

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Martial Haprov, *Community Relations and Education Specialist*
760.245.1661, ext. 3002 • mhaprov@mdaqmd.ca.gov



June 18, 2019

STUDENTS SHOW 'FLAIR FOR CLEAN AIR' IN ANNUAL CONTEST

Winners in Air District's poster contest receive monetary prizes, spot in 2020 calendar

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

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

Winners include: in the K-2nd category, Hannah Atnip, Galileo Academy, Victorville (first place), Melanie Bocanegra (second) and Evelyn Bedolla-Ramirez (third), both of Mariana Academy, Apple Valley; in the 3rd-5th category, Haylie Jaco, Kingston Elementary, Hesperia (first), Diego Soto, Rancho Verde Elementary, Apple Valley (second) and Hailey Matias, Vanguard Preparatory, Apple Valley (third); in the 6th-8th category, Jessiah Bautista (first), Theresa Gutierrez (second) and Jennise Vega (third), all of Hesperia Junior High, Hesperia; and in the 9th-12th category, Emma Dunlap (first), Theresa Diep (second) and Lourance Mallouhi (third), all of Apple Valley High in Apple Valley.

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

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

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

MDAQMD is the air pollution control authority and permitting agency for the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and the Palo Verde Valley in Riverside County. It's governed by a board of 13 members representing nine incorporated municipalities and two counties within its boundaries. Visit mdaqmd.ca.gov or follow @MDAQMD on social media.

– end –

MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BRAD POIRIEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392-2310 • 760.245.1661 • Fax 760.245.2022 • www.MDAQMD.ca.gov • @MDAQMD