

DESERT AIR MONITOR



A PUBLICATION OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MDAQMD Awards Victor Valley Transit Authority Grant for Pilot Express Program

Victor Valley Transit Authority received a \$95,000 grant in August 2015 through the MDAQMD's AB2766 grant program for their pilot Express Bus Route Program, which will offer expedited transit service to students on a designated route to Victor Valley College for one year. The goals of the project are to reduce emissions from motor vehicles, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and to educate the public about the importance of preventing mobile emissions.

The pilot program will provide a vital service to Victor Valley communities and increase awareness of local transit by encouraging students and other passengers to use mass transit instead of single occupancy vehicles.

The express nature of the route will also decrease emissions associated with vehicle idling by reducing the number of stops and dwell times required for passenger boarding.

This partnership between VVTA and MDAQMD will result in Vehicle Trip Reductions of 289,680 per year, and a correlating Vehicle Miles Traveled reduction of 2,832,430. The program will also result in an overall emissions reduction of 5,874 pounds of gasoline gallon equivalents per year. The pilot program will run through July 2016.



Advertising wrap on new VVTA Express bus.

2015 Annual CDAWG Conference Splashes Down in Big Bear Lake

Fast becoming one of California's most popular air quality events, the annual California Desert Air Working Group conference provides a dynamic forum for the exchange of information and quality training on timely, relevant air quality and regulatory issues facing today's environmental professionals. The 2015 CDAWG Conference held on November 18 & 19 at the Northwoods Resort in Big Bear Lake, California was certainly no exception.

"Reductions, Regulations & Reality: The 3R's of Air Quality" was the theme of the 2015 conference which featured speakers Morgan Branch, Environmental Policy Consultant, California Senate Republican Caucus, and David Parrish, Senior Research Scientist/NOAA Affiliate, University of Colorado, CIRES, to name a few.

In addition, more than 80 representatives of state and local air agencies and the regulated community came together during the two-day conference to network and discuss emerging regulations and challenges to balancing environmental protection with economic sustainability in California's desert regions and beyond.

CDAWG conferences are designed to appeal to anyone interested in obtaining technical information or training on timely, air quality and regulatory issues. This year's topics included: "Impact of Transported Background Ozone on Western U.S. Air Quality;" "Health Risk Assessments: Revisions to the OEHHA Guidelines and HARP 2;" "Ozone Trends & Transport Regime in the Mojave Desert Air Basin & Surrounding Areas;" and "An Overview of California's Cap-and-Trade Market & Post 2020 Considerations."

To view 2015 conference presentations visit www.mdaqmd.ca.gov.

(Right): David Parrish, Senior Research Scientist/NOAA Affiliate, University of Colorado, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES).



(Left): Matthew O'Donnell, Air Quality Engineer, Enforcement Division Air Resources Board.



(Right) 2015 Attendees are welcomed to CDAWG by Deputy Director/Mojave Desert Operations Alan De Salvo.





The Desert Air Monitor is a publication of the Mojave Desert AQMD's
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District Welcomes Russ to Governing Board, Bids Schmidt Farewell

The City of Hesperia's Mayor Pro Tem Paul Russ was sworn in as the newest member of the MDAQMD Governing Board during the first meeting of the year on January 25. Russ replaces outgoing Vice-Chair Eric Schmidt, who served on the MDAQMD Board from 2014 to 2015. The MDAQMD sincerely thanks Councilman Schmidt for his dedicated service to the District and extends a warm welcome to Board Member Russ.



Paul Russ

MDAQMD to Honor ARB Advisory 347

The MDAQMD will honor the Air Resources Board's Advisory 347, as it pertains to enforcement of the upcoming 2017 Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Diesel Particulate Matter (ATCM) fleet average emissions standards.

This Advisory pertains to 17 CCR § 93116, ATCM for Diesel Particulate Matter from Portable Engines Rated at 50 Horsepower and Greater.

The Advisory states that "ARB will not enforce, and is advising the local air districts not to enforce, the 2017 ATCM fleet average emissions standards until the regulatory amendments are effective."

All other PERP regulation and ATCM provisions remain in effect, including current engine eligibility requirements, and provisions requiring all uncertified (Tier 0) equipment to be removed from service no later than January 1, 2017. All local air district permitting requirements for these engines also remain in effect.

Additional information regarding the Advisory is available at:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/advs/advs347.pdf>

Air Resources Board to Host Industry Workshops at MDAQMD



During the first half of 2016, the Air Resources Board and the MDAQMD will partner to present a series of stationary source compliance training courses at the MDAQMD for environmental professionals from regulatory agencies and regulated industry. The two-day courses are comprised of interactive classroom instruction followed by "hands-on" field training at a representative facility which enhances the participant's learning experience. Classes generally start at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m. The following is a list of course dates and titles: Compliance Assurance Monitoring; April 20 & 21: Asbestos Demolition & Renovation; Plastics Composites Manufacturing; May 3-5: Aboveground Storage Tanks; Enhanced Vapor Recovery. For a complete list of courses and to register, visit:
<https://ssl.arb.ca.gov/training/courselist.php>

Ben Sehgal, Air Resources Board, (left) leads an industry workshop at the MDAQMD

California Environmental Protection Agency

 **Air Resources Board**



MDAQMD Hosts Public Relations Coalition Meeting on “Dealing With a Crisis Situation”

On January 13, the MDAQMD hosted the Public Relations Coalition's first meeting of 2016. The PR Coalition is comprised of Public Information Officers and related staff representatives from High Desert and San Bernardino county agencies, cities, and other organizations.



pre-building a social media network and following, and having active Twitter and Facebook accounts with a lot of followers for each prior to this incident helped us get information out to the public and news media quickly and

efficiently. It saved us from having to

spend hours we didn't have on the phone with reporters. They were perfectly happy relying on our social media for the latest information and answers to their questions. It was like having an online, round-the-clock news conference,” stated Wertz.

David Wertz, Public Information Officer, and Felisa Cardona, Deputy Public Information Officer, both from the County of San Bernardino's Administrative Office, provided a presentation to the group on emergency media response best management practices and on how San Bernardino County responded to the barrage of media requests during the recent tragic shootings in San Bernardino in December 2015. “No agency is prepared for this type of an event, but off the cuff, the preparations that really paid off here were

“Having a network of qualified PIOs throughout the organization allowed us to gather and share important and reliable information as it developed and the ability to handle the instant flood of news media at various locations,” summarized Wertz.



David Wertz and Felisa Cardona (far right, back row), shared tips with the PR Coalition on dealing with the media during a crisis



Annual Title V Certification Reminder

As required by current MDAQMD Federal Operating Permits and District Rule 1203 -“Federal Operating Permits” – regulated High Desert businesses/facilities are required to submit a Compliance Certification Report annually, within 30 days of the anniversary date of the issuance or renewal of their current Federal Operating Permit. Along with District review, the information provided in the annual Compliance Certification Report is entered into the Federal Database. To ensure the proper information is reported, please go to:

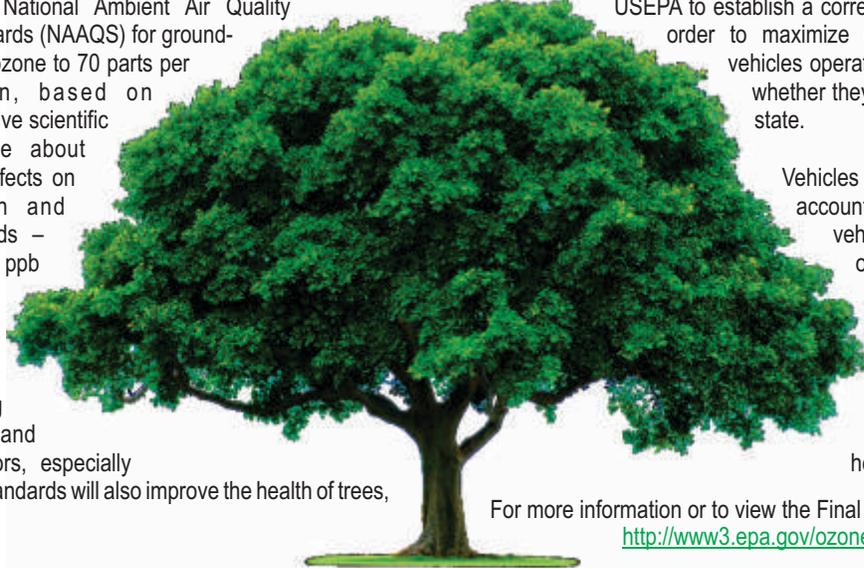
<http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=35&recordid=434&returnURL=%2findex.aspx%3fpage%3d6> and download the guidelines. For more information, contact Alan De Salvo, Deputy Director / Mojave Desert Operations at (760) 245-1661 x 6726.



U.S. EPA Announces a More Health-Protective Eight-Hour Standard for Ground-Level Ozone



On October 1, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion, based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects on public health and welfare. The updated standards – lowered from the previous 75 ppb adopted in 2008 – will improve public health protection, particularly for at-risk groups including children, older adults, people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma, and people who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers. The updated standards will also improve the health of trees, plants and ecosystems.



ARB will also be developing new heavy-duty diesel engine emissions standards within the next several years, while simultaneously petitioning USEPA to establish a corresponding national standard, in order to maximize emission reductions from all vehicles operating in California, regardless of whether they were purchased in a different state.

Vehicles purchased outside of California account for one-third of the heavy-duty vehicle miles traveled in the state on any given day. For that reason, a lower NOx standard that reduces emissions from all trucks operating in California is critical to meeting future air quality goals and tackling this public health challenge.

For more information or to view the Final Rule, visit the EPA website at <http://www3.epa.gov/ozonepollution/actions.html>

“GOOD WILL CHARGING”

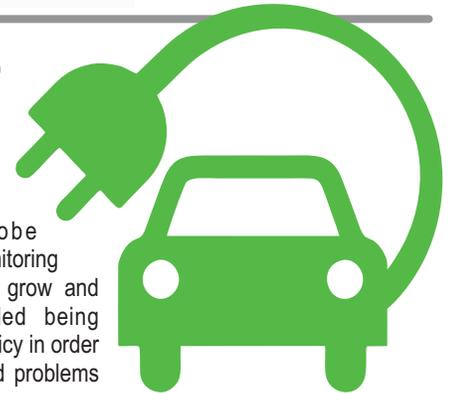
Contrary to rampant reports of “charger rage” that have received widespread media coverage, electric vehicle charging can serve as a model of cooperation. That was the take-away message from the California Plug-In Electric Vehicle Collaborative's October online webinar, “Taking Turns: How to Effectively Share Electric Vehicle Chargers.” The webinar lived up to its title by highlighting successful programs and solutions that allow EV charging to go smoothly. The value of policy, training, driver engagement, and good communications emerged as common themes.

“Many companies have formal policies,” said Kristi Brodd of Advanced Energy. “These are great at setting ground rules and keeping charging moving smoothly.” At the City of Sacramento's public parking garage, rules and etiquette are communicated with a flyer. Additionally, the city's parking garage website hosts a drivers' group, which users are encouraged to join. The EV parking spaces are all marked for active charging, and this policy is enforced through parking violations.

The webinar concluded with the panelists offering advice on EV charging. Greg Haddow of SDG&E emphasized the importance of surveying

employees and designing a program around their needs. Justina Hyland of Adobe recommended ongoing monitoring and having the flexibility to grow and adapt. Brodd recommended being proactive about creating a policy in order to have rules in place should problems arise.

For more information on the webinar, please visit http://www.pevcollaborative.org/sites/all/themes/pev/files/Taking%20Turns%20draft%20article_final.pdf or contact Lisa Chiladakis, Manager, Technology and Programs, PEV Collaborative at lchiladakis@pevcollaborative.org.





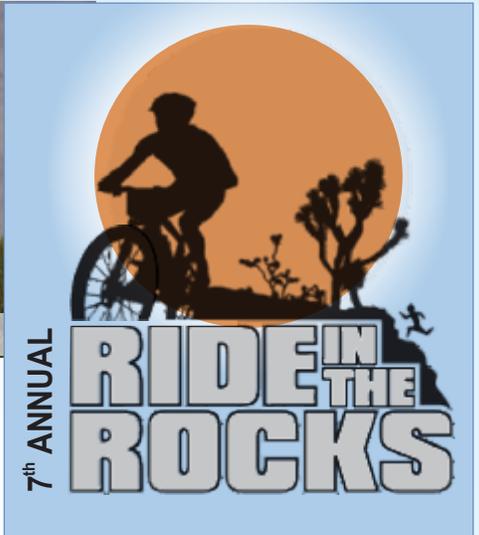
SHOOTING THE BREEZE



MDAQMD SPONSORS "RIDE IN THE ROCKS"

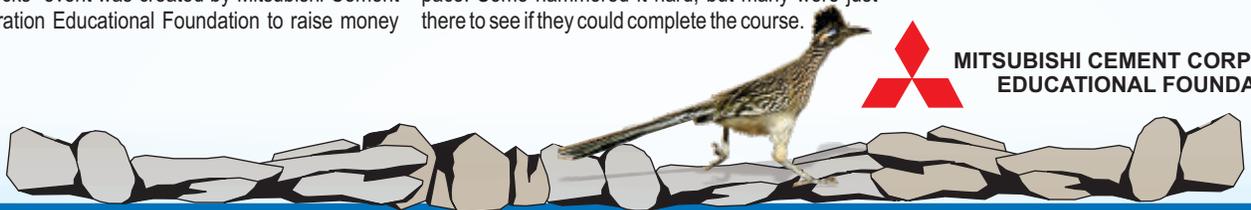


Runners and riders "Ride the Rocks"



For the second consecutive year, the Mojave Desert AQMD was one of several industry and community sponsors for Mitsubishi Cement Educational Foundation's "Ride in the Rocks," biking event, an annual affair geared for individuals and families held on November 7th. The annual "Ride in the Rocks" event was created by Mitsubishi Cement Corporation Educational Foundation to raise money

to enhance the educational experience of Lucerne Valley students through the funding of college scholarships and field trips, and to provide an opportunity for community involvement in support of Lucerne Valley schools. Because the event is not a competition, everybody is able to ride at their own pace. Some hammered it hard, but many were just there to see if they could complete the course.



MDAQMD PARTNERS WITH ALA TO SPONSOR LUNG FORCE WALK

On November 8, 2015, the American Lung Association in California hosted its annual LUNG FORCE Walk in Ontario, California in support of the Nationwide LUNG FORCE initiative. Now in its second year, this initiative seeks to make lung cancer in women a public health priority, drive policy change and increase research funding. Also for the second year, the MDAQMD signed on as a sponsor of the event. Hundreds of individuals and families, including many from the High Desert, participated in the annual walk, which raised funds for research, advocacy, education and awareness in the fight against lung cancer and for lung health.



Here in California about 8,025 women are diagnosed with lung cancer each year, and another 6,032 lose their lives to the disease. Statistics show that, on average, fewer than half of all women with lung cancer will be alive one year after diagnosis. With one of the lowest survival rates compared to other major cancers, early detection and treatment is key to saving lives. Locally and across the nation, LUNG FORCE educates and empowers patients and healthcare providers, and also raises critical funds for research into better detection and targeted treatments for lung cancer.



Hundreds of participants gathered in Ontario to walk in the Annual "LUNG FORCE Walk".



MDAQMD



Earns Second Consecutive Transparency Certificate

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has once again been awarded the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation, in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. This is the second time since 2013 the MDAQMD has received this biennial award. "This award is a testament to the MDAQMD's ongoing commitment to open and accessible government," said Executive Director Eldon Heaston. The certificate was presented during the

California Special District Association's Annual Conference in Monterey on September 23. "The agency's staff and Governing Board are to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight," added Heaston.

To qualify for the certificate, a special district must complete eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all Board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State controller in a timely manner. Additionally the MDAQMD is required to fulfill fifteen website requirements – including providing readily available public information - and demonstrate active outreach that engages the public through newsletters and special community engagement projects.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities – such as water, fire protection, healthcare and more – which are established and funded by voters. SLDF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

Approximately 2,000 of the state's 5,000 special districts are current members of SLDF. Less than 1% of SLDF's eligible member agencies have successfully applied for the coveted Transparency Certificate.

MDAQMD Receives Healthy High Desert Award of Excellence

On September 23, Community Relations & Education staff manned an outreach booth during the Healthy High Desert Summit which took place at the Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center in Victorville. Over 150 business and community leaders attended the event, which focused on health and environmental issues of importance to High Desert residents. The MDAQMD provided a sponsorship grant for the event through its AB2766 program. Healthy High Desert presented the District with an Award of Excellence for its support of projects in alignment with the theme of this year's event "Our Health & Our Environment", and for its sponsorship of the organization.



Alan De Salvia (R) accepts Award of Excellence from Holly Noel, MDAQMD Air Quality Specialist and Chair of the 2015 Healthy High Desert Committee and Summit.

District to Recognize Outstanding Environmental Science Projects at Local Schools



The MDAQMD is once again partnering with MEEC and the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association to recognize outstanding environmentally-themed science projects entered in school science fairs held throughout the MDAQMD's jurisdiction. Winners of local competitions receive \$25 gift cards, a blue ribbon and a certificate, while winners of District and regional science fairs receive \$50 gift cards along with the other amenities.



Permit Activity	
August 2015 – January 2016	
Active Permits	3,908
Permitted Facilities	1,568
Number of Applications	94

Compliance Activity	
August 2015 – January 2016	
Complaints	50
Notices of Violation	44
Certificates of Occupancy	184



2016 Calendar Now Available

“Go Green to Breathe Clean!” was the theme of the MDAQMD’s 19th Annual Clean Air Month Poster Contest. The competition drew more than 300

entries from fledgling artists throughout the MDAQMD’s jurisdiction, which encompasses the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and Riverside County’s Palo Verde Valley.

Twelve winners were selected in four grade categories—K-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12. During an awards ceremony held at the MDAQMD on May 28th, winners received gift cards ranging in denomination from \$25 to \$100, depending on place awarded. Teachers whose students were selected as contest winners were also recognized for encouraging their participation. Each winning poster and its artist is featured in the MDAQMD’s 2016 calendar.

The contest was co-sponsored by the Daily Press, the Air & Waste Management Association’s Mojave Desert Chapter and Victor Valley Transit Authority, which also awarded bicycles to two contest participants, whose names were drawn at random from all entries.

The MDAQMD’s annual poster contest is held each May as a vehicle for raising awareness amongst High Desert youngsters about the pivotal role individual actions and choices play in protecting air quality.

The MDAQMD’s 2016 Clean Air Month Poster Contest Calendars are now available... stop by the MDAQMD and pick up your free copy or contact us at (760) 245-1661 extension 6101 today.



MDAQMD Governing Board Member/Town of Apple Valley Mayor Barb Stanton (far left) and Deputy Director/Mojave Desert Operations Alan De Salvio, (far right), pose with winners of the 2015 Poster Contest.

“Burn Wise”

SEASON IS HERE

Burn Wise is a partnership program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that emphasizes the importance of burning the right wood, the right way, in the right wood-burning appliance to protect your home, health, and the air we breathe. Did you know that by changing the way you burn wood you can save money, reduce air pollution and protect your health?

Here are a few simple tips to make your fire burn hotter, keep your wallet fatter and keep your local air cleaner and healthier:

Season all firewood. All firewood should be split, securely covered or stored, and aged for at least six months. Seasoned wood burns hotter, cuts fuel consumption and reduces the amount of smoke your appliance produces.

Choose the right firewood. Hardwoods are the best. Never burn trash or treated wood which can emit toxic air pollutants.

Clean ashes from your wood-burning appliance. Excess ashes can clog the air intake vents reducing efficiency. Be sure to dispose of ashes in a metal container away from the house or any flammable material to reduce the risk of fire.

Don’t let the fire smolder. Many people think they should let a fire smolder overnight. But reducing the air supply does little for heating and increases air pollution.

Keep your chimney clean. A clean chimney provides a good draft for your wood-burning appliance and reduces the risk of a chimney fire. Have a certified

Burn Wise
Program of U.S. EPA

This wood-burning appliance meets 2020 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency clean air standards.

- Heating Area: Heat up to 2500 sq. ft.
- Efficiency: 83%
- Smoke Emissions: 100% EPA certified

MANUFACTURER: ABCD Stove, Inc.
MODEL NO.: 12345
EPA CERTIFIED: Yes

For more information, visit the Owner's Manual and always get professional efficiency and emissions are provided by all EPA approved third party lab. Heating area is calculated by the manufacturer.

• Have your wood-burning appliance inspected for safety
• Use only dry wood or EPA approved wood pellets
• Do not burn green wood, trash or treated wood
• Do not burn appliances, EPA certified models only

EPA

professional inspect your chimney once a year.

Upgrade to cleaner equipment. EPA certified wood stoves and fireplace inserts burn cleaner and burn wood more efficiently emitting less particle pollution than older models. Like an old car that belches smoke out of

the tailpipe, old wood stoves are bad polluters and less efficient. Newer, EPA-certified wood stoves and fireplace inserts (wood stoves designed to fit into a fireplace), reduce air pollutants by 70 percent compared to older models.



Smoke from wood that is not burned completely contains a number of chemicals, including carbon monoxide. More than 150 people die annually from CO poisoning related to the use of home heating appliances. CO is odorless and colorless. If you use a wood stove or fireplace, install a digital CO detector, which sounds an alarm when CO levels increase.

Follow best practices for burning wood. Within the Burn Wise website you will find information for consumers to make informed decisions about what it means to burn wise. Visit the MDAQMD’s website at <http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=425> to download a Burn Wise brochure or visit <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/> to learn more.

Breathe Right!

www.mdaqmd.ca.gov

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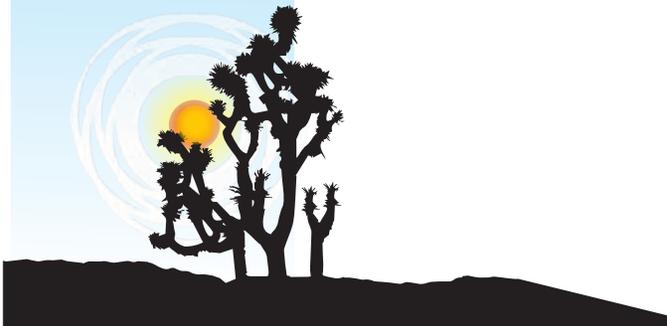
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TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING

SURVEY

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District - your local air quality agency for San Bernardino County's High Desert and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley - is conducting a Customer Service Satisfaction Survey to find out how well we are serving our regulated businesses. Because our #1 job is to provide YOU, our customer, with excellent service when issuing your permits, inspecting your facility or answering your questions about our rules and regulations, the MDAQMD's Governing Board would like your input on how the District is doing so far, and how we can do better.

If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the survey in the mail, please call

(760) 245-1661, ext. 6101

We invite you to take the MDAQMD's 2-4 minute Customer Service Satisfaction Survey online by March 1, 2016 at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov

**Take Our Online
Customer
Service Survey
Today!**

**2-4
Minute
Survey!**



**It's Brief...it's Confidential...
it's all about Customer Service!**