

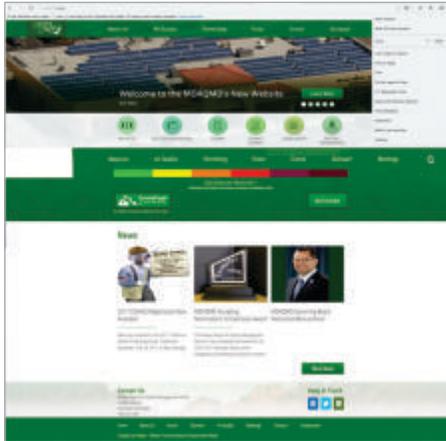
DESERT AIR MONITOR



A PUBLICATION OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MDAQMD Launches New Revamped Website

In an effort to enhance transparency and better serve regulated businesses and residents, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has launched a new, easy-to-navigate website. The fresh, user-friendly design makes navigating the MDAQMD's website much easier than the prior site, launched in 2009. The primary buttons and tabs - created based on analytics that have identified the most frequently used searches - arrange frequently searched topics, such as permit applications, fee payment, complaints and current health and smoke advisory information - in a more efficient manner. The new site is also responsive to mobile devices. A brand new feature available via the home page is an air quality forecast map which displays forecasts for both today and tomorrow for the seven locations where the MDAQMD maintains air monitoring sites. The website also displays current air quality information based on the Air Quality Index, which gauges how clean or polluted air is, and is used in determining health effects and protective measures.



Other new features include integrated social media buttons for the MDAQMD's new Facebook page and for its EnviroFlash page, which provides daily air quality forecasts via Twitter. The redesigned website also contains information regarding upcoming Board meetings, public notices, rules and regulations, and electric vehicle charging stations nationwide, including the MDAQMD's public charging site. "Our goal is to provide our businesses and residents with an easier way to interact with the District, while increasing accessibility to our many programs and services," commented MDAQMD Executive Director Brad Poiriez.



Visit the MDAQMD's new website today at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov

MDAQMD Welcomes Supervisor V. Manuel Perez to Governing Board



V. Manuel Perez

On June 12, 2017, Riverside County Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez was sworn in as the MDAQMD Governing Board's representative to the Palo Verde Valley/Blythe region. Perez replaces the late John J. Benoit on the District's 13 member governing body, and most recently, Riverside County Fifth District Supervisor Marion Ashley who temporarily replaced Benoit on the MDAQMD Board in January 2017 shortly after his passing.

Perez was appointed to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. on May 9, 2017,

replacing Benoit in representing the County's Fourth District. The Fourth Supervisorial District covers the eastern two-thirds of Riverside County, stretching from Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs, south to the Salton Sea and east to Blythe and the Colorado River. Born and raised in the Coachella Valley, the son of

immigrant farmworkers, Perez attended local public schools and graduated from the University of California, Riverside. He taught at a local middle school, and went on to earn a Master of Education degree in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University. He worked as a youth advocate and director of community health and advocacy for Santa Rosa Del Valle-Borrego Health, at Centro Medico Coachella and Centro Medico Oasis. From 2004 to 2008, he served on the Coachella Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees, where he led the passage of a \$250 million bond to construct and renovate schools in the eastern Coachella Valley.

In 2008, Perez was elected to the California State Assembly, representing eastern Riverside County and Imperial County. After serving three terms in the State Assembly, Perez continued his public service with election to the Coachella City Council. Prior to his appointment to county supervisor, he was chief government and public affairs officer for Borrego Health, a federally qualified health center serving the under-served in San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Perez resides in Coachella with Gladis, his wife of 19 years. They have two sons, Ruben and Alejandro, who attend UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara, respectively.

"Supervisor Perez's knowledge of regional issues and historical commitment to common-sense air quality solutions, renewable energy, and robust economic development make him a dynamic and welcome addition to the MDAQMD Governing Board," commented MDAQMD Executive Director Brad Poiriez, who worked with Perez during his tenure at Imperial County APCD, including on Salton Sea air quality issues.



The Desert Air Monitor is a publication of the Mojave Desert AQMD's **COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EDUCATION OFFICE**
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"Waste Space"

A Column by A&WMA's Mojave Desert Chapter



**AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT
 ASSOCIATION**

Mojave Desert Chapter

This is the first of a series of occasional columns spotlighting the activities of the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association. The Air & Waste Management Association is a non-profit, nonpartisan professional organization that enhances knowledge and expertise by providing a neutral forum for information exchange, professional development, networking opportunities, public education, and outreach to more than 5,000 environmental professionals in 65 countries. Headquartered at the MDAQMD, A&WMA's Mojave Desert Chapter is one of seven Professional Chapters that comprise the West Coast Section. The Chapter's membership consists of a diverse group of engineers, specialists, educators, environmental managers, policymakers and consultants who work for government agencies, businesses, universities and consulting firms which are located and/or serve the High Desert. The MDAQMD, CalPortland Cement, Mitsubishi Cement, UC Riverside, Tenaska, Pechanga, Sempra Utilities, Rio Tinto and CALCIMA are just a few of the organizations represented within the Mojave Desert Chapter's membership.

About the Mojave Chapter's Technical Program Sponsorship

A&WMA's Mojave Desert Chapter regularly hosts technical program meetings for the dual purpose of educating its membership and fundraising for Chapter projects, including student scholarships. Past technical program meetings topics have included GHG Cap & Trade, algae derived fuels, power plants and mobile source regulation. Technical program meetings have also taken the form of facility tours followed by networking luncheons held at Rio Tinto Minerals in Boron, Mitsubishi Cement, Mag Bay Yachts and Abengoa Solar in Hinkley. In an effort to increase attendance and the frequency of technical lunch programs, the chapter is trialing a new Technical Program Sponsorship program.

Under the Sponsorship Program, host sites or member agencies are invited to voluntarily sponsor the cost of lunch during a Mojave Desert Chapter technical program meeting. Sponsorship benefits include an opportunity for the sponsor to address the Chapter and provide information on his/her organization's services, mission and/or products. Likewise, the Chapter benefits, as the membership is able to further environmental awareness by awarding environmental scholarships to High Desert students.

While not an official 301c non-profit, the Mojave Desert Chapter plans to utilize any funds generated each year through the Technical Program Sponsorship program to fund the Chapter's Walter Nunes Scholarship program. The Scholarship Program provides funding to students for environmental projects and education. The Chapter will fund at least one scholarship per year moving forward and may award more, depending on fund availability.

Currently, the Chapter is doing outreach to the environmental waste community in an effort to increase membership and broaden its scope of environmental professionals. For more information on joining the Mojave Desert Chapter or becoming a Technical Program Sponsor, please contact Chapter Chair Roseana N. Brasington at (760) 245-1661, ext. 5706.

Permit Activity	
February – July 2017	
Active Permits	3838
Permitted Facilities	1141
Number of Applications	115

Compliance Activity	
February – July 2017	
Complaints	69
Notices of Violation	63
Certificates of Occupancy	203





District Expands Internship Program

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District's internship program has enjoyed great success for more than 15 years. This year, a Summer Intern Program was launched and expanded to include community college students and students enrolled in neighboring higher-learning institutions. As a result, seven intern applications were received and two interns were subsequently selected to participate in the program: Adam Orta for the Community Relations & Education (CRE) opening, and Samuel Hernandez for the Operations opening.

In the past, to be considered for the Operations Internship, students were required to be enrolled in a local University, and actively working on a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Environmental Science, Chemistry, Physics, Health Science, Industrial Hygiene, or Mathematics. This year, in an effort to provide more students with work experience in the environmental field, the MDAQMD invited community college students to participate in the program. The District's Permit Engineers, Air Quality Specialists, and Community Relations & Education representatives worked closely with interns to introduce them to real-life career experiences in Air Monitoring, Engineering, Local Government Regulation, Community Outreach and Public Relations.

CRE Intern Adam Orta recently graduated from California State University, Channel Islands with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Communication and a Minor in Environmental Science & Resource Management. Adam had the opportunity to work under Violette Roberts, the District's Community Relations & Education Manager during his time at the MDAQMD. Adam was involved in launching the District's new website, and also worked on this issue of the District newsletter. When asked about his experiences at the District Adam replied, "I love it, I learned a lot. I did not think there was so much to Air Quality before coming here. It is a very exciting and interesting field, and I loved learning and working with the other departments here at the MDAQMD."



Adam Orta



Samuel Hernandez

Operations staffers Roseana N. Brasington, and Catherine Tran went above and beyond in exposing Operations Intern Samuel Hernandez to constructive projects within various departments. Sam worked on updating Compliance and Permitting System Database source contact information, and completed Air Academy 190, an online CARB training module. Sam recently graduated from Victor Valley College with an Associate's degree in Construction Technology and is working on transferring to California State University, San Bernardino to further his education in Environmental Studies. He shared that in his free time he has experimented with sterile environments and weather manipulation in his greenhouse, and says that he is no stranger to science. According to Sam, "Having the opportunity to learn about all of these departments is really exciting. The projects they expose me to are very insightful. Being the first intern from a community college makes me want to leave an impression."

The MDAQMD congratulates and thanks our Summer Interns for their exceptional service to the agency! Special thanks to Adam Orta for writing many of the articles in this issue as part of his internship and to Sam Hernandez for his work on this article.

MDAQMD HOSTS AIR QUALITY TEACHER WORKSHOP

On March 16, the Mojave Desert AQMD hosted 20 teachers at their Victorville offices for the "Air Quality and YOU" teacher workshop. Grade 3-12 educators learned how to breathe new life into their lesson plans using the science of air quality.

Orlando Salinas, MDAQMD Air Quality Instrument Technician, presented to the group of educators on the properties of air; air pollutants and their sources; how air pollution is monitored, forecasted, and reported; the health effects of air pollution, and how everyone can be part of the "pollution solution." Teachers were able to view real-time air-quality measurements during the behind the scenes tour of the Victorville monitoring station, in addition to going home with fun, hands-on activities, presentation materials and videos that were ready for use in their classrooms.



Above: Orlando Salinas, foreground, reviews real-time air quality measurements with attendees during MDAQMD's teacher workshop on March 16.

ONE WITH THE SUN



Eclipse photo courtesy T. Samorajski



Armed with homemade solar shadow boxes and paper with pinpoint holes, MDAQMD staffers were able to view this once-in-a-lifetime occurrence when everyone in the contiguous United States, North America, and parts of South America, Africa and Europe was able to see at least a partial view of the solar eclipse on August 21st.

Staffers began viewing the eclipse a little after 10am until it completed its rotation past the sun. Although the High Desert was not in the "totality" path, staffers were able to view the almost 70% totality and be a part of history. The last total solar eclipse viewed from the contiguous United States was on February 26, 1979. The U.S. will have to wait until October 14, 2023 for the next total solar eclipse which will be visible from Northern California to Florida.





2017 MDAQMD Solar Cook-Off a Sizzlin' Success!

More than 80 students and their advisors gathered on Saturday, May 13th at the Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley to face off in the 5th annual "Solar Cook-Off" Competition. Armed with materials such as cardboard, plexiglass, aluminum foil and recycled materials, the fourth- through twelfth-graders from across the High Desert participated in the event. The competition was hosted by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC), and organizers say it's the only one of its kind in Southern California. Teams of two-to-five students from schools throughout the High Desert designed and built unique solar cookers and developed original recipes for the cooker and recipe competitions. Each team constructed their own solar ovens which had no size requirement but could weigh no more than 15 pounds.

With gusting winds whipping throughout the High Desert the day before, teams began descending upon the Solar Cook-Off early Saturday morning. Despite concerns, the weather remained calm, and cooking time began promptly at 9:30, and ended at 2:30. Most of the teams successfully completed the competition, with only a few of the teams having partial dishes disqualified from their menu for failing to reach acceptable cooking temperature, as required by San Bernardino County Health & Safety regulations.

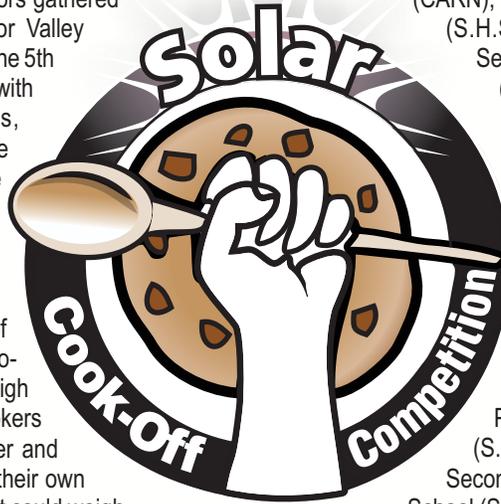
During the day-long cooking process, teams were judged on the creativity and design of their solar cookers by a panel of three judges. Tony Penna, MEEC Executive Board member and General Manager, Liberty Utilities, Omar Martinez, Branch Manager, Alaska USA, and Tony Malone of Lucerne Valley, rounded out the judges. The recipe judges were Johnny Sabogal, Branch Manager II, Alaska USA, James Martin, CEMEX, and Ivan Rosillo, CEMEX. Dave Rib, MEEC Executive Board member and Environmental Manager, Mitsubishi Cement Corporation, and Tony Penna presented awards and certificates to each of the winning teams.

Winning recipes included Asian Meatballs with Rice, Shrimp Pineapple Kabobs, New York Cheesecake, Spinach Enchiladas, Minestrone Soup, Brownies, Apple Crumble, and Chicken Enchiladas to name just a few.

"The Solar Oven Competition sponsored by MEEC is one of the best programs for students in the High Desert and surrounding communities to practice their engineering skills, in a lively and fun environment. Students have the opportunity to work collaboratively toward a mutual goal, with time constraints, regulations, and by following developed plans (in this case their recipes.) What better way to prepare them for real life experiences and career readiness," stated team advisors Valerie Kimmel and Julie Manker, Desert Knolls Elementary School, Apple Valley.

First place teams in three age groups took home \$250 and \$200 cash prizes.

The first-place winners for Design were: Desert Knolls Elementary School (Solar Eagles-Omega), Apple Valley, grades (4-6); Daisy Gibson School



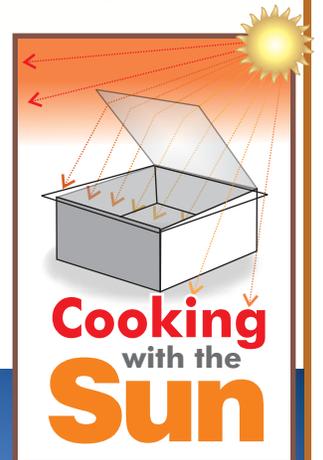
(CARN), Palmdale, grades (7-9); and Silverado High School, (S.H.S. Green Rangers), Victorville, grades (10-12). Second place winners were Desert Knolls Elementary (Solar Eagles-Alpha), Apple Valley, grades (4-6); and Twentynine Palms Junior High School (Sizzlin Siracha) Twentynine Palms, grades (7-9). Third place winners included; Daisy Gibson Elementary (Team Gryffindor), Palmdale, grades (4-6); and Twentynine Palms Junior High School (The Nerd Squad), Twentynine Palms, grades (7-9).

Winning first-place in the Recipe category, Daisy Gibson School (Team Gryffindor), Palmdale, grades (4-6); Daisy Gibson School (CARN), Palmdale, grades (7-9); and Silverado High School (S.H.S. Green Rangers), Victorville, grades (10-12).

Second place winners were Desert Knolls Elementary School (Solar Eagles -Omega), Apple Valley, grades (4-6); and Twentynine Palms Junior High School (The Puppet Noodles), Twentynine Palms, grades (7-9). Third place winners were George Visual & Performing Arts (The Apollo Ravens), Adelanto, grades (4-6); and Twentynine Palms Junior High School (Sizzlin Siracha), Twentynine Palms, grades (7-9).

The annual competition is aimed at helping students sharpen their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills while introducing them to zero-emission technologies, such as solar cooking.

Co-Sponsored By:



2017 Solar Cook-Off Participants



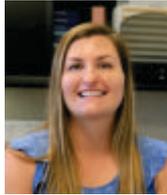
SHOOTING THE BREEZE

MDAQMD Staffers Appointed to New Positions



C. Collins

The MDAQMD Governing Board has approved the creation of four new staff classifications. "Engineering Supervisor"; "Compliance Supervisor"; "Records Management Specialist"; and "Air Monitoring Supervisor."

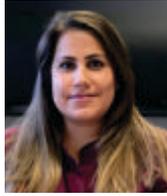


S. Haggard

As a result, Sheri Haggard, Sarah Strout, Jennifer Rhinehart, and Chris Collins have recently been appointed to the positions, respectively. Haggard is now responsible for supervision of the Engineering Department, while Strout oversees the Compliance department. Collins now supervises Air Monitoring, and Rhinehart works in Records Management



J. Rhinehart



S. Strout

MDAQMD Welcomes New Air Quality Specialist on Board

The MDAQMD is proud to welcome new Air Quality Specialist Olivia Nessim to the Compliance Department. Olivia was born in Egypt, and grew up in Downey, CA until relocating to the Inland Empire in 2005. While working on her high school diploma, Olivia simultaneously earned her A.A.S. Later, Olivia interned at the Mojave Desert AQMD in spring of 2012. After graduating from CSU San Bernardino in 2012 with a B.S. in Environmental Health Science, Olivia worked for San Bernardino County Vector Control for 3 1/2 years gaining experience with West Nile prevention and mosquito abatement. Olivia says she's "excited to learn more about air quality and being a part of its improvement in our jurisdiction." In her spare time, Olivia enjoys coaching basketball for the girls at her church, and going on occasional skydives.



O. Nessim

Longtime AQ Tech Retires

After working for the MDAQMD since 1998, Air Quality Instrument Technician Aleksey Astakhov bid his District colleagues' farewell during a lunchtime bar-b-que held in his honor on March 30, 2017. During the event, Executive Director Brad Poiriez (left) presented Aleksey with a plaque, certificate and an "Authority to Retire" in recognition of his 18-plus years of service to the MDAQMD.

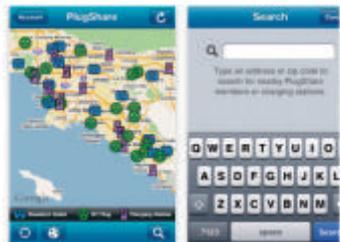


EV Chargers: There's an App for That!



Free

One of the challenges of driving a plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle (EV) is locating a place to charge when you are out and about. While there are a variety of companies who have their own networks of chargers and apps to go with them (Aerovirement, Blink, Charge Point and EV Go), there are only a few applications that cover the whole spectrum of charging options available. Plug Share, Open Charge Map, Green Charge and Recargo provide more comprehensive listings of charging options and all are available for download to your mobile device. Most all of them have user driven interfaces that give helpful information regarding each charger listed. Think Yelp for charging stations. On apps like PlugShare, users are able to check every detail of nearly every public and private charging stations in the U.S. and around the world. Users are able to see details like charging outputs, pictures, other vehicles charging in real time, and more.



Industry Permittee Spotlight: Nutro Products, Inc.

Nutro has been producing high quality pet foods in the High Desert area since 2006. Since their acquisition by Mars Inc. in 2007, the Nutro facility in Victorville has made tremendous strides toward emission reduction. Over the years, Nutro has designed and implemented three specialized Regenerative Thermal Oxidizers (RTOs) at their Victorville facility to abate odors that are associated with the food manufacturing process. Mars Inc. is also committed to eliminating their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions from all their factories, including the Nutro facility in Victorville, by the year 2040 through their investment in clean renewable energy initiatives. Currently, the facility in Victorville holds over 90 permits with the MDAQMD.



MDAQMD Air Quality Specialists inspect the facility with Nutro's Facilities & Safety Manager



MDAQMD School Flag Program Debuts

The School Flag Program alerts schools to the local air quality forecast and helps them to take actions to protect students' health, especially those with asthma. Each day the school raises a flag that corresponds to how clean or polluted the air is. During wildfires, when the local air agency issues smoke advisories, the corresponding flag can alert students and the community about how safe the air is to breathe. The color of the flag matches the Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index (AQI): green, yellow, orange, red, and purple.



AQ School Flag Program Coordinator Terri Eddy and her students raise the green AQ flag each morning at the start of school

transporting of air pollution from the South Coast Basin. Maple Elementary is also located between the San Bernardino Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains, and can be directly impacted by wildfire smoke. Smog season officially began on May 1st and runs through the end of October.

Any school located within the MDAQMD's boundaries (which consist of the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County) may apply for the School Flag

Program. The MDAQMD will provide qualifying school sites with a set of five School Flags, Coordinators Handbook, training, and resources to AIRNow's School Flag Program which provides student activities and educates staff, students, parents, and the surrounding community about the program.

Applications to participate in the MDAQMD School Flag Program are available year around at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/outreach/school-flag-program. Applications must be signed by the school's Principal and include a one page narrative on why the school should be selected for participation in the MDAQMD's School Flag Program.

On unhealthy days, schools can use this information to adjust physical activities to help reduce exposure to air pollution, while still keeping students active. During wildfires, members of the school and the surrounding community can adjust their activities accordingly to reduce their exposure to air pollution. The purpose of the school flag program is to help children continue to exercise while protecting their health when the air quality is unhealthy or when a smoke advisory is in effect.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has launched its own local School Flag Program, and has selected Maple Elementary in Hesperia to pilot the program. The school was selected due to its proximity to the Cajon Pass, a major corridor for

SUMMER ROAD TRIP: AIR QUALITY TIPS

1. It's smog season, check your local Air Quality Index (AQI)!
2. Don't top off your tank or let your car idle.
3. Drive more efficiently by avoiding "jackrabbit" starts, and "lead-foot" stops.
4. Carpool or use public transportation whenever possible!
5. Avoid sitting in traffic and driving during rush hour.

Additional Tips

- ✓ Get regular tune-ups.
- ✓ Keep air filter clean, replace if needed.
- ✓ Check if your gas cap is sealed tight.
- ✓ Change your oil regularly and keep your tires inflated at recommended level.



2017 CLEAN AIR POSTER WINNERS RECOGNIZED

Wildfire Season is Near...Breathe Easier This Year" was the theme of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District's 21st Annual Clean Air Month Poster Contest. The competition drew more than 200 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's Victorville headquarters on May 23rd, 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 will be featured in the MDAQMD's 2018 calendar, which will be published this fall and made available to the public.

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 received.

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

Pictured left to right, bottom row, are: Gloria Garcia, Mayor, City of Victorville and Board of Directors Chair, Victor Valley Transit Authority; Natalie Soto, 1st Place, grades 3-5, Rancho Verde Elementary, Apple Valley; Anthony Ramos, Bike Winner, Mariana Academy, Apple Valley; Alfredo Nuno, 3rd Place, grades K-2, George Visual Arts, Adelanto; Shaelyn Lepper, 2nd Place, grades K-2, Mountain View Montessori, Victorville; Diego Soto, 1st Place, grades K-2, Rancho Verde Elementary, Apple Valley.



Pictured left to right, top row, are: Rebecca Garcia, 3rd Place, grades 9-12, Riverside Preparatory High School, Oro Grande; Chris Shaub, 2nd Place, grades 3-5, Desert Knolls Elementary, Apple Valley; Amya de Gafferelly, 1st Place, grades 9-12, ACE High School, Helendale; Roseana Navarro-Brasington, Mojave Desert AQMD and Chair, Mojave Desert Chapter, Air & Waste Management; Gianna Henry, 2nd Place, grades 6-8, Melva Davis Academy, Victorville; Edith Armstrong, 3rd Place, grades 9-12, La Contenta Middle School, Yucca Valley; Sebastian Lechuga, 2nd Place, grades 9-12, Victor Valley High School, Victorville; Alexandra Posadas, 1st Place, grades 6-8, Melva Davis Academy, Victorville.



COMPLIANCE CORNER

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

By Michelle Zumwalt, Air Quality Specialist
& Sarah Strout, Compliance Supervisor

During an inspection, District inspectors could uncover violations that may result in enforcement actions of varying levels. A violation results from a failure to comply with any permit, rule, regulation, order, emission limitation, or other emission reduction measures. (§38580) All enforcement actions are documented and maintained with the facility's history.

Warnings

Warnings are the result of minor violations that do not result in increased emissions. Examples of situations that may merit a warning are; first time offenses, administrative violations such as record keeping, or permit conditions not matching industrial processes. No monetary penalties are assigned for warnings. Deficiencies are, however, expected to be resolved prior to the next inspection cycle, and a second warning will not be given.

Notice to Comply (NTC) Program

District Rule 112 – Notice to Comply Program - outlines the District's NTC program. A NTC can be issued in response to an unheeded warning, or violation that results in zero to minimal emissions. In order to qualify for a NTC, the violation must not endanger health, the environment, nor contribute to violation of any State or National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

A monetary penalty is not assessed with a NTC, but the deficiency must be corrected and proof of those corrections must be provided to the District within the time frame specified during the issuance of the NTC. Upon approval, an extension may be granted. If actions to correct deficiencies are not completed and substantiating evidence is not submitted to the District within the specified time-frame, a NOV will be issued.

Notice of Violation (NOV)

All violations are subject to a NOV. A violation can be identified during the course of an inspection, in response to a complaint, following document review, or when a facility fails to submit information requested by the District.

Once the underlying cause of the alleged violation has been corrected, the violator may elect to have their case heard as part of the Mutual Settlement Meeting (MSM). The MSM is a voluntary process that allows the District to settle penalties or permitting discrepancies for both minor and major violations, without the time and expense of litigation. At the facilities request, a conference will be scheduled and the nature of the violation will be discussed. Facilities are encouraged to bring any evidence or documentation supporting their case as well as any information that demonstrates continued compliance. At the conclusion of the conference District staff will evaluate any new information and may offer a compliance plan or reassess the original penalty.

Violations that are not resolved through the MSM will be forwarded to the District's legal counsel, the California Attorney General or the District Attorney. Referral of a violation to legal counsel may result in civil or criminal prosecution.

No Fault Facility Audit

District staff are available to visit your facility and identify any unpermitted equipment or other potential air quality violations for your information. Please note that this service is only available to small businesses. (§42323) This facility audit will not result in any NTC's or NOV's, but may trigger a follow-up site inspection if significant issues are discovered. In such a case, the facility would be given time to take corrective action beforehand.

Any questions related to compliance actions should be directed to Sarah Strout, Compliance Supervisor at 760-245-1661 ext. 1803.

Tips for Maintaining Compliance:

- Read and understand your permit. If a condition is unclear, or does not fit your process, contact the District for assistance.
- If eligible, take advantage of the District's No Fault Facility Audit.
- If a violation is found, correct the issue in a timely manner. Make sure that deadlines are met to ensure that enforcement actions do not escalate.
- Always keep an open and honest line of communication with the District.

CARB Overpressure Study at High Desert Gasoline Dispensing Facilities Concludes

In 2015, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) launched a field study in an attempt to mitigate phenomena known as increased overpressure or "pressure while dispensing". During the study, CARB Vapor Recovery staff concentrated their efforts on exploring the causes of increased pressure within storage tanks of vacuum-assisted systems, and developing possible solutions. Throughout 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 of fuel evaporation, causing higher pressure within the storage tank. In response, the manufacturer of the vacuum assist system has redesigned 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 state-wide, including the two sites located within the District, to monitor parameters which are not captured by the in-station diagnostics. The installations in the HD were maintained by the State with data being collected on a weekly basis. Data was collected from December, when winter fuels were being used through May 2017. The six month period was necessary to ensure that data was collected under winter fuel and summer fuel conditions. Without stations willing to volunteer to participate in the study, it would have been impossible to conduct the study in attempts to find solutions to the PWD/overpressure problem. The State is currently analyzing the massive amount of data collected, but initial indications are that the EOR nozzle did help mitigate the problem. Final results will be available at a later date. Participating High Desert stations were: Chevron located at 15320 Bear Valley Road, Victorville & 7-11 located at 21718 Bear Valley Road, Apple Valley. A big "thank you" to Chevron and 7-11 for participating!

HD Residents Blow Through Nearly 100 Mowers, Trimmers, & Blowers

High Desert residents converged on the MDAQMD's 2017 Lawn & Garden Exchange on April 8 to trade in their gasoline-powered lawn equipment for 99 electric mowers, 51 blowers and 65 trimmers. 2017 marked the first time that lightweight lithium ion battery powered equipment was made available to High Desert residents during the annual exchange, and the second year that the MDAQMD distributed zero-emission electric blowers and trimmers.



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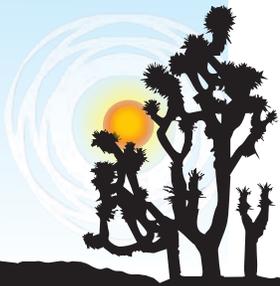
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EXTRA CDAWG Heads to Reno November 15 & 16

Mark your calendar – the 2017 California Desert Air Working Group Conference is touching down in Reno, Nevada on November 15th & 16th at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino. Fast becoming one of the state's most popular air quality conferences, CDAWG provides unparalleled training and development oppor-

tunities for environmental professionals on emerging air quality regulations and issues affecting California's desert regions and beyond.

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