are based on what is known as a design value for a region. How is this design value calculated? The way it works is that for any given year, you determine the fourth highest ozone reading for that year and the two preceding years - - then you average the values. For example, the design value for 2014 would be the average of the fourth highest ozone readings which occurred in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The 2014 design value for
(Continued on page 3)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!
NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK
FOR SKYLINES. A
HEALTHFUL AND HAPPY
2015 TO ALL OUR
READERS.**

Calendar

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Second Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chambers
Administration Building
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura

Upcoming meeting:
March 10, 2015
April 14, 2015

APCD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourth Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Large Conference Room
669 County Square Drive
Ventura

Next meeting: February 24,
2015

CLEAN AIR FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Anacapa Conference Room
669 County Square Drive, 2nd
Floor, Ventura

Next meeting: To Be
Announced

APCD HEARING BOARD

Mondays, 5:30 p.m., as
needed Board Chambers
Administration Building
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura

Next meeting: To Be
Announced

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

Santa Barbara APCD
260 North San Antonio Road
Santa Barbara

Next meeting: To be
Announced

For more information, call
Mike Villegas at 645-1440.

APCD RULE WORKSHOPS

See Rule Development page
on our website
www.vcapcd.org

Air Pollution Control Board

Linda Parks, District 2, Chair
Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard, Vice
Chair
Steve Bennett, District 1
Kathy Long, District 3
Peter Foy, District 4
John Zaragoza, District 5
Mike Morgan, Camarillo
Jonathan Sharkey, Pt. Hueneme
Doug Tucker, Fillmore
David Pollock, Moorpark
Cheryl Heitmann, Ventura,
Alternate

Ventura County

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Air Pollution Control Officer

Michael Villegas

Skylines

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7am – 5pm, Mon-Thurs

Complaints (recording) 654-2797
Monitoring Division 645-1410
Permit processing 645-1401
Permit renewal 645-1404
Public information 645-1415

Email address: info@vcapcd.org

Ventura County is 79 ppb. If we look back at our design value ten years ago, we had a value of 94 ppb in 2004. As one can see, we are making solid progress in reducing smog levels in Ventura County.

To attain the federal and state ozone standards, the District must continue to minimize emissions from not only stationary sources, but must work with our state and federal partners to address mobile source emissions. Further, we will need to be creative in seeking cost-effective emission reduction strategies.

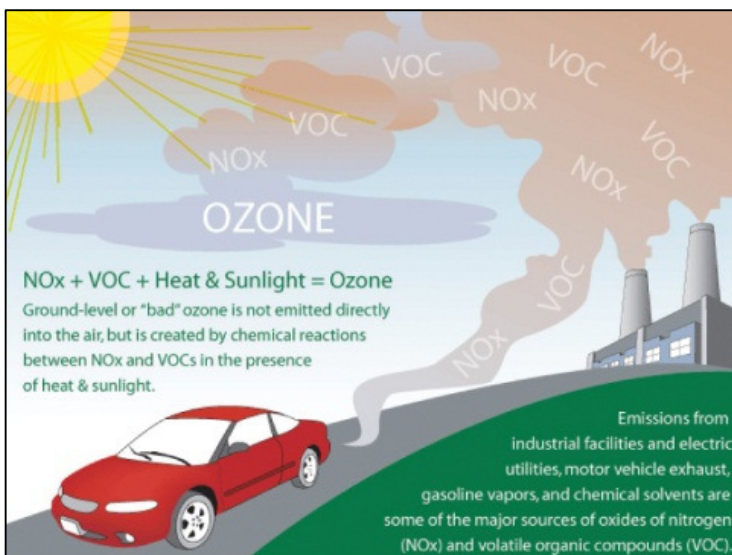
An example of a creative mobile source strategy includes working with the Port of Hueneme to implement their shorepower program. Our District contributed \$250,000 in air quality mitigation funds and provided support in obtaining additional grant funds for this project. The shorepower project provides a means for refrigerated cargo vessels to utilize electricity from the local grid to operate these vessels while

in port. This means these vessels can reduce the amount of time they need to operate their auxiliary diesel engines. This results in significantly reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides (a precursor to smog), and also reduced emissions of toxic diesel particles. By utilizing shorepower, the Port of Hueneme provides both a regional air quality benefit by reducing smog, and a local benefit by reducing emissions of toxic diesel particles.

On the stationary source front, District staff will be proposing the adoption of new Rule, 74.33, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Transfer or Dispensing. This new rule will apply to the transfer of LPG from any storage tank to any other type of tank, including those used to fuel forklifts and residential backyard barbecue grills. More importantly the rule will result in an emission reduction of 100 tons per year of reactive organic compounds (another precursor to smog). District staff worked closely with LPG

industry representatives to craft a rule that is both effective and reasonable. This is an example of our efforts to improve air quality and protect public health, while minimizing socioeconomic impacts.

While attaining the new federal ozone standard will be challenging, the District has experienced and motivated staff that will find creative strategies to get the job done. We look forward to working with our state and federal partners, the local business community, and the public to protect public health. Be assured your local air district is on the job and Happy New Year to all Ventura County residents.



New "draft" ozone standard from U.S. EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to revise the ozone standard. So what does that mean? Ozone is an odorless, colorless gas that is considered a criteria air pollutant by the EPA. Repeated exposure to ozone may cause permanent damage to the lungs. It irritates the lungs, much like sunburn damages the skin. Even when ozone is present at low levels, inhaling it can trigger a variety of responses, including watery eyes, chest pain, coughing, nausea, throat irritation, and

congestion. For those with asthma, respiratory diseases, and other ailments, ozone is particularly dangerous. Children, older residents, outdoor workers, and people exercising outdoors are acutely vulnerable to the effects of ozone.

Ground level or "bad" ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. Emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources of NOx and VOC.

Why did EPA release a new draft standard now?

Under the Clean Air Act passed by Congress, EPA is required to review the health standards for certain pollutants every five years. As part of that review, they convene a group of independent scientific advisors called the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee to review the latest health information and make a recommendation.

Most recently, the Committee has advised EPA that the current standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) is not fully protective of public health and recommended a new stricter standard between 60 and 70 ppb. The Committee also expressed concerns that setting the standard at the high end of that range (70ppb) might not provide an "adequate margin of safety" as required by the Clean Air Act. According to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, "Bringing ozone pollution standards in line with the latest science will clean up our air, improve access to crucial air quality information, and protect those most at-risk. It empowers the American people with updated air quality information to protect our loved ones - - because whether we work or play outdoors - - we deserve to know the air we breathe is safe."

What happens next?

EPA will consider public comments on the proposed standard and release a final standard in the fall of 2015. Areas that are not in compliance are required to meet the standard as soon as possible. How long an area, such as Ventura County, has to clean up the air is based on how severe their ozone pollution problem is. For more information, visit epa.gov/airquality/ozonepollution/actions.html#nov2014 .
(Sources: NACAA, U.S. EPA)

At the Board

At its December 9, 2014 meeting, the APCB approved the following items:

- ✓ Appointment of **Richard Nick** to the Advisory Committee as a representative for the County of Ventura, Supervisorial District III.
- ✓ Appointment of **Kim Lim** and **Keith Moore** to the Advisory Committee as representatives for the County of Ventura, Supervisorial District V.

✓ Donation of PM 2.5 samplers, PM 10 samplers and microbalances to the **San Diego County Air Pollution Control District** and the **Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District**. Because the VCAPCD is now operating continuous particulate sampler technology, it had five surplus filter-based PM 2.5 samplers and four surplus filter-based PM 10 samplers that can be used by Districts still operating filter-based particulate monitoring programs. The microbalances that are used for weighing filters were also

no longer needed and could be donated as well.

✓ Implementation by the Air Pollution Control Officer of a Grant Agreement with **Oak Park Unified School District** to Fund an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Project Installing Two Publicly-Accessible Dual AC Level 2 Charging Stations at Oak Park High School Using DMV-Derived District Funds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$14,368 in Fiscal Year 2014-15; Authorization for the Air Pollution Control Officer to Make Any Necessary Minor, Non-Monetary Administrative

Changes to Such Agreement Subject to County Counsel Review; and Find the Approval of the Grant Agreement and Grant Funding to be Categorically Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

✓ Approval of a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the VCAPCD and the **Gull Wings Children's Museum** to develop an air quality exhibit for children.

At its January 13, 2015 meeting, the APCB approved the following items:

✓ Election of: **Oxnard City Council Member Carmen Ramirez** as 2015 APCB Chair; **Supervisor John Zaragoza** as Vice Chair; **Supervisor Steve Bennett** and **Fillmore City Council Member Doug Tucker** to serve with the Chair and Vice Chair on the APCD Standing Committee; and **Camarillo City Council Member Mike Morgan** as a representative to the **South Central Coast Basinwide Air Pollution Control Council**.

✓ **2015 Rulemaking Calendar** as required by the **State of California Health and Safety Code**. The calendar includes rulemaking activities scheduled for consideration between

January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. The calendar may be viewed on the APCD website.

✓ **Rule 74.33** regarding Liquefied Petroleum Gas transfer or dispensing that is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For more information on this rule, contact **Stan Cowen** at **805/645-1408** or visit the District's Planning Division website page.

✓ Memorandum of Agreement with the **Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources** (DOGGR) and the **California Air Resources Board** (ARB) regarding Well Stimulation Activities. On September 20, 2013, the Governor signed Senate Bill 4 (Pavely), Oil and Gas Well Stimulation. Among other requirements SB4 directed the DOGGR to enter into formal agreements with ARB and local air districts where well stimulation activities occur. And these do occur in Ventura County. These formal agreements must delineate the agencies' respective authority, responsibilities, and notification and reporting requirements associated with well stimulation treatments. In addition, the formal agreements must specify the public entity responsible for air quality monitoring, include trade secret handling

protocols, and provide for ready public access to information regarding well stimulation activities. For more information on this, contact Air Pollution Control Officer **Mike Villegas** at **805/645-1440**.

✓ At the meeting **Mike Villegas** also gave the APCB a study session on emerging air quality issues. They included: the **United States Environmental Protection Agency's** proposal to promulgate a more health protective national ambient air quality standard for ozone (*see article in this edition*); the proliferation of **low-cost personal air quality sensors** and their availability to the general public; and the recent revisions to the **State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Guidelines** for the preparation of health risk assessments.

✓ There will be no February 2015 APCB meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2015. See page 2 for more information.

Videos of archived APCB meetings can be viewed at <http://www.vcapcd.org/agendas.htm>.

People talk

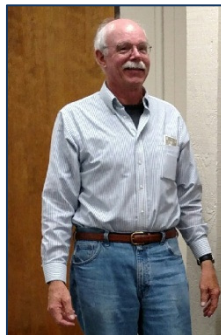


District Supervising Inspector Eric Wetherbee receiving his award from the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association.

APCD employee receives award. In November 2014, APCD Supervising Inspector Eric Wetherbee received the *Rodney Swartzendruber Outstanding Inspector Award*. It is given annually to air quality inspectors, one each from a large, medium and small air district.

According to Dan Searcy, manager of the Compliance Division, “Eric is a hard-working and motivated person who constantly strives to learn and improve his skills. He accepts new responsibilities and often volunteers for extra duties. He has a positive attitude and a willingness to accept new challenges. With his leadership, optimistic attitude and work ethic, Eric has repeatedly proven himself to be an asset to the Compliance Division.”

The award was created in honor of Rodney Swartzendruber, an inspector who was killed in an auto accident while on duty. It is a way to formally recognize the unsung enforcement “heroes.”



Jay Nicholas retires. Veteran Compliance inspector **Jay Nicholas** retired in December 2014 with over 25 years at the District. Jay, or “Mr. Asbestos” as he was often referred to, graduated from the California Maritime Academy in 1978 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in *Nautical Industrial Technology*. After that he worked as a “Deck Officer” on oil tanker ships for about ten years. He says jokingly he “Got tired of walking around on the decks of oil tankers”. He left that career because he didn’t like being away from his family, wife and young child, for months at a time and missing important milestones.

He started as an inspector with the District in September 1989. He became Asbestos Coordinator, (in addition to his regular Inspector duties) in August 1990. He managed the District’s asbestos program until his retirement on December 31, 2014. He says he has no retirement *bucket list* but looks forward to spending time with and taking care of

family and friends.

According to Compliance Division Manager Dan Searcy, “We will miss Jay’s extensive experience, knowledge and sense of history gained over his career here. Knowledge and experience like Jay’s is extremely difficult to replace. Most of all, I will miss his unflappable demeanor and his dry humor. I think everyone here will too.”

When asked his take on the most rewarding thing that happened here at the District, he replied it was the support he received from his colleagues.

Jay Nicholas is a soft-spoken gentleman who will be missed here. All his APCD friends wish him *the best* in his new adventure.

Reminder: Division updates for Monitoring & Technical Services, Engineering, Rules, and the Compliance Divisions are now only available online as part of each Division’s webpage.

Annual Publication of the Costs of Emission Offsets

January 2015

Pursuant to the requirements of California Health and Safety Code Section 40709.5(e), this is to notify all interested persons of the costs of emission offsets purchased or leased for new or modified emission sources in Ventura County for Calendar Year 2014.

The amount is listed in tons per year and the cost per ton is listed in dollars per tons per year. Where necessary, the cost per ton has been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The publication of the information below satisfies the requirement of H&SC Section 40709.5(e). If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Kerby E. Zozula, Manager Engineering Division, at 805/645-1421.

| Transaction | Amount | Total Cost | Cost Per Ton | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| VE14001 | 5.60 tons ROC | \$273,000 | \$48,750 | Purchase |
| VE14002 | 8.00 tons ROC | \$560,000 | \$70,000 | Purchase |
| VE14003 | 3.97 tons ROC | \$277,900 | \$70,000 | Purchase |
| VE14004 | 3.00 tons ROC | \$ 45,000 | \$15,000 | Lease (1 Year) |