

AirMail



mdaqmd.ca.gov [f.com/mdaqmd](https://www.facebook.com/mdaqmd) [@mdaqmd](https://www.instagram.com/mdaqmd) [@mdaqmd](https://www.twitter.com/mdaqmd)

Get this newsletter and other MDAQMD news emailed directly to you! Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/airmailmd> ←
Spring 2020 Volume 3, Issue 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

MDAQMD's lawn equipment exchange goes year-round

Residents of the Mojave Desert AQMD jurisdiction can now participate in the annual lawn and garden equipment exchange anytime throughout the year thanks to a new partnership with STIHL.

Page 2

Clean Air Month Poster Contest submission period extended

This year's poster contest, hosted annually to celebrate Clean Air Month, has been extended to accommodate the widespread school closures. Learn more about the theme and this year's contest rules.

Page 3

PERMITS & COMPLIANCE

As of May 18, 2020:

Active Permits: **4,255**

Permitted Facilities: **1,260**

January to March 2020

Applications received: **124**

Complaints: **33**

Violation notices: **92**

Certificates of Occupancy: **123**

CLEAN AIR COMMITMENT



Executive Director updates MDAQMD's response to COVID-19

While our services here at the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District have not been interrupted during this tragic pandemic, we have taken several steps over the past eight weeks to protect the health and safety of our staff and stakeholders. We've limited access to our lobby to appointments only, required our staff to telecommute and restricted discretionary inspections and travel. These practices have paid off and we're fortunate that our staff has remained healthy throughout this unprecedented time.

As the businesses and community members we serve evolve to continue to fight COVID-19 in new ways, so too will

we evolve our operations to accommodate them. We believe we can do this in a way that continues to protect the health and safety of everyone we employ and engage.

District staff returned to the office on May 18 but with numerous measures in place to continue to stave off the spread of the novel coronavirus. These measures are extensive and include requirements such as wearing face coverings while working, no meetings of more than four people and maintaining six feet of distance from others at all times.

Equally important is how this translates to our interaction with the public and our permit holders. We will continue to keep our lobby doors locked until further notice but encourage those who need to do business with us in person to call 760.245.1661 to schedule an appointment. You may also call from outside the lobby to describe your needs and our staff will offer the appropriate direction. Inspections will resume as normal, but please be respectful of our staff and keep

Commitment continued on Page 2

MDAQMD mourns passing of former board member, county supervisor

Dennis Hansberger, a longtime public servant in San Bernardino County, passed away on Wednesday, May 6, at the age of 78.

Hansberger twice served as San Bernardino County 3rd District Supervisor, from 1972 to 1980 and again from 1996 to 2008.



During his first period of service, Hansberger was a founding member of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board beginning in 1977 until December 1980. He served on the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District's Governing Board in his second term as 3rd District Supervisor.

Read a more comprehensive biography of Hansberger's public service in a County of San Bernardino news release at www.sbcounty.gov.

MDAQMD is grateful for Mr. Hansberger's service and commitment to his broad jurisdiction and we extend our condolences to his family.

CDAWG postponed

In light of the months of preparation and work that go in to holding a successful conference, combined with the current climate and uncertain future of social gatherings due to COVID-19, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District is postponing its annual California Desert Air Working Group Conference (CDAWG) to 2021.

While we were very much looking forward to putting on the conference this year, returning to the crowd favorite Pala Resort and Casino, we believe moving the conference to 2021 will allow us to put on the best event we can for our speakers and attendees. It will remain at the Pala Resort and Casino and we are doing our best to line up our same keynote speakers and even add some other industry heavyweights.

"This conference is dear to my heart. I attended for many years prior to coming to MDAQMD and

organizing the event," said Brad Poiriez, Executive Director/APCO of the District. "Ultimately, our attendees deserve for this event to be done right, and the pandemic has made that impossible."

There will obviously be much to talk about after the pandemic ends, especially the effects that the quarantine had on air quality. We hope that it will be one of our best conferences to date. For more information continue to check our CDAWG page and follow us on social media.

Most important is CDAWG's cause. The conference is a fundraiser for our partners at the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC), a non-profit organization that educates our local teachers and students on environmental issues. Make no mistake that this conference will be back and better than ever. Can't wait to see you all in 2021.



Commitment

Continued from Page 1

the proper social distancing.

We will continue to limit other discretionary travel for our staff as well as bar outside organizations from using our facilities for meetings to further limit potential exposure. We are as anxious as anyone to lift these restrictions, but as a regulatory agency that serves the public and local business community we must hold

ourselves to the highest standard when it comes to health and safety. We hope you understand and support our efforts as well as the efforts of other public agencies throughout our communities as we move past this pandemic.

The High Desert and Palo Verde Valley are tight-knit communities. We are strong. We have weathered recessions and housing downturns. And though we are often grouped in with the Inland Empire or Coachella Valley in Palo Verde's case, we know that our fortitude and strength is as different as our geography. It is a

unique place to live and work. This pandemic will further prove that, and the Mojave Desert Air Basin and its communities will be stronger when this is all over. I'm confident of that.

We will continue to adjust our operations as the situation evolves. The safety and health of our staff and stakeholders remain our top priorities when making those decisions. We will continue to update this message as necessary to ensure that communities and permit holders know how best to carry out business with the District.

Due to school closures, this contest has been
EXTENDED THROUGH SEPT. 25!

2020 Clean Air Month Poster Contest

www.OurDesertAir.com

Our Desert Air

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)

DEADLINE EXTENDED: 5 p.m. Sept. 25, 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 **November 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.



14306 Park Avenue
Victorville, CA 92392-2310

760.245.1661

Brad Poiriez
Executive Director/
Air Pollution Control Officer

Governing Board
Jeff Williams, Chair
City of Needles

Carmen Hernandez, Vice Chair
City of Barstow

Ed Camargo
City of Adelanto

Kari Leon
Town of Apple Valley

Joseph "Joey" DeConinck
City of Blythe

Bill Holland
City of Hesperia

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
County of Riverside

Supervisor Robert Lovingood
County of San Bernardino, 1st District

Supervisor Dawn Rowe
County of San Bernardino, 3rd District

Dan Mintz
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

MDAQMD goes year-round with lawn equipment exchange

District partners with STIHL to expand program, further reduce emissions

MDAQMD has relaunched its popular annual Lawn & Garden Equipment Exchange with a new twist and some new power behind it.

In April, the annual program officially relaunched as a year-round instead of being a single-day event. Residents living within MDAQMD boundaries are eligible to participate by trading in their working, gas-powered equipment for zero-emission, battery-powered equivalents. The year-round nature allows participants to make the swap at their convenience.

In an effort to further increase participation, the District for the first time has partnered with STIHL to make available lawn mowers, trimmers and leaf-blowers to program participants at locations in Apple Valley, Blythe, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, Phelan, Wrightwood and Yucca Valley. While previous editions of the single-day event have broken participation records with each succeeding year, the District aims to provide more flexibility to the consumer.

"Despite the many programs offered

by our partner agencies to remove turf, the number of exchanges rises each year, which tells us there is still demand," said Brad Poiriez, Executive Director of MDAQMD. "The more gas-powered equipment that can be replaced with battery-electric, the faster we move towards improving our air quality."



The grant-funded exchange program has been a mainstay in the District's catalog of programs focused on reducing local emissions. According to EPA statistics, gas-powered mowers contribute 5% of U.S. air pollution and estimates indicate more than 17 million gallons of fuel, mostly gasoline, is spilled each year while refueling lawn equipment. That's more than all the oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez in the Gulf of Alaska.

"We hope that by opening it up year-round, and in several locations, we will significantly add to the amount of pollutants being removed from our desert air," Poiriez added.

The 2020 exchange program offers state-of-the-art battery-electric equipment for savings of up to \$395. Visit <https://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov/STIHL> to see available equipment and find your nearest dealer.



Program open to all homeowner-use purchases of qualifying equipment. Participant must live in the MDAQMD jurisdiction. Advertised purchase price is based on the purchase price of the equipment itself and excludes additional costs to the consumer such as taxes, fees, accessories, and delivery charges.

SAVE \$395

RMA 460
DOUBLE BATTERY
BUNDLE

WAS \$520.00 PS-SRP

\$125⁰⁰

MDAQMD Sale Price

INCLUDES TOOL, TWO BATTERIES AND A CHARGER

