

# DESERT AIR MONITOR



A PUBLICATION OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## STEADY AIR QUALITY PROGRESS CONTINUES DISTRICTWIDE DESPITE WILDFIRES, HOT WEATHER

Despite abnormally hot, stagnant weather and smoke from wildfires, maximum ozone concentrations measured within the MDAQMD's 20,000 square mile jurisdiction decreased during 2016. The highest 8-hour ozone level recorded Districtwide last summer during a non-fire day was a 0.10 ppm measured at the Phelan air monitoring station. This represents a 17% decrease from 2006, whose highest ozone level was 0.12 ppm recorded in Hesperia and a 10% decrease from 2015, whose highest ozone concentration was a 0.11 ppm recorded in Victorville.

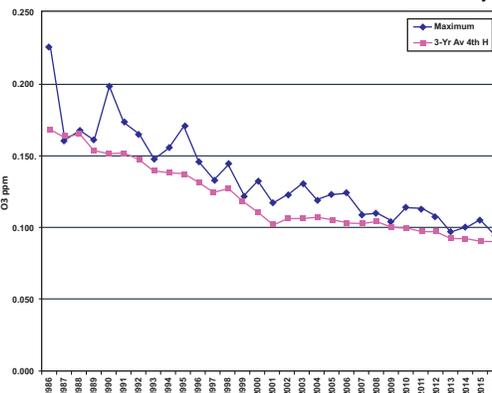
While ozone levels decreased, the numbers of days exceeding the federal ozone standard within the MDAQMD's boundaries increased this summer. In 2016, 85 days exceeded the 8-hour 0.070 ppm health standard, as compared to 78 days Districtwide in 2015.

Levels of ozone, - the main component of photochemical smog - are normally highest during the hot summer months between May and October. Most of the High Desert's air pollution originates in the Los Angeles Basin and is windblown into the region through the Cajon Pass. Correspondingly, the South Coast Air Quality Management District - which regulates air quality in Orange County and urban portions of Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties - also reported an increase in exceedance days in 2016, jumping from 113 in 2015 to 132 in 2016.

While wildfires are typically associated with a rise in levels of particulate pollution, it's not uncommon to

see ozone levels also increase during the type of smoke and wildfire activity which ravaged the High Desert this summer. According to Gabriele Pfister, a researcher at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, when forests and the underlying peat layer burn, they emit visible pollution in the form of smoke, soot, and ash. But the fires also generate other harmful pollution. "Fires can affect air quality," Pfister said. "Fires emit CO—carbon monoxide—and hydrocarbons, plus nitrogen oxides, all of which, along with sunlight, are needed to make ozone." Pfister adds that "pollutants from fires might cause a significant increase in ozone levels, even far downwind from the fires."

While the highest 8-hour ozone concentration recorded within the MDAQMD in 2016 during a non-fire day was a 0.10 ppm, the highest 8-hour ozone concentration recorded during fire activity - specifically during the Sand wildfire in Santa Clarita in late July - was 0.11 ppm, logged in Phelan.



According to MDAQMD Executive Director Brad Poiriez, despite the effects of this summer's record heat and wildfire season, the High Desert continued to make important air quality strides. "Thanks to cleaner vehicles and fuels, the efforts of regulated business and the ongoing commitment of our residents to protecting the region's air quality, the High Desert continues to make steady progress in our efforts for cleaner air," commented Poiriez.

MDAQMD Historical Maximum 8 Hour Ozone Concentrations & 3 Year Average (3-Yr. Av.)

## District Welcomes Brad Poiriez on Board

The MDAQMD's Governing Board welcomed Brad Poiriez to the District during their July 25, 2016 Board meeting, which also happened to be the new Executive Director's first day on the job. Under the terms of a four-year contract, Poiriez reports directly to the MDAQMD's Board in carrying out his responsibilities, which include enforcing the District's rules and management, enforcing health and safety provisions and supervising MDAQMD staff.

While new to the High Desert, Poiriez is no stranger to air quality management, having served as Air Pollution Control Officer for Imperial County Air Pollution Control District since 2008 and as an employee of the El Centro-based air district for over twenty-two years. Poiriez is the past U.S. co-chair of the Imperial Valley/Mexicali Region Air Quality Task Force for "Border 2012" and has worked extensively with the

newly-proposed "Border 2020" program. He has been instrumental in getting industry representatives and the community involved and participating in developing methods to improve air quality in Imperial County. Poiriez currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Western Regional Air Partnership. He is also a longtime member of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, having served as CAPCOA's President in 2013, and currently serving as the Chair of the Medium Section Districts Committee. "Brad's extensive knowledge of air quality issues combined with his years of experience brokering common-sense, clean air solutions at the local and international level make him an exceptional choice to lead the MDAQMD," commented MDAQMD Governing Board Past Chair/San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood.



Brad Poiriez



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**Brad Poiriez**  
Executive Director

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR "WINDS OF CHANGE"

**H**appy New Year! 2017 is well underway and certainly looks to be full of promise and change. Whether we are talking about Washington's New Administration or the potential for new environmental policies, change appears to be the year's operative buzzword everywhere.

2017 also marks the beginning of what will become my first full year as Executive Director of the Mojave Desert AQMD, and what a whirlwind of activity these first six months have been! It started with my now infamous "baptism by fire" as the Sand, Pilot and Blue Cut wildfires ravaged the High Desert less than a month into my tenure at the District. Before the smoke could clear (figuratively and literally) my Governing Board's mandate was to hit the ground running and implement a series of changes for improvement, for the betterment of the agency. Some of those changes involved implementing organizational changes, some of which you'll read about in this issue. We have recently hired two new air quality technicians, one of those positions in preparation for an upcoming retirement this spring. We've brought one of our Cal State interns on board as an AQ Specialist to fill a vacant position. We have also created two long overdue Supervisor positions for the Compliance and Engineering sections, a move which will help Operations run more efficiently. An Executive Office reorg is also in the works.

I'm truly humbled by the warm welcome I've received from staff and businesses and residents of the High Desert. While new leadership in any organization always brings with it the challenges of the unknown and that of change, having a supportive and proactive Governing Board who truly cares about the High Desert's environment and its residents has made the transition easier. I'm also thankful to have inherited a very competent staff – props to my veteran staffers whose know-how is the foundation of the agency's success, and to my younger generation of employees who are reinventing the District with their new ideas and enthusiasm.

The MDAQMD's legendary cooperative working relationship with industry continues to serve as the model for air districts across the state and it's my honor to continue to carry on this tradition. When asked about my expectations and vision for the District and staff, I respond that I'm big on communication and I'm a hands-on type of leader. I'm also a huge believer in teamwork, working hard for our constituents and I'm always looking for ways to implement improvements - "business as usual" is not my style. Compliance and Engineering are now holding regular joint meetings and I find sitting in on these to be extremely helpful. When MEEC holds its monthly Board meetings at our offices, I make sure I regularly stop by to learn about how our dollars are helping to educate local students about their pivotal



Brad Poiriez

roles in protecting the High Desert's environment. Whether it's keeping an eye on our air monitoring equipment during the recent fires or keeping a finger on the pulse of the District's budget to ensure transparency and continued solvency, it's all in a day's work. While I don't believe in micromanaging, I do believe that engagement and accountability trickle down from the top.

Besides the responsibility of preserving healthful air quality for more than 550,000 residents within our District, two of our most important jobs are keeping the lines of communication with our constituents open and helping regulated industry comply with our regulations. When businesses understand what is expected of them and we provide them with tools to help them comply – whether these tools are in the form of compliance assistance, grants or just a friendly ear – we all benefit through increased business retention, enhanced economic development and most importantly, improved air quality.

While it's impossible to predict the ultimate trickle down effects of Washington's New Administration on local air districts, I can tell you that the MDAQMD will continue moving forward, as we always have. On the horizon is the adoption of the Federal 75 parts per billion Ozone Attainment Plan. We will also be making amendments to our Electric Power Generating Rule 1158, our Internal Combustion Engine Rule 1160 and Organic Solvent Degreasing Operations Rule 1104. Upgrades to our internal CAPS program to increase functionality and ease of use are in the pipeline. Look for a major website redesign over the next few months – the end result will be a fresh, more user-friendly site which will better serve the needs of our regulated business and the community.

While growth and change are inevitable, our mission statement – "to attain and maintain a healthful environment while supporting strong and sustainable economic growth" – will not change; this is the way we will continue to do business. As always, my door is open, so stop by anytime.



# Board Adopts Agreement for Riverside County's Representation on Governing Body; Ashley Sworn In

**O**n January 23, 2017, the MDAQMD's Governing Board adopted an agreement regarding the County of Riverside's representation on the District's Board, which resulted in Fifth District Supervisor Marion Ashley being sworn in during the agency's first meeting of the year.

Ashley, a native of Riverside County and member of a pioneer Perris Valley family, has long shown his deep commitment to the people of Riverside County. He attended local schools: Perris Union High School; Riverside City College and San Diego State University with a major in Business Management.

After years in the private sector, including his work as a CPA with a national accounting firm, corporate executive, banker and the founding of a real estate investment firm, Ashley decided to become more directly involved in the public sector when he served from 1973-1981 as a Riverside County Planning Commissioner and was elected to a seat on the Board of the Eastern Municipal Water District in 1992-2002.

Since his election to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in 2002, Ashley has become a respected leader on regional issues. As a County Supervisor he oversees a budget of \$5.3 billion and sets public policy for over 2.3 million people. Ashley has been married to his wife Mary for more



Marion Ashley

than 60 years, and has six children, 19 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

"We thank Supervisor Ashley for stepping up to the plate as we struggle to fill the void left by Supervisor Benoit's passing," commented Executive Director Brad Poiriez, adding, "His knowledge, commitment and dedication to regional issues will undoubtedly serve the MDAQMD's board and the High Desert's residents well."

# POIRIEZ SERVES AS PANELIST AT HIGH DESERT OPPORTUNITY

**M**DAQMD Executive Director Brad Poiriez was tapped to serve on a "Pro-Business Resources Panel" aimed at showcasing how local High Desert agencies "roll out the red carpet" to streamline the permitting process for new and expanding High Desert businesses during High Desert Opportunity 2016 on October 20. Poiriez was joined on the panel by Victorville City Manager Doug Robertson and San Bernardino County Assistant Executive Officer of Finance & Administration Mary Jane Olhasso, and Moderator Scott Kubicek of the Walmart Distribution Center. The MDAQMD also served as a sponsor and manned an outreach booth during the conference, which showcases the opportunities and advantages the High Desert offers new and expanding business. This year's conference relocated to the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center in Rancho Cucamonga. This one-time move was implemented to enhance access to the event's target audience outside of the High Desert.



MDAQMD Executive Director Brad Poiriez (right) chats it up with Key Note Speaker Vince Ferragamo during High Desert Opportunity.

# In Memory of Supervisor John J. Benoit



John J. Benoit

**T**he Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District was deeply saddened to announce the passing of MDAQMD Governing Board Member John J. Benoit on December 26, 2016 at his Bermuda Dunes home, surrounded by family. Supervisor Benoit joined the MDAQMD Governing Board in January, 2010 as its Riverside County member, representing the District's Palo Verde Valley/Blythe region. He worked tirelessly to bring funding and resources for air pollution projects that directly benefitted residents, local communities and businesses to the Palo Verde Valley. Supervisor Benoit's concurrent service on the South Coast AQMD's Governing Board rendered him a valued liaison in addressing joint planning issues and brokering air quality solutions with the MDAQMD's neighboring air district. His hard work and dedication to his constituents and the residents of the High Desert will be long remembered.

# Cox Elected MDAQMD Chair, Williams Named Vice Chair



**S**an Bernardino County First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, (right) 2015-2016 Chair, passes the gavel to Victorville Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cox who will Chair the MDAQMD Board for 2017. Needles Vice Mayor Jeff Williams was elected Vice Chair for 2017 by his peers on the Board. Barbara Cram Riordan will remain as the Public Member on the Governing Board for an additional two year term which expires January 2019.



*"Clean Air is Everybody's Business!"*





## ARB Partners with District on Vapor Recovery Program at High Desert Stations



The District is joining forces with CARB to test several local gas stations that have demonstrated what is known as "increased overpressure phenomenon." Overpressure phenomenon in underground gasoline storage tanks was first reported in 2008. Since then, cases of overpressure have been on a steady increase.

CARB Vapor Recovery staff has concentrated their efforts on studying the causes of increased pressure within storage tanks of vacuum assisted systems, and developing possible solutions. During the last year, they confirmed that one of the culprits was excessive fresh air being returned to the storage tank. In-field tests revealed that tight seals cannot be formed between nozzle boots and vehicle fuel pipes of certain car models; moreover, gaps that exist may cause the vacuum assist fuel nozzle to misidentify a vehicle with On-Board Refueling Vapor Recovery (ORVR) system as one that does not have ORVR. This misidentification causes the nozzle to return more fresh air into the storage tank than it should. More fresh air also causes a higher rate



Roseana Brasington, MDAQMD Air Quality Engineer, tests a facility for over-pressure phenomenon at a High Desert gas station.

of fuel evaporation, causing higher pressure within the storage tank. In response, the manufacturer of the vacuum assist system has re-designed its nozzle fuel spout to form a better seal. The new factory assembled nozzle design has been installed at four stations and existing nozzles have been field retrofit with a newly designed spout at four stations. Enhanced on-board refueling vapor recovery recognition will improve ORVR recognition but are unlikely to fully mitigate overpressure alarms and pressure while dispensing. Field testing of balance vapor recovery systems show that similar cases may also occur in balance systems, despite data that indicate balance system storage tanks were at only slightly positive pressure.

CARB has established eleven test sites statewide, including the two sites located within the District, to monitor parameters which are not captured by the in-station diagnostics. CARB is still collecting and analyzing the data and is tentatively scheduled to discuss potential regulatory solutions in December 2017 although the timeline may get pushed back depending on the results of the ongoing investigation of potential excess emissions from both vacuum-assist and balance vapor recovery systems.

## MDAQMD to Host CARB Compliance Training Courses in March

During March 2016, the Air Resources Board and the MDAQMD will join forces to present two stationary source compliance training courses for environmental professionals at the District's headquarters. On March 30, CARB will present "Basics of New Source Review (NSR) and Title V Permitting," a one day class which provides an overview and discussion of the requirements of NSR and Title V permitting programs. "Advanced NSR & Title V," scheduled for March 31, will provide attendees with hands-on exercises aimed at the processes and considerations associated with NSR and Title V permit application, submittal, review and processing.

For more information, or to register free of charge, visit [www.arb.ca.gov/training](http://www.arb.ca.gov/training)

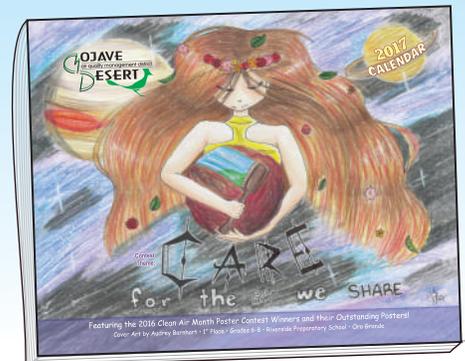
## City of Needles Hosts EV Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



MDAQMD staff took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the dedication of the City of Needles' new Electric Vehicle Charging station on July 12, 2016. The station, which is located at 1199 Third Street, was funded by a grant provided through the District's AB2766 Program, which utilizes DMV surcharge fees to provide competitive grants for projects that reduce smog-forming emissions from motor vehicles within MDAQMD boundaries.

Left to Right: Rick Daniels, City Manager; Jeff Williams, Vice Mayor/MDAQMD Board member; Mary Gonzales; Dr. Edward Padgett, Mayor; Holly Noel, MDAQMD; Eileen Hartwick, Chamber Board Director; Finley Chevrolet Representative/Bullhead City; Terry Campbell; and Marc Richards, Public Works Director, City of Needles.

## 2017 MDAQMD Poster Contest Calendars Now Available!



The MDAQMD's 2017 Clean Air Month Poster Contest Calendars are here... stop by the MDAQMD and pick up your free copy or contact us at (760) 245-1661 extension 6101 to receive a copy by mail.



## Electric Vehicle Charging

Permit Activity May 2016 – January 2017	
Active Permits	3,828
Permitted Facilities	1,157
Number of Applications	78

Compliance Activity May 2016 – January 2017	
Complaints	61
Notices of Violation	42
Certificates of Occupancy	140



# SHOOTING THE BREEZE



## District Welcomes Three New Staff Members



**Chris Wills** – AQ Instrument Technician, Air Monitoring Section, has been a resident of the High Desert since 1989. Wills completed all of his schooling locally, first graduating from Apple Valley High School, then Victor Valley Community College, and finally CSUSB with a B.S. in Biochemistry. His work experience began in the pharmaceutical field running automation of drug testing for quality control purposes, followed by water treatment here in the High Desert where he managed the laboratory. Wills has a family of five: Logan, Lillian, and Lauren and his wife Georgia. Wills enjoys coaching his kid's soccer and basketball teams which he has done for the last nine years as well as taking family road trips and camping out.

essential for the progression of environmental regulatory standards and development of air pollution management strategies, which is why she was excited to join the team here at MDAQMD and is dedicated to air quality improvement in Southern California.



**May Mamari** – Air Quality Specialist, Compliance Section, earned her B. S. degree in Applied Chemistry in 2009 at Al Baath University Syria and worked there for two years as a Teaching Associate in the analytical laboratory. In 2011, Mamari married and relocated to the United States. Mamari lived her first three years in San Bernardino and eventually moved to Victorville. In 2015, Mamari was accepted into the graduate program at California State San Bernardino to work on her master degree in Earth and Environmental Studies. During that time, Mamari worked as a Teaching Associate for the Department of Chemistry. During the summer of 2016, Mamari completed her internship at the MDAQMD. In those few months, Mamari discovered a whole new world where she was able to use her teaching experience to educate the community in understanding and adopting new regulations that improve air quality in the High Desert. "At the same time, every day is a new and exciting journey for me as I meet new people and learn about the diverse High Desert industry," stated Mamari. "I am so glad to be part of my new family at the MDAQMD, where I look forward to participating in the improvement of air quality for the future generations."



**Jennifer Eberwein** – AQ Instrument Technician, Air Monitoring Section, earned her A.S. in 2005 and spent six years working as a Medical Laboratory Technician in a pharmaceutical research facility, gaining experience in quality control, calibration and troubleshooting of automated instrumentation. During this time, Eberwein continued her education at the University of Texas, San Antonio, where she earned her B. S. degree in Environmental Science in 2010. Eberwein was accepted into the graduate program at the University of California, where she earned her PhD in Plant Biology. At UCR, Eberwein worked on a variety of projects, including biofuel sustainability, regulation of urban temperatures, and the impacts of air pollution in diverse systems from deserts to tropical forests. Quality data production is



### Wicked Good Times

MDAQMD staff members (left) had a "ghoulish time" dressing up as their favorite characters on October 31, 2016. (L-R): Holly Noel, Michelle Zumwalt, Sam Oktay, Robyn Simpson, Michelle Powell, Deanna Hernandez and Trevor Samorajski (kneeling).



### Sailing Through

Members of A&WMA's Mojave Desert Chapter (above) toured Mag Bay Yachts in Adelanto, on January 25th. The facility manufactures ocean sport fishing boats. Facility operations include fiberglass manufacturing subject to the Boat Manufacturing MACT standard and a variety of coating operations.



### Farewell

After working for the MDAQMD since 2001, Records Management Specialist Vilma Landsman bid her colleagues farewell during the District's annual Christmas luncheon on December 15th, 2016. During the event, Executive Director Brad Poiriez (left) presented Vilma with a plaque, certificate and an "Authority to Retire" in recognition of her 15 years of service to the MDAQMD.



## CEMEX Awarded District's Highest Honor

Staff from CEMEX's Victorville Plant commemorated the 100 year anniversary of California's largest cement producer by accepting the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District's 2015/2016 Exemplar Award on September 26, 2016 in recognition of implementing energy-cutting measures and renewable energy projects which have dramatically reduced the facility's carbon-footprint. The Exemplar Award is awarded annually by the District to High Desert entities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities that reduce or prevent air pollution emissions.



(Left to right) 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, CEMEX's John Tomko, Darlene Bray, Alejandra V. Silva, Carlos Uruchurtu, and MDAQMD Executive Director, Brad Poiriez.

The centerpiece of the Victorville Plant's sustainability efforts - four wind turbines that generate a total of 6.2 megawatts of wind energy for the facility - have become a familiar local landmark since their 2013 installation, just off the I-15. The power generated by the zero-emission turbines is sufficient to power over 1,500 average-sized American households per year. Moreover, the turbines prevent more than 11,000 tons of CO2 emissions per year while fulfilling approximately 6% of the facility's energy needs. Additional conservation efforts being utilized at CEMEX's Victorville facility include alternative fuel-handling systems which allow the facility to burn up to 25% alternative fuels; use of limestone additive to decrease clinker factor; improving thermal energy efficiency of its kiln line 1 through process optimization; and active participation in Southern California Edison's Demand Response Programs during statewide energy demand peak times.

As a result of the facility's demonstrated commitment to energy efficiency, CEMEX's Victorville Plant has received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's prestigious ENERGY STAR certifications for five consecutive years, from 2012 to 2016. ENERGY STAR certified buildings and plants meet strict energy performance standards set by USEPA. They use less energy, are less expensive to operate, and cause fewer greenhouse gas emissions than their peers. CEMEX also promotes ENERGY STAR values

and environmental education through their active support of local community organizations such as the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium and Victor Valley College. "CEMEX has distinguished itself as a leader in the industry's path toward a more sustainable future," commented MDAQMD Executive Director Brad Poiriez, adding, "the MDAQMD applauds CEMEX for its commitment to balancing its business operations with the protection of local air quality." CEMEX Victorville Plant's Exemplar Award was accepted by Environmental Manager Darlene Bray, Plant Manager Carlos Uruchurtu, Environmental Instrumentation Coordinator John Tomko and Environmental Coordinator Alejandra Silva.

CEMEX's Victorville Plant has continuously produced Portland and hydraulic cement since it began operation on Labor Day of 1916. The plant produces more than 2.5 million tons of cement annually for use in area homes, roads, schools, and businesses throughout California, Nevada and Arizona. The MDAQMD is the local air pollution control agency for San Bernardino County's High Desert region and the Palo Verde Valley portion of Riverside County. The District is responsible for regulating stationary air pollution sources and implementing state and federal air quality rules and regulations within its 20,000-plus square mile jurisdiction, which is home to over 550,000 residents.

# A FIRE SEASON LIKE NO OTHER...

A cloud of smoke from the Pilot Fire which erupted above Silverwood Lake on August 7, 2016 set the MDAQMD's Community Relations & Education staff into action distributing Smoke Advisories to media outlets and fielding calls from concerned citizens as far away as Nevada on August 7th and 8th. Just two weeks before, the District had issued Smoke Advisories in response to the Sand Fire in Santa Clarita, which had transported smoke more than 80 miles into the Victor Valley.

Just minutes after San Bernardino County fire officials had announced full containment of the Pilot wildfire near Silverwood Lake on August 16, the Blue Cut Fire ignited off of Interstate 15 and Highway 138, forcing evacuations in

Phelan, and the issuance of a new round of Smoke Advisories by the MDAQMD.

Over the next seven days, CRE staff fielded dozens of calls from concerned citizens, High Desert schools, and from the media as the blaze forced school closures, additional evacuations, and darkened the High Desert's normally blue skies. Media calls regarding the Blue Cut fire were fielded from as far away as New York, while hits to the District's website and AQ forecast phone line calls skyrocketed.

For current information on local and regional wildfires that could impact air quality in the Victor Valley and surrounding communities, visit the District's Health & Smoke Advisory page at <http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=455>.



# MDAQMD's Federal 75 ppb Ozone Attainment Plan Adopted on February 27

On February 27th, the MDAQMD Governing Board adopted the MDAQMD Federal 75 ppb Ozone Attainment Plan (Western Mojave Desert Nonattainment Area) and approved the corresponding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation.

The MDAQMD Federal 75 ppb Ozone Attainment plan's adoption satisfies Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) requirements that the MDAQMD develop a plan to attain the 0.075 part per million (ppm) 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This plan replaces and updates the 2008 MDAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan (Western Mojave Desert Non-attainment Area). The MDAQMD's adopted plan will now be submitted to the state for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan.

The MDAQMD was designated nonattainment and classified Severe-17 (portions of the MDAQMD outside the Southeast Desert Modified AQMA are designated unclassified/attainment) for ozone under the then effective federal one-hour ozone standard. The MDAQMD has adopted state and federal attainment plans for the region within its jurisdiction. The most recent plan that was submitted to USEPA is the MDAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan (Western Mojave Desert Nonattainment Area) adopted in 2008.

On March 9, 2006, USEPA shifted its ozone standard from measurement on a one-hour basis to an eight hour basis (8-hour ozone standard). The USEPA designated the Western Mojave Desert area as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS pursuant to the provisions of the FCAA. A portion of the MDAQMD is included in the Western Mojave Desert nonattainment area. The MDAQMD prepared the 2008 MDAQMD Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan (Western Mojave Desert Non-attainment Area) to satisfy the planning requirements under this standard.

To view the MDAQMD Federal 75 ppb Ozone Attainment Plan, visit our website at <http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/index.aspx?page=210>

## COMPLIANCE CORNER ASBESTOS REQUIREMENTS



By Michelle Zumwalt, Air Quality Specialist

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral often used in building materials and construction. Because asbestos has been proven to cause serious and fatal illnesses, it is strictly regulated in its use as a building material.

Asbestos-containing materials that are embedded inside building materials are inert and do not pose a health risk. However, once asbestos-containing materials are disturbed, through activities such as building renovation and demolition, asbestos fibers may become airborne.

Airborne asbestos pose a significant health threat because asbestos fibers can embed deeply within the lungs. This exposure can irritate and scar lung tissues leading to respiratory diseases such as lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma.

The air toxics provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) require the EPA to develop and enforce regulations to protect the public from exposure to airborne contaminants that are known to be hazardous to human health. In 1973, the Asbestos NESHAP (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants) was created and was later amended in 1990. The NESHAP can be found in the Federal Code of Regulations: 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart M.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District permits asbestos abatement equipment used within the District for cleanup efforts; the District also administers notifications for demolition and renovation activities. Below are a few highlights of the demolition and renovation provisions in the NESHAP, as well as new permitting payment requirements:

### Exemptions -

Residential buildings having four or fewer dwelling units are exempt from the regulations. However, residential buildings owned by a municipality or another agency are subject to the regulations.

### Survey Requirements -

An asbestos survey is required in all renovations and demolition projects that are not exempt from regulations. If asbestos is found, it must be properly removed by a licensed asbestos contractor prior to any activities that may disturb it.

### Notification Requirements -

Notification for all demolitions and renovations exceeding 260 linear feet of pipes or 160 square feet must be provided to the District at least 10 days prior to any activity being taken on property.

### New Payment Requirements -

Applications for asbestos remediation equipment (including negative air machines and HEPA vacuums) will not be accepted unless they include both the filing fee and the annual permit fee.

Please visit our website for more information on asbestos: [www.mdaqmd.ca.gov](http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov)

## Permit Fees Increase in New Year



The MDAQMD Governing Board has approved a fee increase for all permits issued by the District effective January 1, 2017.

Pursuant to Rule 301, the base application fee is now \$269, while a Change of Ownership is \$153.

Permit fees are the District's number one source of revenue and allow the District to continue implementing and enforcing the Federal Clean Air Act, the California Clean Air Act and District Rules and Regulations.



## AWARE



(Above) AQ Engineer Sheri Haggard teaches students about the effects of particulate pollution on pulmonary health during "The Cilia Game."

On October 4, 2016 32 grade 6-8 girls from Barstow Middle School and the STEM Academy (Barstow) toured the MDAQMD's Clean Power Education Center and Air Monitoring station and learned about the exceptional STEM career opportunities available to women in air quality management from AQ Specialist Michelle Zumwalt and AQ Engineer Sheri Haggard.

The field trip was sponsored through a special grant to the San Gorgonio Girl Scouts Council aimed at providing STEM opportunities to at-risk girls while fueling their interest in joining the Girl Scouts. The girls also learned first-hand about solar cooking as CRE staff used solar ovens to heat up "s'mores" assembled by the students during their visit.



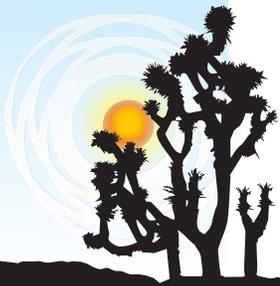
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## AQ Envoys from Far and Near Descend on Las Vegas for CDAWG 2016

More than 70 representatives from California's regulatory air agencies and the regulated community convened in Las Vegas, Nevada on November 16 & 17 for the 2016 California Desert Air Working Group conference. The event featured CARB Executive Officer Richard Corey as the returning Keynote Speaker, alongside Matt Lakin, Planning Chief/Air Division, USEPA Region IX; Dennis Peters, External Affairs Manager/State Regulatory Affairs, California ISO; Desirea Haggard, Environmental Manager for CalPortland Cement and a host of other invited speakers. Presentation topics included "Exceptional Event Analysis for Dust Storms," "Lessons from Aliso Canyon," "Air Quality Due to Wildfires in California," and a panel discussion on "Expansion of California's Grid."

A pre-conference Interagency Exceptional Event Workshop was held on November 15th, which brought together representatives from a number of California air districts, Arizona DEQ, Washoe County/Reno, Clark County/Nevada and USEPA to discuss the Federal Exceptional Event Rule and to review model rules. CDAWG 2016 was hailed as a huge success by all in attendance; conference presentations are available on the MDAQMD's website at [www.mdaqmd.ca.gov](http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov).

*Tom Gross, Southern California Edison Manager/Corporate Environmental Policy (left) and Dennis Peters, External Affairs Manager/State Regulatory Affairs, California ISO, provide a joint presentation on the expansion of California's grid.*



*Laki Tisopoulos, South Coast AQMD Deputy Executive Officer, Office of Engineering & Permitting (above), shares tales and "lessons from Aliso Canyon."*



*Brad Busby, Meteorologist, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (above), provides a regulatory update on his agency.*