

AirMail



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Gas stations take bite out of air pollution

Seven local refueling facilities were recognized for their consistent and exemplary adherence to air quality regulations and each received the coveted "Mojave Green" award.

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Dozen students illustrate their 'Flair for Clean Air'

Another round of students took home big prizes as winners in MDAQMD's 2019 Clean Air Month Poster Contest.

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PERMITS & COMPLIANCE

As of July 10, 2019:

Active Permits: **4,127**

Permitted Facilities: **1,345**

January – March 2019

Applications received: **69**

Complaints: **48**

Violation notices: **85**

Certificates of Occupancy: **145**

April – June 2019

Applications received: **89**

Complaints: **32**

Violation notices: **39**

Certificates of Occupancy: **133**

New record set



District's 2019 Lawn & Garden exchange sees more than 250 pieces exchanged, crushes 2018 record by 17 percent

MDAQMD's 2019 Lawn and Garden Equipment Exchange shattered records in its grant-funded single-day event by swapping more than 250 pieces of new electric equipment for the emissions-spewing equivalent for District residents last spring.

Local residents at this year's event eliminated approximately 19,458 pounds of pollutants merely in the exchange of lawn mowers alone. In addition, 72 trimmers and 42 blowers were also exchanged for their electric equivalents at a massive discount.

"This event has been growing every year and proves that even with the drought

and xeriscape incentives from local water agencies, there is still a lot of gas-powered equipment out there," said Brad Poiriez, MDAQMD Executive Director. "Many folks significantly underestimate the damage that can be done by the ground-level ozone this equipment creates."

According to EPA statistics, gas-powered mowers contribute 5% of U.S. air pollution and estimates indicate more than 17 million gallons of fuel, mostly gasoline, is spilled each year while refueling lawn equipment. That's more than all the oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez in the Gulf of Alaska.

This year's event shattered the previous record set at last year's exchange by 17 percent. With the growing success of the program, the District is considering options to expand the program and reach its eastern communities.

District seeking nominations for annual Exemplar Award

MDAQMD program recognizes emissions reduction efforts of local businesses

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District is now accepting nominations for its 2018-2019 Exemplar Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions toward the prevention or control of air pollution in the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Eligible candidates include local businesses, industries, schools, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary air pollution reduction and/or prevention programs.

Nominated entities must be located within the MDAQMD's boundaries – which encompass the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley. Nominated individuals must reside within the MDAQMD's boundaries. Candidates may be self-nominated or nominated by a second party.

Nominations must be postmarked or received at MDAQMD offices by 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, 2019. The Exemplar Award will be presented in association with National Pollution Prevention Week, September 16-22, 2019. The Nomination Packet, as well as more information on the District, past Exemplar winners and a map of District boundaries is available at www.MDAQMD.ca.gov or by calling the MDAQMD at 760-245-1661.

Seven local facilities earn 'Mojave Green' award



Caltrans District 8's Vidal Maintenance Station was one of seven refueling stations in the Mojave Desert to receive the Mojave Green Gas Station award in 2019 for qualifying year 2018. Accepting the award at the Vidal facility were Maintenance Supervisor Daniel Staats, left, and Maintenance Manager Gary Crawford.

It's arguably one of the tougher feats in operating a gas station, but seven facilities in the Mojave Desert Air Basin recently were honored as Mojave Green Gas Stations to help celebrate Air Quality Awareness Week.

Refueling stations located within the boundaries of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) that meet the District's regulations during the facilities' annual compliance inspections for at least three years consecutively are eligible for the award.

The stations awarded with the honor this year passed their qualifying compliance inspection in 2018.

Caltrans District 8's maintenance station in Vidal was one of the recipients for the 2018 qualifying year. Joanna Lopez, Needles Maintenance Area Superintendent for Caltrans' District 8, said the award is proof of the facility's leadership and staff who are diligent in meeting high-set standards.

"Mr. Staats and his team at the Vidal Maintenance Station have upheld Caltrans' highest standards with station cleanliness, reporting and compliance," Lopez said in reference to Maintenance Supervisor Daniel Staats. "We all are very proud of Dan and his team — they have shown what quality work is all about."

Each station awardee receives

a certificate signed by MDAQMD Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer Brad Poiriez, a decal for their front door denoting their status as a Mojave Green Gas Station and the qualifying year(s) in which they passed the compliance inspection, and stickers containing the Mojave Green Gas Station logo that are displayed at each of its pumps.

"The Mojave Green Program is a longstanding distinction with the MDAQMD and it's not easy to achieve, as evidenced by the small number of honorees in such a vast pool of gas stations throughout our jurisdiction," Poiriez said. "It's important to recognize these businesses for prioritizing the health of their consumers and our environment."

Aside from Caltrans District 8's Vidal Maintenance Station (not open to the public), stations that received the distinction in 2019 include:

- 7-Eleven, 21718 Bear Valley Road, Apple Valley;
- Arco AM/PM #42213, 12750 Main St., Hesperia;
- Chevron USA #9-9752, 2890 Lenwood Road, Barstow;
- Chevron Station #373173, 14217 US Highway 395, Victorville;
- Circle K #6017, 14511 Palmdale Road, Victorville;
- GSE Victorville (76 Gas Station), 15483 Palmdale Road, Victorville.

Students illustrate 'Flair for Clean Air' in annual Clean Air Month Poster Contest



A new group of students have some earnings to spend as they see fit after they were selected as this year's winners in the Clean Air Month Poster Contest, an annual competition hosted by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District.

This year's contest theme, "A Flair for Clean Air," prompted student artists to create hand-drawn posters depicting small changes people can make in their every-day routines to reduce air pollution and protect air quality. Winners were awarded at first, second and third place in four categories: kindergarten to second grade, third to fifth grade, sixth to eighth grade and ninth through 12th grade.

Winners include: in the K-2nd category, Hannah Atnip, Galileo Academy, Victorville (first place), Melanie Bocanegra (second) and Evelyn Bedolla-Ramirez (third), both

of Mariana Academy, Apple Valley; in the 3rd-5th category, Haylie Jaco, Kingston Elementary, Hesperia (first), Diego Soto, Rancho Verde Elementary, Apple Valley (second) and Hailey Matias, Vanguard Preparatory, Apple Valley (third); in the 6th-8th category, Jessiah Bautista (first), Theresa Gutierrez (second) and Jennise Vega (third), all of Hesperia Junior High, Hesperia; and in the 9th-12th category, Emma Dunlap (first), Theresa Diep (second) and Lourance Mallouhi (third), all of Apple Valley High in Apple Valley.

"It's clear from the level of submissions we get that our local educators are doing a great job of teaching our kids the importance of understanding air pollution and how to reduce it," said Brad Poiriez, Executive Director of MDAQMD. "We continue to receive amazingly creative submissions and the message continues to spread. It's a

great combination."

The District received hundreds of submissions this year. Judges representing the Mojave Water Agency, Daily Press, MDAQMD and contest cosponsors Victor Valley Transit Authority, Mojave Environmental Education Consortium and Air & Waste Management Association, Mojave Chapter of the West Coast Section, carefully viewed the scores of submissions and voted for winners based on originality, creativity, artistic display and alignment to the theme.

First-place winners received \$100 each, second-place \$50 and third-place \$25. Prizes were awarded in the form of Target gift cards. In addition, each winning submission will be featured in the MDAQMD's 2020 Calendar, due to be available to the public in November 2019.



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Save the date!



The annual California Desert Air Working Group (**CDAWG**) conference is coming to Palm Springs this November! Save the dates — Nov. 6-7 — on your calendar and stay tuned for more information coming soon including this year's speakers, presentations, accommodations and more. Visit mdaqmd.ca.gov/CDAWG to stay up-to-date!