

Air Mail



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Spring 2018 Volume 1, Issue 1

Serving the High Desert of San Bernardino County and Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County

What's Inside

Blythe CNG expansion

The City of Blythe and the Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency recently celebrated the expansion of a critical clean air project.

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Boosting social media

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram users in the Mojave Desert Air Basin are seeing increased activity from their local Air District as it ignites its focus on a digital presence.

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New District staff

See who's joined the MDAQMD team in the last several months.

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Permits & Compliance

As of April 23, 2018:

Active Permits: **3,877**

Permitted Facilities: **1,211**

January – March 2018

Applications received: **71**

Complaints: **23**

Violation notices: **56**

Certificates of Occupancy: **154**

Air District celebrates 25 years of service



The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District this year celebrates 25 years of service. Desert AQMD acquired the Palo Verde Valley/Blythe portion of Riverside County as part of its jurisdiction.

With no way of knowing just how significant of a role air quality would play on the political and cultural stage, local and county leaders in 1993 began building a business friendly legacy that endures to this day.

In July 1993, pursuant to legislative action introduced by Assemblyman Paul Woodruff, the San Bernardino County Air Pollution Control District became the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. In July 1994, the Mojave

As the second largest Air District in the state geographically, MDAQMD is committed to attaining and maintaining healthful air quality while supporting strong, sustainable economic growth in our communities. We do believe "Clean Air is

Be sure to read the **Summer 2018 Air Mail** featuring in-depth stories about **MDAQMD's Legacy** and the state of the Air in the **Mojave Desert.**

Everybody's Business" and with continued community collaboration we plan to protect your Desert air for generations to come.

Clean air is everybody's business.

New staff members join Air District team

The MDAQMD staff has changed quite a bit in the last several months with the addition of six new members.

Jorge Camacho came aboard as the District's new Grant Specialist in April. Jorge plans, analyzes, organizes and coordinates all aspects of MDAQMD's grant programs that support mobile source emissions reduction and related projects.



Camacho

Joining the District as Air Quality Specialists are Jeremy Craig and Cesar Navas in the compliance section and Kevin Hendrawan in planning and rulemaking. These positions are vital to the performance of MDAQMD's Air Quality operations.



Craig

The District welcomed Ryan Orr as the Community Relations and Education Supervisor in February, followed by Martial Haprov as CRE Specialist in April. The CRE office manages and implements public education and outreach campaigns, internal and external communications and MDAQMD's public image and media relationships.



Hendrawan



Orr



Navas



Haprov

Exceptional EXCHANGE



The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District's 10th Annual Lawn and Garden Equipment Exchange this spring garnered the highest number of participants in the events history resulting in an emission-reducing 219 pieces of gas guzzling lawn equipment swapped out for electronic alternatives. At up to 76 percent off, High Desert residents received brand new electric mowers, blowers and trimmers by forfeiting their outdated gas equipment without ever having to leave the comfort of their vehicles. In doing so, participants contributed to creating a cleaner desert air environment.

MDAQMD ramps up social media presence

There are now more ways to connect with your local Air Quality district.

In the first few months of 2018, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District reignited its social media campaign with an enhanced focus on its Facebook page and Twitter account and by launching an official MDAQMD Instagram account.

If the numbers are any indication, it's clear that people who live and work within the District's vast

boundaries appreciate the increased digital presence.

Since late February, the District's Facebook page has seen a near-300-percent increase in likes and followers. District posting activity there has included an expansive photo gallery of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Blythe CNG station expansion; a video of the April 14 Lawn & Garden Equipment Exchange event; and calls for submissions for the District's annual Clean Air Month Poster Contest.

The MDAQMD Instagram account

received dozens of new followers within days of launching in April.

In the coming weeks, the focus on the District's Twitter account is marked for continued increase in posting frequency while maintaining its daily Air Quality Forecast, a feature courtesy of collaboration with EnviroFlash.

See and stay up-to-date with MDAQMD's social media accounts at [Facebook.com/MDAQMD](https://www.facebook.com/MDAQMD) and [@MDAQMD](https://twitter.com/MDAQMD) on Twitter and Instagram.

CLEAN AIR PROJECT



Blythe City Councilman and MDAQMD Board Member Joseph 'Joey' DeConinck, right, speaks at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the expanded Compressed Natural Gas station in Blythe. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District awarded more than \$360,000 in grant funds to the Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency for the critical clean air project.

CNG station expands

A major expansion to a key station link on the I-10 corridor's alternative fuel transportation network was recently completed thanks in large part to grant funds from the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD).

More than \$360,000 in grant funds awarded to the Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency (PVVTA) was used to expand a critical Compressed Natural Gas station in Blythe. The clean air project funded by the MDAQMD was made possible through collaboration and cooperation with Blythe City leaders, PVVTA and Greenfix America, the company that constructed the project.

"We all know why we're here — at the end of the day, we have to do what we can to decrease greenhouse gas emissions to decrease air pollution as well," said Riverside County 4th District Supervisor Manuel Perez, who also sits on the MDAQMD Board.

Blythe City Councilman and MDAQMD Board Member Joey DeConinck led a press conference and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the project's completion that included fellow Blythe City Councilmembers, Supervisor Perez and representatives from the offices of Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, Congressman Dr. Raul

Ruiz and Senator Jeff Stone.

"This is the perfect example of the kind of project that MDAQMD is looking to support in communities throughout our district," said Brad Poiriez, Executive Director of MDAQMD. "With the help of so many stakeholders in and around Blythe, a significant expansion in a clean fuel source along a major transportation corridor will help prevent further emissions in the future."

For more information on clean air projects and MDAQMD's grant program visit www.mdaqmd.ca.gov and follow us on social media @MDAQMD.



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Air Mail is a quarterly newsletter published by the Community Relations & Education Office of the MDAQMD.

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LEGISLATION UPDATE

Assembly bill aims to improve air at community level

New state legislation is putting an emphasis on community outreach and engagement when it comes to emission reducing efforts, and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District wants to hear from you.

Assembly Bill 617, adopted by the state legislature in 2017, will develop better community data, increase community participation, and support clean air projects in disadvantaged communities. The MDAQMD has already held one community meeting and will be planning more for the future. There is also a survey available online that you can submit to the agency indicating your clean air priorities. Go to www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/outreach and click on the "Community Air Protection Program."

As a result of Assembly Bill 617, the California Air Resources Board created the **Community Air Protection Program** where you can:

- **Learn more about AB 617**
 - View presentations
 - Read Q&As
- **View upcoming events**
 - And more

Just visit:

[ww2.arb.gov](http://ww2.arb.gov/communityair)
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