

Two Ventura County companies receive state climate change awards

The CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards are presented by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to companies that demonstrate leadership and make notable, voluntary achievements toward reducing their carbon footprints. This is the fifth year of the awards program, and 16 winners were selected representing a variety of business types. Here in Ventura County, Ohana Pet Hospital in Ventura and Plaza Cleaners in Thousand Oaks both received the award.

Ohana Pet Hospital was recognized in the “Business of the Year” category. Four businesses received this distinction for having exceptional climate change management practices and emission reductions, while documenting their cost savings, return on investment and benefits received from their actions. Ohana specializes in health care for dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents and select reptiles. According to Ohana’s Dr. Jan Shinkawa, “Ohana is committed to teaching veterinary practices and small businesses how to implement an effective recycling program in their organizations.” Some of their construction techniques and environmental practices include:

- Use of zero emission paints, natural and energy efficient lighting, and recycled glass countertops
- Use of Green Guard indoor air quality certified anti-microbial flooring and Green Guard indoor air quality certified recycled-content cabinet laminates
- Use of low-flow toilets, and Energy Star appliances



Left to right: LaRonda Bowen, California Air Resources Board Ombudsman; Dr. Jan Shinkawa, Jamie Gill, Laura Quinonez, Courtney Cedillo, Ohana Pet Hospital; John Brooks, City of Thousand Oaks

- Paperless record keeping and purchasing of recycled-content office supplies, promotional products and biodegradable pens
- Use of refillable cleaning products
- Recycling of medical supplies throughout the practice
- Sponsorship of eight “Poo Free Park” stations in dog parks and at beaches to promote use of eco-friendly bags for waste removal (*Continued on page 3*)

**SEE YOU AT THE APCD BOOTH AT
ARBOR/EARTH DAY
AT CONEJO CREEK PARK NORTH
IN THOUSAND OAKS
APRIL 18, 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.**

Calendar

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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

Upcoming meeting:
April 14, 2015
May 12, 2015

APCD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Next meeting: April 28, 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: July 22, 2015

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

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- Participation in the “Blue Drapes Project” allowing veterinary hospitals to reuse blue surgical drapes from local hospitals that were sterilized and untouched by patients.

Twelve businesses, including Plaza Cleaners in Thousand Oaks, were acknowledged as “Climate Leaders” for taking proactive steps to reduce their impact on our climate and communicating this information to their employees and customers.



Back row: Jon Costantino, Senior Advisor at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP and Peter Jung, Owner of Plaza Cleaners Front row: Steve Lee, Cynthia Lee of Plaza Cleaners, along with Shawna Lee, Owner of Plaza Cleaners.

The owners of Plaza Cleaners pride themselves on being the first green cleaners in Ventura County. Both the Board of Supervisors of Ventura County and the City of Thousand Oaks Green Business Program have awarded this family owned and operated dry cleaning service for its environmentally friendly practices. To educate their peers, the owners of Plaza Cleaners shared their 35 years of experience and business processes by hosting a Professional Wet Cleaning Demonstration in

collaboration with the UCLA Sustainable Technology & Policy Program.

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Since removing perchloroethylene from their cleaning procedures and converting to natural, professional wet cleaning in 2006, Plaza Cleaners has made additional reductions in energy usage and waste. For example, Plaza Cleaners utilizes daylight and air flow to eliminate unnecessary light fixtures and reduce the need for air conditioning. The business has significantly reduced waste by encouraging customers to reuse laundry bags, garment covers and hangers. As a result of this effort, the dry cleaning operation has decreased the number of plastic poly bags needed per week from three rolls to one. At 1,800 sheets and \$30 per roll, the owners have made a positive impact on both the environment and their weekly cash flow.

According to APCO Mike Villegas, “The operators of these facilities should be commended for their contribution to air quality, in addition to reducing their carbon footprints. Ohana Pet Hospital’s use of zero emission paints also reduces the emission of reactive organic compounds, a precursor to smog (ozone). The elimination of the use of perchloroethylene, by Plaza Cleaners, reduces emissions of air toxics.” To view a video of the 2015 CoolCalifornia Awards ceremony, visit [youtube.com/watch?v=b-RIi0u69Uk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-RIi0u69Uk).

Good news for kids

A 20-year study finds that millennial children in Southern California breathe easier than youngsters who came of age in the 90s. The University of Southern California study from its Keck School of Medicine

measured lung development between the ages of 11 and 15 and found large gains for children studied from 2007 to 2011, compared to children of the same age in the same communities from 1994-98 and 1997-2001.

The research appeared in the March 5 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. By following more than 2,000 children in the same locations over two decades and adjusting for age, gender, ethnicity, height, respiratory illness

and other variations, the study provided stronger evidence that improved air quality by itself brings health benefits - - the kind that last a lifetime for children breathing cleaner air during their critical growing years. According to the study's leading author, W. James Gauderman, "It's strange to be reporting positive numbers instead of negative numbers after 20 years."

Some specifics

- Children's lungs grew faster as air quality improved. Lung growth from age 11 to 15 was more than 10 percent greater for children breathing the lower

levels of NOx from 2007 to 2011 compared to those breathing higher levels from 1994 to 1998.



In 1998, nearly eight of 100 15-year olds had significant lung deficits. By 2011, only about 3 ½ of 100 15-year olds had significant lung deficits.

- Across all five communities in the study, lung development for

children with asthma, improved roughly twice as much for other children. But even children without asthma showed significant improvements in their lung capacity, suggesting that all youngsters benefit from improved air quality.

The study was funded by the Health Effects Institute, a partnership of the auto industry and the federal government; the California Air Resources Board; the Hastings Foundation; and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. For more information, visit the USC Keck School of Medicine website.

At the Board

At its March 10 meeting, the APCB approved the following items:

- ✓ Appointment of **Stephen Wolfson** to the Advisory Committee as a representative for the City of Moorpark.
- ✓ Approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **California Air Resources Board** (ARB) regarding implementation and enforcement of the regulation to reduce methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. In 2009, the ARB adopted regulations designed to reduce emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas,

from municipal solid waste landfills. ARB has requested that local air districts statewide implement and enforce the regulation, which took effect on June 17, 2010. This action is implemented with the MOU with the District that defines the roles and responsibilities of ARB and the District. For information, contact APCO **Mike Villegas**, 645-1400.

- ✓ Approval of a grant agreement and grant funding, not to exceed \$14,000, to contribute to **Ventura College Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Project**. The project is part of the District's commitment to participate in the California

Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program in order to promote EV Readiness along the California Central Coast. For more information, contact **Stan Cowen** at 645-1406.

- ✓ Recognition of Air Pollution engineer **Lyle Olsen** for his 30-year service at the APCD.

- ✓ Next Board meeting scheduled for **April 14**.

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



STEM Expo planned. The APCD will participate again this year at the annual **Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Expo** at the Ventura County Fairgrounds at Seaside Park in Ventura on April 1 from 9a.m. to 3p.m. The Expo is sponsored by **California State University Channel Islands** and organizations from across the County will have the opportunity to reach nearly 1,000 middle and high school students eager to learn about opportunities in STEM careers and hands-on experiences with STEM.

Amgen Earth Day. The APCD will also participate at the **Amgen Earth Day** celebration in Thousand Oaks on April 17.



We like to be “liked.” Don’t forget about the **APCD’s Facebook page.** It has lots of information and updates on District programs. It also has useful air quality links on national programs. Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/TheAirZone>.

Coming soon - - Safer Choice. Finding cleaning and other products that are safer for you, your family, and the environment should be easy - - that’s why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the new Safer Choice label. We all play a role in protecting our families’ health and the

environment. Products with the Safer Choice label help consumers and commercial buyers identify and select products with safer chemical ingredients, without sacrificing quality or performance. More than 2,000 products currently qualify to carry the Safer Choice label. Safer Choice products are available [for your home at retail stores](#) and [for use in businesses like schools, hotels, offices, and sports venues.](#) Visit the website at epa.gov/saferchoice for more information.

People talk



Interviewing APCD’s **Stan Cowen** (left) at an EV station at **The Collection** shopping and entertainment center in Oxnard. The video is part of the new 2015 **Air Streams** video collection that will

be on the District’s website soon.



RIP. We were saddened to hear of the passing of our friend **Leonard Nimoy** on February 27. Mr. Nimoy narrated *Our Future is Up in the Air* video for us in 1995. He was a superb addition to the project and according to public information manager Barbara L. Page, “He was the consummate gentleman and professional at the recording studio. We appreciated his volunteer narration of this film so much.”