District Kicks Off Community Air Protection Program

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) - “The Community Air Protection Program” is likely the most significant air quality legislation in the past 30 years and provides a call to action to ensure that all communities benefit from California’s clean air programs. AB 617 builds on the foundation of existing air quality legislation by providing additional tools to target actions in communities that bear the greatest air emission related burdens. This first-of-its-kind effort adds a new community-focused planning framework including community air monitoring, emissions reduction programs, and support for early actions through targeted incentive funding to deploy cleaner technologies in these communities. AB 617 also includes new requirements that help advance our air pollution control efforts through accelerated retrofit of pollution controls on industrial sources, increased penalty fees, and greater transparency, availability of air quality and emissions data. These concentrated efforts, at the local level, will provide opportunities to enhance and strengthen our clean air programs.

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) staff conducted workshops on AB 617 and was pleased to hear input from an Oxnard Neighborhood Council representative as well as other members of the public who live in an area designated as a ‘potentially disadvantaged/burdened’ community according to the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 mapping tool. This public input is important as our District will now be providing a prioritized list of communities for inclusion in the Community Air Protection Program to the California Air Resources Board by July 31, 2018. Staff was also pleased to have Oxnard Council Member Oscar Madrigal in attendance.

APCD staff recently supported a local community effort to obtain state grant funding for local community-based air monitoring and outreach. This local effort, led by Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas (CFROG) in partnership with California State University Channel Islands and Sonoma Technology, has been selected to receive funds from the California Air Resources Board.

District staff will be working to establish a steering committee comprised of members of a community group such as CFROG and the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), industry representatives, health care providers, land use agencies, and public representatives on this program. Our goal is to implement a cost-effective and successful program that achieves real benefits in Ventura County.

Visit the homepage of our District website for the latest on this program:
http://www.vcapcd.org
On the Calendar

*AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Board Chambers
Administration Building
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura

Upcoming Meetings:
July 31st at 11:30 am—Special Meeting

*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:
To be Announced

*CLEAN AIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meets As Needed
Santa Cruz Room
669 County Square Drive
Ventura

Next Meeting:
To be Announced

*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, August 22nd, 10:00 am

*OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Ventura County Air Pollution Control Board recently approved a grant for an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Project with the California Lutheran University to install two publicly-accessible, Dual AC Level 2 charging stations at its Thousand Oaks Campus.

Visit https://www.cluecho.com/2017/10/electric-vehicle-charging-stations-earn-positive-feedback/
VCAPCD Staff Members: Kerby Zozula, Phil Moyal, Zack Jirkovsky, Tyler Harris at the County of Ventura Job and Career Fair

VCAPCD participated in the 2018 County of Ventura Job and Career Fair hosted by the County Executive Office of Human Resources on June 21, 2018 at the government center. The event is conducted annually as a way to connect with the public and showcase the many career possibilities.

The weather provided a pleasant 66°F for potential employees, agency representatives, and visitors walking in an open-air area. Many agency representative experts were available to answer questions, provide agency information, and handout giveaways such as pens, water bottles, or pamphlets.

VCAPCD’s involvement in the community extends throughout Ventura county and receives numerous invitations such as “Earth Day” events, career days and classroom presentations.

Recently, the APCD’s Air Pollution Control Officer, along with two inspectors, participated in the Thousand Oaks High School’s Earth Day (picture is below).

During this school event, the students gain education with fun, interactive activities such as “spin the wheel” - a student is asked a question, is given a prize and provided with air quality information. The goal of the community events is to provide information and education on the quality of air in their surrounding area.

Outreach to our county’s schools is one way for APCD to cultivate adults of tomorrow with the vision to improve our future. We invite involvement and participation from the community to boost air quality knowledge and to also give them some innovative and exciting ways in which students can choose to live a “clean air” lifestyle.

The County of Ventura Job and Career Fair attracted over 700 job seekers. Statistics from job seekers evaluations indicated 92 percent (out of 215 evaluations received) understood the recruitment and selection process better.
May 8, 2018

- Adopted amendments to Rule 42, to increase the District’s permit renewal fees by two percent.
- Received/filed a report on the District’s New Source Review (NSR) equivalency program which demonstrates the District’s NSR program is at least as stringent as the federal NSR program. This equivalency program can provide regulatory relief from onerous federal NSR requirements for some facilities.
- Authorized the District to accept Supplemental Environmental Project funds from the California Air Resources Board to be utilized for the Voluntary ocean-going Vessel Speed Reduction Program.
- Authorized the District to accept incentive funds from the California Air Resources Board for the following programs: Community Air Protection program and funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions Program.

June 5, 2018

- Conducted the first of two public hearings on the District’s proposed FY 2018-2019 Budget.

June 19, 2018

- Adopted the District’s FY 2018-2019 Budget, which will provide for the completion of the renovation at the District’s new office building. This new building will lead to a reduction in the District’s annual operating costs.
- Approved the MOU with the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation for the implementation of the 2018 and 2019 Voluntary ocean-going Vessel Speed Reduction program, which will achieve significant nitrogen oxide emission reductions.
- Approved a grant with the Oxnard School District for the replacement of four compressed natural gas tanks on a school bus.
- Authorized the District to accept incentive funds from the California Air Resources Board for the Voluntary Nitrogen Oxides Remediation Measure Funding Program.

Videos of archived Air Pollution Control Board meetings can be viewed at [http://www.vcapcd.org/agendas.htm](http://www.vcapcd.org/agendas.htm)

EPA Releases Annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory, April 6, 2018

The EPA released the final version of its annual greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for 2016, entitled U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2016. EPA published a draft version of the inventory for public comment on February 7, 2018. According to the inventory, total 2016 U.S. GHG emissions were 6,511.3 million metric tons of CO\textsubscript{2} equivalent (MMT CO\textsubscript{2} Eq.), an 11.1-percent decrease from 2005 levels and a 1.9-percent decrease from 2015. The EPA attributes much of the recent downward trend to generation shifts in the power sector away from coal and toward natural gas and renewable energy resources as well as warmer-than-average winter temperatures, which lowered 2016 heating demand. On a per-sector basis, 2016 transportation emissions edged ahead of the power sector for the first time to comprise the inventory’s largest source of GHGs. Total transportation-related GHG emissions were estimated at 1,854.0 MMT CO\textsubscript{2} Eq. compared to 1846.1 MMT CO\textsubscript{2} Eq. from the power sector.