

Air Mail



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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

What's Inside PurpleAir Sensors

The wave of the future — and the path to community-level air pollution monitoring — is here in the form of a small, inconspicuous device.

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'Special' permit

Lucerne Valley mining operation was among first to receive permits under then-new, independent agency in 1993.

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Historic policy

Early MDAQMD leadership devised way to build new local facilities and hatched ground-breaking policy in the process.

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2018 a busy year for MDAQMD

As the District celebrates 25 years of service to the Mojave Desert Air Basin, staff is keeping momentum going with new projects and activities.

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Permits & Compliance

As of June 25, 2018:

Active Permits: **3,930**

Permitted Facilities: **1,231**

April — June 2018

Applications received: **50**

Complaints: **15**

Violation notices: **35**

Certificates of Occupancy: **142**

Marking a milestone



Representatives of local elected officials presented the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District Governing Board at its June 25 regular meeting proclamations in recognition of the District's 25 years of service. Shown above, left to right: Dakota Higgins, for U.S. Congressman Paul Cook; Robert Lovingood, MDAQMD Governing Board Member and representing the 1st District of San Bernardino County; Carmen Hernandez, MDAQMD Board Member; Chris Nunez, for California State Assemblyman Jay Obernolte; Paul Russ, MDAQMD Board Member; Brad Poiriez, MDAQMD Executive Director/APCO; Jim Cox, MDAQMD Board Chair; John Cole, MDAQMD Board Member; Barbara Riordan, MDAQMD Board Member; Robert Leone, MDAQMD Board Member; Ed Camargo, MDAQMD Board Member; and Rebecca Tennison, for California State Sen. Scott Wilk.

It all began on July 1, 1993...

As far as institutions go, 25 years is a rather young legacy, but the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District used partnerships, policy and an ever-growing group of community supporters and businesses to build the legacy that it continues today.

In 1992, legislation proposed by Assemblyman Paul Woodruff was passed to allow for the creation of the independent MDAQMD. Officially chartered on July 1, 1993, the district annexed the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County — including the incorporated city of Blythe — in 1994.

MDAQMD was headquartered in an office building on Civic Drive in Victorville before building and moving into its current headquarters on Park Avenue less than 100 yards away in 2000 (photo on Page 4).

For years prior to the District's formation, the San Bernardino County Air Pollution Control District operated in what is close to the MDAQMD's current boundaries. Most of the area below the Cajon Pass had already been incorporated into the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The creation of the District was a way to allow local control over what was a very different topography from the county's seat — San Bernardino.

In fact, the MDAQMD lies in an entirely different air basin — the aptly named Mojave Desert Air Basin.

“People familiar with San Bernardino County, and especially the High Desert

Milestone continued on Page 2

Clean air is everybody's business.

District keeping busy in 25th year

The last quarter century has been anything but quiet for the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District – and 2018 is certainly no different.

In April, MDAQMD began a sequence of joining the active chambers of commerce within its district boundaries. These 14 chambers are thriving as hubs of business owners, public officials and agency representatives and offer an immediate platform to educate members of the chamber on the vital need for good air quality.

Subsequently, the District has begun investigating the process of establishing, through a few of the chambers' large networks of contacts, an air quality alert system for times of significant air quality changes that could impact residents.

The District's annual Clean Air Month Poster Contest in May saw a record-number of entries, indicating a positive response to the increase in community outreach.

On June 25, at the MDAQMD Governing Board's regular meeting, the District observed the official celebration of 25 years of service to the region.

As 2018 rolls on, there will be more to come as MDAQMD marks its Silver Anniversary.

Milestone

Continued from Page 1

know that when it comes to policy and governance in specific realms, we cannot efficiently be treated the same as the area of the county below the Cajon Pass," said Ryan Orr, Spokesman for MDAQMD. "As the largest county by area in the nation, leaders saw the

Some of MDAQMD's first permits were A 'SPECIALTY'

Though the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District was issuing permits as a San Bernardino County entity before breaking off as an independent agency, there seems to still be something a little special about the first permits it issued in the summer of 1993.

"Special" is an appropriate word: Among the first entities to receive permits under MDAQMD authority was Specialty Minerals Inc. in Lucerne Valley.

Long a community partner and local employer, the company in 1993 was constructing and installing several pieces of new equipment to its Raymond Mill No. 3 system. The equipment is still in operation at the Lucerne Valley plant.

"People often see the main objective of the Air District as permitting new construction, however we are also inspecting and permitting equipment that's being utilized at long-standing businesses throughout the Mojave Desert Air Basin," said Brad Poiriez, Executive Director of MDAQMD.

"This includes Raymond Mill No. 3 at Specialty Minerals, among the first pieces of equipment permitted by the District after its formation as an independent agency."

need for an independent air district in the High Desert, and it has resulted in great partnerships creating sustainable, economic growth in the area."

At its regular meeting on June 25, the current Governing Board of the MDAQMD celebrated the District's Silver Anniversary with a recognition ceremony. Representatives from local elected leaders were on hand to present proclamations in honor of the occasion.

"It occurred to me, that as we've changed board members, changed administration, changed staff, we've always kept a certain goal in mind, and there has not been a deviation from it," said Barbara Riordan, the District's longest-serving board member, at the June 25 ceremony. "That is to protect the individuals who work and live in our district for cleaner air, but at the same time we've also kept in mind the economic wellbeing of this area."

A sense for the future

*PurpleAir Sensors
pave way to
community-level
air monitoring*

It's a device that can fit in the palm of your hand yet can measure community-level air quality data in a big way.

And in 2018, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District is working to arm residents and property owners in its vast 20,000 square miles with these PurpleAir Sensors at no charge.

Users simply need to provide a semi-permanent mounting location, a nearby power outlet and reliable WiFi.

PurpleAir sensors use a fan to draw air past a laser, causing reflections from any particles in the air. These reflections are used to count particles in six sizes between 0.3 and 10 micrometers in diameter.

Using 1-second particle counts, estimated total mass for PM1.0, PM2.5



and PM10 is averaged by the PurpleAir Internet of Things (IOT) control board.

Readings are then uploaded to the cloud every 80 seconds (or so) where they are stored for download and display on the PurpleAir map (viewable at www.MDAQMD.ca.gov).

While readings from these sensors

currently can't be used for official pollution statistics/data, they provide a general idea of the PM readings in the area near the community sensor.

For more information or to obtain a PurpleAir Sensor free-of-charge (restrictions apply), contact MDAQMD Deputy Director of Operations Alan De Salvio at 760-245-1661, ext. 6726.

HISTORY LESSON

Early District leaders' brainchild results in groundbreaking policy

MDAQMD has left its mark on the Air Quality industry in more ways than one. Soon after the District's formation in 1993, leadership came up with a creative way to allow new development of large-scale projects in the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB).

At the time, South Coast Air Quality Management District had credits based on projects within its boundaries taking steps to reduce their emissions. However, they could

not allow any new construction due to their poor air quality. In the MDAB, there were no existing large-scale projects that were able to reduce emission to create credits – credits that would allow the construction of new projects.

Thanks in large part to then-District Executive Director Charles L. Fryxell and District Counsel Fazle Rab Quadri, negotiations resulted in a new policy allowing MDAQMD, as the district

downwind of SCAQMD, to build new, much needed projects and offset those with the credits from SCAQMD.

“Thanks to the efforts of District leadership we were able to build clean, state-of-the-art facilities based on SCAQMD credits,” said Alan De Salvio, Deputy Director of Operations for MDAQMD.

One such project made possible by the precedent-setting policy is the High Desert Power Project.



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Governing Board

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TIME CAPSULE

Parking on Park



In this photo dated April 26, 1999, Chuck Fryxell, left, MDAQMD's first Air Pollution Control Officer, and Robert Crain, then-Chairman of the MDAQMD Governing Board dig shovels into dirt on the lot designated to become the District's headquarters. The District originally operated primarily out of office space on Civic Drive in Victorville but constructed a more suitable home less than 100 yards east on Park Avenue. The building officially opened in 2000.