



# Skylines

May/June 2015

## 2015 California's Progress Toward Clean Air released

Report from California's Air Pollution Control Officers documents ongoing trend toward clean air. But the drought has impacted levels of fine particulate pollution.

On April 9, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) released its annual report, *California's Progress Toward Clean Air*, reporting air quality data and program highlights for all 35 local air districts. According to air pollution control officer and CAPCOA Board member Mike Villegas, "This report shows a long-term trend of air quality progress in our state. It also documents the challenges that remain in meeting future health-base air quality standards."

- A recent study by USC found that lung growth improved as air pollution declined during a 20-year-period for children aged 11 to 15 in five areas of Southern California and,



previously underestimated. As a result, the federal government has recently proposed to strengthen the health-based standard for ground-level ozone, a principal component of summertime smog. Achieving this more health-protective standard will require further reductions of smog-forming pollutants on top of regulations that are already among the strongest in the nation. The 68-page report can be downloaded at [capcoa.org](http://capcoa.org).

Highlights of the 2015 *California's Progress Toward Clean Air* report include:

- California's drought has significantly impacted levels of fine particles known as PM 2.5;
- Since 1990, California's population has increased by 29 percent, the number of vehicles on California roads has increased by 32 percent, and the economy has grown by 83 percent, yet statewide emissions of smog-forming pollutants have decreased by over 50 percent;

multiple studies have shown that the benefits of air pollution measures implemented over the years far exceed the cost of implementing such measures.

While there is an ongoing trend of air quality improvement across the state, the challenges ahead seem daunting: climate change threatens to undo years of clean-air progress, and medical research indicates the health effects of air pollution have been

### The Ventura County excerpt from *California's Progress Toward Clean Air* - -

Ventura County does not meet the federal and state ozone standards nor the state PM10 standard. Ozone levels in the county exceeded the federal 8-hour ozone standard seven days in 2014, which was the county's second cleanest year on record. Weather conditions play a role in ozone formation, with hot summers (2014) leading to higher ozone levels, and mild summers (2013) leading to lower ozone levels. (Continued on page 3)

# Calendar

---

## **AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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

Upcoming meetings:  
June 9, 2015  
June 23, 2015

## **APCD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

Next meeting: TBA

## **CLEAN AIR FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Anacapa Conference Room  
669 County Square Drive,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ventura

Next meeting: To Be  
Announced

*"No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."*

*Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*

## **APCD HEARING BOARD**

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

Next meeting: June 1, 2015

## **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](http://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**

### **Air Pollution Control District**

669 County Square Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ventura, CA 93003

### **Air Pollution Control Officer**

Michael Villegas

### **Skylines**

Editor – Barbara L. Page  
Desktop Publishing – Tina Figurski

### **Directory**

General Information 645-1400  
Fax 645-1444

Agricultural burning and smog  
forecast 654-2807

Complaints 645-1445  
7am – 5pm, Mon-Thurs

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

[info@vcapcd.org](mailto:info@vcapcd.org)

[vcapcd.org](http://vcapcd.org)

[facebook.com/TheAirZone](https://www.facebook.com/TheAirZone)

2014 was far better than 1990 (117 days over the standard) and 2000 (57 days over the standard). Moreover, the county's long-term trend towards clean air continues and the air district anticipates meeting the current federal ozone standard by 2021, as required by the federal Clean Air Act. The following summarizes several of the air district's accomplishments during 2014.

In September 2014, the air district joined a coalition of four government, non-profit, and marine industry groups (see story below) in a trial incentive program to slow down large cargo vessels transiting the Santa Barbara Channel. The purpose of the program was to reduce air pollution and help protect endangered whales. Air emissions from these vessels contribute approximately one quarter of the air district's ozone-forming nitrogen

oxide emissions. They are also a significant source of sulfur dioxide, greenhouse gases, diesel particulate matter, among other toxic air pollutants.

The air district helped fund the Port of Hueneme's state-of-the-art-shore-side electrification power project. The California-At-Berth-Ocean-going-Vessels Regulation requires cargo vessels to use shore electrical power while in port. Shore power dramatically cuts air pollutants - - nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases - - from docked cargo ships.

The air district's 2014 Carl Moyer Program helped local farmers and commercial fishermen replace 78 high-emission diesel engines with new low-emission diesel engines or electric motors. The program has achieved significant air pollutant reductions over the last 16 years by

funding replacement of over 900 high emitting diesel engines with new, much cleaner equipment.

Another air district clean air program is the Ventura County Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Grant Program. This program helps fund new EV charging stations for fully electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids. Projects in 2014 included charging stations at the County Government Center, Oak Park School District, Camarillo Metrolink Station, and the Ventura County Office of Education.

The air district upgraded its entire particulate monitoring network from filter-based particulate monitors to continuous particulate monitors. These new monitors continuously measure airborne particulate concentrations giving county citizens near real-time information about particulate concentrations in their area.

## Protecting blue whales and blue skies - - the results

**O**n September 9, 2014, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Board approved the APCD's participation in a coalition of government and non-profit groups in a trial incentive vessel speed reduction (VSR) program underway in the Santa Barbara Channel. The goal was to slow down cargo ships to reduce air pollution and help protect endangered whales. The APCD Board approved \$30,000 in funding for the program effort, scheduled from July through November 2014. During that time, seven global shipping companies - - COSCO, Hapag-Lloyd, K-Line, Maersk, Matson, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, and United Arab Shipping Company - - slowed speeds of ships for 27 trips through the

channel to 12 knots (from previous speeds of 14-18 knots) for an incentive payment of \$2,500 per trip. Slowing ships to 12 knots or less cuts air pollution, and also greatly reduces the chance that a ship strike on a whale will be fatal. The program was modeled after successful speed reduction incentive programs at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. According to APCO Mike Villegas, "We are pleased to be part of this innovative effort to reduce air pollution off our coast and protect public health."

### Result highlights

The trial achieved a reduction of 16 tons of nitrogen oxide emissions over the 27 trips,



and a reduction of 500 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Both represent a 50 percent reduction from baseline emissions. Most of the ship transits occurred from July through October, a time period that coincides with the peak period of ozone air pollution and the peak whale feeding season in the Santa Barbara Channel. Commenting on the emission reductions, U.S. Representative Lois Capps adds, "The results from the trial are very exciting and show that we can protect human health and the environment, while also supporting and sustaining a healthy local economy.

Improving air quality and reducing the danger posed by ships to whales around the Channel Islands are both important to the Central Coast. I applaud the efforts by the coalition of agencies and participants in the trial, and look forward to working with them to build on this success.”

**What’s next?**

The VSR trial’s design, enrollment process, and data

collection/processing mechanisms were refined throughout, and a solid foundation is in place for establishing a larger-scale program. For more information on the District’s participation in the trial program, contact Mike Villegas at 645-1440.

**VSR TRIAL PROGRAM**  
**GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT**  
**PARTNERS**  
 Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
 Environmental Defense Center  
 National Marine Sanctuary Foundation  
 Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
 Ventura County Air Pollution Control District

# At the Board

**Highlights of the April 14 Air Pollution Control Board meeting:**



✓ Recognized **Michael Kuhn** (above right with APCO Mike Villegas) for his nearly 37 years of service on the **District’s Advisory Committee**. Dr. Kuhn has a doctorate degree in geography and is retired from the City of Simi Valley where he worked as an environmental planner for nearly thirty years. According to Mike Villegas,

Dr. Kuhn served as Chair of the Committee many times during his tenure. “He has completed a distinguished and invaluable service to the District and the residents of our County. We are grateful for his time, efforts, experience and many contributions that have been hugely valuable to us. He will be greatly missed, both professionally and personally.” The Advisory Committee was not his only volunteer activity by far. He has also been chosen twice as “Volunteer of the Year” at the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. We here at the APCD wish him and his wife Hannah the very best in their future adventures.

✓ **Reappointed** Advisory Committee members **Sara Head** and **Hugh McTernan** as the representatives for Supervisorial District 1; **Raymond Garcia** for Supervisorial District 2; **Tom Lucas** for Supervisorial District 4; and **Robert Cole** as the representative for the City of Camarillo.

✓ Appointment of new Advisory Committee members

**Joan Burns** representing Supervisorial District 2 and **Iftekhar Ali** representing the City of Thousand Oaks.

✓ **Adopted Amended Rule 42, Permit Fees**. The District will increase annual permit renewal fee rates by 2.5 percent, effective July 1, 2015. This is the first increase since 2013. The increase in permit renewal fees will result in \$57,000 in additional revenue annually for the District, which offsets a recent reduction in federal funding. For more information, contact **Mike Villegas** at **645-1440**.

✓ Received and filed the minutes of the **South Central Coast Basinwide Air Pollution Control Council** minutes of December 17, 2014 meeting.

✓ **Cancelled May 2015 Board meeting.**

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



**Still Stemming.** The District's public information division participated in the **Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) event** again this year. The event, sponsored by **California State University Channel Islands**, was held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on April 1. Over 300 students from County middle and high schools stopped by the APCD booth to receive information on air quality and careers in Environmental Science.



**Coming soon:** New **Air Stream videos** for 2015! Look for them on the District's website: [vcapcd.org](http://vcapcd.org).

**APCD & Earth Day 2015.** The District celebrated Earth Day this year



at two County venues - - the **Arbor/Earth Day Thousand Oaks** event on April 18, and at **Amgen Corporation**, on April 17. The Arbor/Earth Day annual event is held at **Conejo Park East** in Thousand Oaks and is a

great way to get *out and about* with our air quality message. At the event APCD's **Mike Villegas**, **Barbara L. Page** and **Judy Willens** were on hand to answer air quality questions and distribute District public information to 420 County residents.

At Amgen, **Judy Willens** and **Maree Penhart** spoke with 190 employees about air quality. (*And invited them to spin the Clean Air Wheel of course.*)

**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.**