

AIRlines

A Publication of the
Sacramento Metropolitan
Air Quality Management District

SECAT Success Continues

The Sacramento Emergency Clean Air and Transportation Program ended its first decade with over \$75 million allocated to help replace on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles in the Sacramento area with lower emission vehicles. In fact, interest was so high in 2010 that program staff had to close the 2010 application process early due to overwhelming response. SECAT incentive funds are expected to be available again in October with anticipated additional funding from the federal CMAQ program.

“This year was especially busy compared to past years due to increased demand for 2010-compliant technology, CARB rule compliance deadlines, and delays in other regional funding opportunities,” explained Kristian Damkier, Associate Air Quality Engineer with the District. As a partnership between the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, SECAT will continue to successfully reduce NOx and particulate emissions from the region’s air.



A variety of heavy-duty vehicles are eligible to participate, such as refuse trucks, delivery vehicles, cement trucks, freight-haulers, school and transit buses, and most vehicles with a gross vehicle weight over 14,000 lbs. Funding amounts per vehicle varied from \$40,000 to \$60,000, depending on NOx reductions, compliance-year achieved, or the number of compliant trucks involved in the transaction.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN for Clean Air Awards



Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails (BCSET) is seeking your help in recognizing Clean Air Champions in our region. If you know a business, organization, agency, neighbor, co-worker or young person who has been doing more than their part to help improve air quality in our region, nominate them for a Clean Air Award.

The nomination deadline is January 28, 2011. The awards will be presented at the 35th Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon on May 20, 2011. To nominate, visit www.sacbreathe.org.

AWARD CATEGORIES

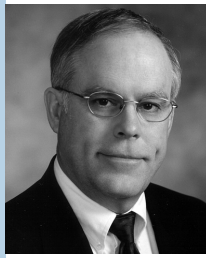
- » **Citizen Group/Individual:** For outstanding contributions resulting in specific efforts or programs that improve air quality in a neighborhood, school or local community.
- » **Business:** For a business that demonstrates exemplary air pollution reductions beyond required regulations or that aggressively and creatively supports clean air programs.
- » **Government:** For outstanding contributions by public agencies or individuals in government resulting in the design and implementation of cost-effective clean air programs, increased public support for clean air, or new public policies to improve air quality.
- » **Regional:** For outstanding contributions by a business, individual or agency resulting in specific efforts or programs that improve air quality on a regional, multi-county basis.
- » **Smart Growth:** For a completed development project that exemplifies smart growth principles, resulting in improved air quality and public health.
- » **Youth Leadership:** For outstanding contributions by a young person or group of young people resulting in specific efforts or programs that improve air quality in the school setting, a neighborhood, or local community.

»October 28, 2010

- Authorized Executive Director/APCO to negotiate and sign a contract amendment between the District and Katz & Associates for public education, advertising and outreach campaign support.
- Approved amendments to Rule 466 – Solvent Cleaning.
- Approved amendments to Rule 202 – New Source Review and Rule 215 – Agricultural Permit Requirement & New Agricultural Permit Review.
- Approved new Rule 214 – Federal New Source Review and that the effective date for Rules 202, 215 and 214 will coincide with the date that U.S. EPA takes final action approving Rule 214 for inclusion in the SIP.
- Approved amendments to Rule 451 – Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products.

No board meeting was held in November or December.

For more information on Board actions, visit www.AirQuality.org or call Nancy Abeels, AQMD, at (916) 874-4803.



news from the APCO

by Larry Greene, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

New Decade Brings Hope and Challenges

As we look at the prospects for air quality in the new decade there are certainly new challenges, but also many areas where we can expect continued improvements. Federal ozone and particulate standards are likely to be tightened over the next few years, and given our geography, meeting these lower standards will be difficult. However, in our favor are trends in mobile emissions, sustainable communities and renewable fuels that will provide significant air quality benefits.

We are on the cusp of a new generation of automobiles that will reduce vehicle emissions steadily throughout the decade. Over the next several years we will see plug-in hybrids and full electric vehicles such as the plug-in Prius, the Chevy Volt and the Nissan Leaf available for the mass market. These vehicles should be priced (especially with state and federal incentives) at a price point where they will be accessible and acceptable to the general public. Since this new generation of vehicles will use much less fuel on the average than older vehicles, emissions will be less and the average fuel costs of operating vehicles will be reduced.

The steady downward trend in emissions from heavier vehicles such as trucks, locomotives, and even ocean going vessels will also continue. There are incentive programs in place that will provide funding for a portion of the engines that need to be replaced with cleaner models and there are regulations at both the state and federal level that provide surety for continued emission reductions through the decade.

In addition, fuels for both mobile sources and energy production continue to get cleaner through both the Low Carbon Fuel Standard adopted by the

California Air Resources Board and the state Renewable Portfolio Standard. Energy from windmills and solar panels is emission free and bio-fuels have the potential for lower emissions depending on the fuel source and structure of the industrial facility producing the fuel. Development of bio-fuels and how great a role they play in the market will depend on how much the cost of gasoline rises and the general state of the economy.

There are several trends that will also have important co-benefits for air quality. Among these are requirements for new communities to be more sustainable and on the average to be designed to require fewer vehicle miles traveled for residents. More sustainable communities will have better access to multiple modes of travel, giving more people the option to use transit, biking and walking for some of their weekly trips. Trip destinations should also be closer on the average, further reducing fuel use and emissions.

Other co-benefits will come from California's continuing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Energy conservation efforts will also lower air emissions as the state benefits from programs that will eliminate the sale of incandescent light bulbs, provide for cleaner building standards for new homes and the development of programs to retrofit older buildings and homes to be more fuel efficient.

As always, reducing air emissions is a complex business, and added to the mandated programs at the air district will be many complementary programs and trends that will help meet air quality goals. Life for the air district will continue to be interesting and dynamic as the staff works with our many partners to improve the health of the public we serve.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2011
MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Directors typically meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street. Closed sessions are typically held immediately following the regular meeting.

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|-------------|--------------|
| January 27 | June 23 |
| February 24 | July 28 |
| March 24 | August 25 |
| April 28 | September 22 |
| May 26 | October 27 |

The Board normally does not meet during November and December. A meeting may be called if deemed necessary by the Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer.

All Public Workshop and Adoption Hearing dates are subject to change. For specific rule information, contact the AQMD staff person listed. For general AQMD rule information, call (916) 874-4800.

Architectural Coatings

(AMENDMENTS TO RULE 442)

Establishes lower VOC limits for architectural coatings and their associated solvents. Consideration will be given to CARB’s Suggested Control Measure for Architectural Coatings. *Public Workshop tentatively set for March. Contact: Steven Lau, (916) 874-4834.*

Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Plastic Parts and Products, Business Machine and Transportation Plastic Parts, and Pleasure Craft (NEW RULE 468)

Establishes VOC limits and work practice requirements for the coating of miscellaneous plastic parts and products as well as the plastic parts of business

machines, transportation equipment and pleasure craft. *Public Workshop tentatively set for March. Contact: David Yang, (916) 874-4847.*

Automotive, Truck and Heavy Equipment Refinishing Operations

(AMENDMENTS TO RULE 459)

Establishes lower VOC limits for coatings and solvents used in the refinishing of motor vehicles and mobile equipment. Consideration will be given to CARB’s Suggested Control Measure for Automotive Coatings. *Adoption Hearing tentatively set for April 28. Contact: David Yang, (916) 874-4847.*

3rd Quarter

(July, August, September)

The following information reports the number of days that state and federal air quality standards were exceeded in Sacramento County during third quarter 2010 compared to third quarter 2009:

Number of Exceedances*

	2010	2009
Ozone – State	10	15
Ozone – Federal (8-hr.)	18	24
Carbon Monoxide (CO) – Federal (1-hr)	0	0
Carbon Monoxide (CO) – Federal (8-hr)	0	0
PM10 (24-hour) – State	1	2
PM10 (24-hour) – Federal	0	0
PM2.5 (24-hour) – Federal	*	0

*3rd Quarter 2010 data not yet posted to EPA AIRS database by the California Air Resources Board. Preliminary data, subject to revision or deletion.

✕ COMPLIANCE CORNER

THE SUCCESS AND ENFORCEMENT OF RULE 421

The Check Before You Burn Program



One of the most effective air pollution control measures adopted by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District to reduce winter-time particulate matter has been Rule 421 - Mandatory Episodic Curtailment of Wood and Other Solid Fuel Burning, known as the “Check Before You Burn Program.” Rule 421 prohibits the use of wood stoves, fireplaces, and outdoor fires on days when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy.

The Check Before You Burn Program, which runs from November through February, has been in place for four seasons now. “This is one air quality improvement strategy where beneficial effects can be seen immediately in data collected from our air quality monitoring network,” states Patrick Tedeschi, AQMD Field Operations.

Many in the community, particularly those who are acutely affected by winter-time air pollution, have supported the program since its beginning and see it as a way to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. The level of community support for the program can be seen in the large number of residents who call in each season to report neighbors who are burning on no burn days. “Citizen reports of poor air quality in their neighborhood due to illegal burning have been one of the most effective ways for us to find those who are not complying with the requirements of Rule 421,” added Tedeschi.

In addition to responding to citizen reports of violations, the AQMD conducts both routine and random surveillance of neighborhoods on weekends and holidays to ensure compliance with Rule 421. Any **visible** smoke seen from a stove pipe or chimney on declared no burn days, even from an EPA Phase II Device, is considered an automatic violation of Rule 421 unless the location is exempt due to sole source of heat or financial hardship waiver requirements.

Those found in violation for the first time are subject to a \$50 fine or must complete and pass a wood smoke awareness course. Repeat offenders are subject to substantially higher fines, the amount of which increases with each prior violation.

There are six ways to Check Before You Burn:

- Call 877-NO-BURN-5 (877-662-8765)
- Visit www.AirQuality.org
- Sign up for Air Alert e-mail at www.SpareTheAir.com and check the Daily Air Quality Forecast box
- Check the Sacramento Bee’s weather page located on the back of the Our Region section
- Listen to television and radio weather forecasts
- Follow us at www.Twitter.com/aqmd

In addition, if you suspect someone is burning on a no burn day you may register a complaint by calling 800-880-9025.

As we go to print, change and uncertainty are in the air in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

In California, Governor Brown is attempting to address the state's structural fiscal mess and political gridlock while the Air Resource Board has begun implementing its cap-and-trade program that is a central component of the state's efforts to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reductions required under AB32. Observers will watch closely to see how the continued economic challenges delay advancement of policies related to solar energy deployment, improved vehicle fuel efficiency, renewable energy and more.

In the nation's capital, we can expect the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives to carefully review Obama Administration actions pertaining to environmental regulation. While the U.S. EPA appears intent on advancing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we can expect hearing to bring public attention to these matters. U.S. EPA's budget for air quality programs is another matter we're watching closely, along with other legislation coming out of the transportation or energy committee that might affect air quality.

For more information, contact Chris Morfas, AQMD Legislative Liaison, at (916) 874-2876, or cmorfas@airquality.org.



AQMD's Executive Director Larry Greene was the featured guest on the "Going Green with EnviroBro" radio show on KDEE 97.7 FM. Pictured: Host Leonard Robinson (left), co-host LaKenya McClough and Larry Greene (right).

New Tools Help You Drive Clean

Whether you are looking to reduce your impact on air quality in the region or save money on gas, the Environmental Performance Label (EP Label) makes it easy to compare the efficiency and environmental impacts of vehicles.

The EP Label is now required on all cars sold in California and shows both the Smog Score and Global Warming Score of each vehicle, using a scale from one to 10 with 10 being the cleanest and most efficient.

The Smog Score rates cars on their NOx emissions, making those with the highest score the smallest contributors to ozone pollution. The Global Warming Score is based on a car's greenhouse gas emissions. Those with the highest scores also tend to be the most fuel efficient.

An excellent online tool to aid California residents shopping for a new or used vehicle can be found at www.driveclean.ca.gov.

This website, developed and maintained by the California Air Resources Board, provides the scores of all vehicles sold in the state. It's a great way to compare all cars and pickups being considered before stepping onto the car lot.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN



2010

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printed on recycled paper with soy inks