



Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The partners in an initiative to cut air pollution and protect whales announced results from the 2016 voluntary incentive program and publicly recognized the ten shipping companies who participated, reducing speeds in the Santa Barbara Channel region to 12 knots or less. The program started July 1st and ended November 15, 2016. The recognition ceremony took place at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting in Santa Barbara, CA.

Automatic Identification System (AIS) data for ship speeds in the program verified that more than 80 percent of the enrolled transits were successful in reducing speeds to 12 knots or less, and transits were successful in achieving an additional bonus incentive for slowing to 10 knots or less. **The program reduced more than 27 tons of emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx), a smog-forming air pollutant, and more than 1,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases.**

Ships account for more than 50 percent of NOx emissions in Santa Barbara County and for more than 25 percent of NOx emissions in Ventura County. Ship strikes are also a major threat to recovering endangered and threatened whale populations, including blue, humpback, and fin whales. Slowing ship speeds reduces air pollution and has been shown to reduce the risk of fatal strikes on whales.

The following shipping companies participated in the 2016 vessel speed reduction incentive program: CMA CGM, Evergreen, Hamburg Sud, Hapag Lloyd, Holland, K Line, Maersk, MOL, NYK Line, and Yang Ming. The program is a collaborative effort by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Volgenau Foundation.

"The 2016 vessel speed reduction program was an overwhelming success, demonstrating the real potential of this kind of program to both improve air quality and reduce mortality from ship strikes. We applaud the collaboration of the shipping industry and our VSR partners" said Chris Mobley, superintendent of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

"With two of the busiest ports in the world, thousands of vessels travel through the Santa Barbara Channel and the

Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary. These vessels pose collision threats to large whales," said Kris Sarri, President and CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. "The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is proud to partner with stakeholders to support projects to reduce injuries and death to these magnificent species, improve air quality, and maintain important maritime commerce that supports our economy."

The incentives for the 2016 program targeted historically faster transits to achieve the most significant air emission and whale conservation benefits from the reduced speeds. Incentives ranged from \$1,500 to \$2,500 depending on historical speeds in the program area. Additional incentives up to \$1,250 were available for ships that slow to 10 knots or less, submit detailed whale sightings reports, and demonstrate that schedules were adjusted so that the ships did not need to speed up elsewhere along the route.



Response to this variable incentive scale has been positive, with most companies electing to opt in on these additional voluntary measures and some choosing to even go beyond what they're being asked to do. One example is K Line, whose captains and crew have regularly provided photos and annotated maps of all whale sightings along with the requested whale sightings report. In addition, more than 90 percent of the companies whose ships traverse the California coast indicated interest in participating in a Bay Area program in the future if one is offered.

(continued on page3)

Air Pollution Control Board

David Pollock, Moorpark, Chair
Kelly Long, District 3, Vice Chair
Steve Bennett, District 1
Carrie Broggie, Fillmore
Peter Foy, District 4
Mike Morgan, Camarillo
Linda Parks, District 2
Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard
Jonathan Sharkey, Port Hueneme
John Zaragoza, District 5

Ventura County

Air Pollution Control District

669 County Square Drive, 2nd Floor
Ventura, CA 93003

Air Pollution Control Officer

Michael Villegas

Skylines

Editor – Katie Bolson
Desktop Publishing – Katie Bolson

Directory

General Information **645-1400**
Fax **645-1444**

Website **vcapcd.org**

Agricultural burning 654-2807

Complaints 645-1445
7 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri

Complaints (recording) 654-2797
Monitoring Division 662-6959
Permit processing 645-1401
Permit renewal 645-1404
Public information 645-1415

Email address: info@vcapcd.org

On the Calendar

*AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Second Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chambers
Administration Building
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura

Upcoming Meetings:
March 14th & April 11th

*APCD HEARING BOARD

Mondays, 5:30 p.m., as needed
Board Chambers
Administration Building
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura

Next meeting:
To Be Announced

*APCD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourth Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Large Conference Room
1st Floor
669 County Square Drive
Ventura

Next Meeting:
February 28th

*CLEAN AIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets As Needed
Santa Cruz Room
669 County Square Drive
Ventura

Next Meeting:
Monday, March 6th, 5:00 p.m.

*SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

Meets as Needed
Santa Barbara County APCD
260 N. San Antonio Rd.
Santa Barbara

Next meeting:
Wednesday, March 29th, 10:00 am

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*



CHARGE UP

The California Energy Commission is going to provide a \$300,000 grant to **Plug-in Central Coast**, which is a partnership of Ventura County APCD, Santa Barbara County APCD, San Luis Obispo County APCD, the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition, and the Community Environmental Council of Santa Barbara. This grant will assist in the planning and implementation of additional Level 2 and high speed EV Charging Stations along the Central Coast. San Luis Obispo County APCD volunteered to take the lead to provide the local administrative support for this grant. Ventura County APCD will act as a subcontractor to SLOAPCD.

Keep your eyes out for these new charging stations in your nearby counties!



For more information, visit <http://www.ourair.org/air-pollution-marine-shipping>.

The **National Marine Sanctuary Foundation** is the chief national not-for-profit partner for marine and Great Lakes sanctuaries. The Foundation works to conserve these unique areas through research and conservation, education, citizen science, outreach and community engagement. The Foundation is also a respected advocate for ocean stewardship nationally and worldwide. Learn more at: marinesanctuary.org.

NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1980 to protect ma-

Highlights of the 2016 program as compared with the 2014 program included the following:

- The 2016 Program provided financial incentives for 50 slow speed transits, nearly double the 27 transits incentive in 2014;
- 10 shipping lines participated in 2016, seven shipping lines participated in the 2014;
- The 2016 program received applications for 367 transits; the 2014 program received 89 applications.
- **The 2016 program more than doubled the emission reductions as compared with the 2014 program.**
- Many ship crews provided whale sightings information during their transits.

"Since the shipping industry is regulated by national and international organizations, the only way for us as a local agency to address shipping emissions in our region is through innovative strategies," said Mike Villegas, Director of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District. "The level of participation is very encouraging and demonstrates a sustained program would have a significant impact on air quality."

"It's clear that we are achieving immediate emission-reduction benefits," said Aeron Arlin Genet, Director of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. "We look forward to continuing to collaborate to pursue funding and strategies to expand the program further." The partners are working on identifying funding sources for a 2017 VSR incentive program, expected to start June 1, 2017.

rine resources surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands. The sanctuary spans approximately 1,470 square miles, extending from island shorelines to six miles offshore, and encompasses a rich diversity of marine life, habitats and historical and cultural resources. Learn more at www.channelislands.noaa.gov/.

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District is a local government agency that works to protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution. Learn more at www.OurAir.org.

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District is the local government agency in Ventura County that protects public health and agriculture from the adverse effects of air pollution by identifying air pollution problems and developing a comprehensive program to achieve and maintain state and federal air quality standards. Learn more at www.vcapcd.org.

The **Volgenau Foundation** protects our planet and serves our society by supporting programs that conserve natural resources, educate children, and promote classical music. For more information, see www.volgenaufoundation.org.



Welcome!

APCD would like to welcome its newest members to the District's Boards and Committees.

Kelly Long was elected as a Ventura County Supervisor in November 2016. She has 25 years of combined experience as a entrepreneur, business executive and school trustee. Kelly Long joined the Air Pollution Control Board (APCB) effective January 10, 2017.

Carrie Broggie was elected as mayor of Fillmore in November. She has more than 21 years experience working with the local government and serving its citizens. Carrie Broggie joined the APCB effective January 10, 2017.

Kent Bullard joins Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee with 30 plus years with the Channel Islands National Parks and a commitment to improve community involvement. He is a member of the Ventura County Sustainability Council and will be representing the Environmental Group.

Christopher Logan is an environmental advisor for Aera Energy and has over 22 years of experience with environment compliance and regulation. He will represent the Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee's Business Group and hopes to help develop new innovative ideas for the program.

Marsha Meeker is a retired Systems Engineer with the Department of the Navy where she worked as a missile reliability engineer for 40 years. She plans to use her background in engineering to help the Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee accomplish their goals. She thanks her daughter for spiking an interest in helping Ventura County as the Citizen Representative.

Ron Merkord is representing the Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee's Business Group where he is a general partner at Laser Innovations. He is an advocate of clean air vehicles and renewable energy. He hopes to use his passion to encourage the use of electric vehicles and more clear air projects.

At the Board

DECEMBER 13, 2016 BOARD MEETING

✓ Approved and authorized the **VCAPCD to establish a new Voluntary Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program for fiscal year 2016-2017**. This program is designed to provide a financial incentive to accelerate the retirement of legally operating, older light-duty vehicles in Ventura County.

Please see our website or call Stan at 645-1408.

✓ Presentation of **Board Member Service Award to Doug Tucker and Kathy Long**. VCAPCD is grateful for their commitment and support to the various programs APCD has to keep Ventura County air clean for all. Their presence on the Board will be missed.

✓ Received and filed the **Ventura County Air Pollution Control District's Unaudited Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Year End Financial Status report**.

JANUARY 10, 2017 BOARD MEETING

✓ Elected **David Pollock**, a City of Moorpark Council Member as Chair of the Air Pollution Control Board for 2017; Supervisor Kelly Long was elected as Vice Chair.

✓ Approved an **Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for a marine vessel speed reduction incentive program in the Channel Islands region**. (see front page story for more information regarding this program in 2016.)

✓ Approved and adopted the **Air pollution Control Board Resolution with the 2016-2017 Service Rates and Fees**, in order to establish District service rates and fees for 2016-2017, to become effective on January 10, 2017.

✓ In addition to Chair David Pollock and Vice Chair Kelly Long, Supervisor Linda Parks and Council Member Carmen Ramirez were appointed to the Board's Standing Committee for 2017.

✓ Council Member **Mike Morgan** was selected to represent the Board on the South Central Coast Basinwide Air Pollution Control Council during 2017.

Videos of archived Air Pollution
Control Board meetings can be
viewed at

<http://www.vcapcd.org/agendas.htm>

