

Agenda Date: August 25, 2016
Agenda Placement: Regular
Estimated Time: 10 minutes
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

SUBJECT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Air Excellence Award for Collaborative Effort to Reduce Air Pollution from Marine Shipping

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Air Excellence Award and recognize the public / private partnership for the award-winning Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies project, and acknowledge the work of District staff over the years in addressing emissions from marine shipping.

DISCUSSION:

On June 28, 2016 at the fifteenth Annual Clean Air Excellence Awards, the EPA presented the Community Action award to the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Environmental Defense Center, and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies project. The award was given in recognition for the Vessel Speed Reduction trial incentive program of 2014, and for ongoing efforts in 2015 to identify ways to reduce air pollution and the risk of fatal ship strikes on whales in the Santa Barbara Channel region. Excerpts from the award ceremony program, and press releases from the EPA, and Congresswoman Lois Capps, are attached.

The District has been addressing air pollution from ships transiting off the Santa Barbara County coast for decades, and including marine shipping emissions in planning emission inventories since 1994. District directors, staff and board members have called for local, national and international strategies to reduce marine shipping emissions, researched emission-reducing technologies, and reached out to form partnerships on common ground to achieve pollution reductions. Air Pollution Control Officer, Aeron Arlin Genet, will highlight this history and the most recent achievements.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Excerpts from the EPA Award Ceremony
- 2) Press Releases