

AirMail



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Winter 2020 Volume 3, Issue 1

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This year's poster contest, hosted annually to celebrate Clean Air Month, is themed to coincide with MDAQMD's new public outreach and awareness campaign. Learn more about the theme and this year's contest rules.

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PERMITS & COMPLIANCE

As of Feb. 10, 2020:

Active Permits: **4,216**

Permitted Facilities: **1,245**

October – December 2019

Applications received: **56**

Complaints: **35**

Violation notices: **26**

Certificates of Occupancy: **109**

GOING DIGITAL

Air Mail, the quarterly publication of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District will become a digital-only newsletter following this edition.

The shift highlights the District's continued diligent environmental stewardship.

↓↓↓ Sign up by visiting ↓↓↓

tinyurl.com/AIRMAILMD

Along with maintaining its increasing presence on social media, MDAQMD will deliver updates on its goings-on by email. Sign up for regular updates, including **Air Mail**, at tinyurl.com/AIRMAILMD.

THIS IS Our Desert Air

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District in February unveiled "Our Desert Air," a campaign to continue highlighting the need for vigilance in protecting air quality throughout the region.

To complement the campaign, the District has developed an educational website, OurDesertAir.com, that will serve as a tool for residents, educators, students, community leaders and stakeholders to access crucial air quality information.

A video on the new website and shared on the District's various social media platforms introduces the public to the new campaign and the core of MDAQMD's purpose and mission in the Mojave Desert. It's based on a simple message that's served as the District's official motto for numerous years: clean air is everybody's business.

"We want the people who live and work in our jurisdiction to know we're more than a regulatory agency," said Brad Poiriez,



Screen captures show a glimpse of what's included in a new promotional video MDAQMD released in early February to coincide with and promote the launch of its new outreach campaign, 'Our Desert Air.' Included in the captures, from top to bottom: the Mojave River following a 2019 rainstorm; MDAQMD Air Quality Specialist II Catherine Tran; and MDAQMD Finance Manager Laquita Cole.

Our Desert Air continued on Page 2

CDAWG returning to Pala

San Diego County community to host annual conference for first time since 2014



The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) is gearing up to present the 30th installment of its premier annual event, the California Desert Air Working Group conference, this year planned at the beautiful Pala Casino Spa and Resort.

Key note speakers include California Air Resources Board Executive Director Richard Corey and Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Deputy Director of Air and Radiation Matt Lakin.

Bruce Magnani of Houston, Magnani and Associates will be back this year to deliver his legislative update. The remainder of the agenda is currently being finalized but will be sure to include industry professionals from air, cement and related industries.

“This event brings folks from across a broad spectrum of industries, and there is something useful for all of them,” said Brad Poiriez, Executive Director of the MDAQMD. “It’s always a great thing to see regulatory industries and private companies come



Pala Casino Resort and Spa will host the 2020 California Desert Air Working Group conference in October.

together to achieve common goals.”

Last year’s conference saw more than 70 attendees, an array of vendors and a menagerie of great topics at the beautiful Renaissance Palm Springs. Presentations from last year’s conference can be found at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov under the

outreach tab.

The conference has been moved up a few weeks this year and will be held Oct. 21 and 22. Continue checking www.mdaqmd.ca.gov for when conference registration opens this year and be sure to register early for conference pricing. Vendor slots are available.

Our Desert Air

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MDAQMD Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer. “We’re a part of this community as much as anyone else, and we’re renewing our effort to

tell every ear that hears us who we are, what we do and why we do it.”

“Education and information form the most important currency to affect change needed to protect our environment for future generations,” said District Communications Supervisor Ryan Orr. “We are using all

communications channels available to ensure our residents have access to the information that illustrates just how important air quality is to our future.”

View the launch video and learn all about the Our Desert Air campaign at OurDesertAir.com and follow the District @MDAQMD on social media.

2020 Clean Air Month Poster Contest

Our Desert Air

www.OurDesertAir.com

In 2020, MDAQMD launches *Our Desert Air*, a public outreach initiative to make more people in our District aware of air quality benefits and issues than ever before.

But we need the help of students throughout our communities!

We want students to help us illustrate all there is to love and protect in the vast

expanse of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

Create an original hand-drawn poster that shows one or more features of the Mojave Desert that make it unique. Whether it's as detailed as a scene in the midst of Mojave National Preserve, or it's as simple as a Joshua tree, let's help shine a creative spotlight on the wonders of our region!

THE CATEGORIES

Grades K-2 • Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8 • Grades 9-12

THE PRIZES

1st place \$100

2nd place \$50

3rd place \$25

EACH ENTRY
is automatically entered to
WIN A NEW BIKE!

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submit your original drawing in person or by mail to:

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District • 14306 Park Ave. — Victorville, CA 92392
Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday • 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday (closed alternating Fridays)

Submission period opens: **March 2, 2020** • Entry deadline: **5 p.m. April 30, 2020**

THE RULES

1. Create an **ORIGINAL** poster that shows one or more features of the Mojave Desert.
2. Create your poster using an unlined 8 ½" x 11" horizontal white piece of paper.
3. Use crayons, colored pencils, pens, markers or watercolors only; no chalk.
4. Posters must be drawn freehand; no tracing or prefabricated drawings will be accepted.
5. Posters must include the artist's name, grade level, gender, mailing address and phone number (and their teacher's name and school if done as a school project) on the back.
6. One entry per student.
7. All entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, originality and relevance to the contest theme.
8. All entries become the property of the MDAQMD. Judges' decisions are final.
9. Contest winners will be featured in the official 2021 MDAQMD calendar and recognized during an awards ceremony in May 2020.
10. Eligible contestants must attend school in the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County or the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County only.

Submissions that don't meet all of these requirements are subject to disqualification.



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Brad Poiriez
Executive Director/
Air Pollution Control Officer

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County of San Bernardino, 3rd District

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City of Twentynine Palms

Jim Cox
City of Victorville

Merl Abel
Town of Yucca Valley

Barbara Cram Riordan
Public Member

Air Mail is a quarterly newsletter published by the Communications section of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

Printed on recycled paper

Up, up, upgraded



MDAQMD Air Monitoring staff made recent improvements to several of our air monitoring stations, largely focusing on safety. At the Lucerne Valley station, staff installed a new shelter for equipment, effectively preventing data loss due to unstable outdoor temperatures and enhancing safety measures in working with the equipment. Additionally, air monitoring towers in Trona, Hesperia, Phelan (shown) and Lucerne Valley are now telescoping, allowing an individual technician to safely lower the tower for maintenance without additional personnel on site. Victorville tower's similar change is in the works and will be completed soon.