

## Refugio Oil Spill

**O**n May 19, 2015, a pipeline moving crude oil from Las Flores Canyon to a pump station ruptured near Refugio State Beach and spilled thousands of barrels of oil, including significant amounts into the ocean; the exact numbers are under investigation. The pipeline, operated by Plains All American Pipeline, was shut down following the release. The spill prompted the temporary closures of Refugio State Beach – which reopened on July 17 – and El Capitan State Beach, which reopened on June 26. Numerous local, state, and federal agencies participated in response and clean-up efforts; the District was not an emergency responder to the spill.

Crude oil is a mixture of hydrocarbons, also referred to as reactive organic compounds,



which are involved in the formation of ground-level ozone, a principal component of smog. The hydrocarbons in crude oil are made up of light, medium, and heavy chemicals. The light parts include air toxics such as benzene, xylene, toluene, and ethylbenzene. Concentrations of these in the air tend to be highest during the first 24 hours of a spill. These toxics are harmful to breathe. Inhaling oil droplets and oil particles can also be irritating to eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. Some of these chemicals can cause short-term symptoms, including dizziness, headaches, and respiratory symptoms.

The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health began conducting air monitoring at the site the day after the spill to make sure the air was safe for cleanup workers to breathe.

*Additional information on the incident is available at [www.refugioresponse.com](http://www.refugioresponse.com).*

### Natural Seeps

In the wake of the oil spill, many community members asked questions about the natural seeps in our area. Santa Barbara County beachgoers often first encounter the reality of these seeps when they look at the soles of their feet after a day of sun and surf. So what causes those spots to sometimes dot our feet?

Seeps occur when oil and natural gas come up into the sea via cracks and sediments, a process that scientists believe has been happening for thousands of years. Relying on studies from University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) professors, the District estimates the annual air emissions from the seeps off of the Santa Barbara County coast. Per our 2013 emissions

inventory, the seeps release 8,313 tons per year of smog-forming reactive organic gases (ROG) and 524,527 metric tons of greenhouse gases expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). The 2013 inventory from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the entire California coast showed 10,954 tons of ROG. CARB does not estimate the greenhouse gas emissions from seeps.

Scientists have estimated that millions of gallons of oil are released from seeps throughout Southern California waters every year. Seeps can form long slicks that can move with the current and potentially form mats and tarballs – which can end up on your soles.

### Inside...

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## From Air to Water: Chris Hewes

In June, District Public Outreach Intern Chris Hewes graduated with a master's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, and moved to the Bay Area to work as a water supply planner at RMC Water and Environment. He remarked, "I'm especially excited to be starting work on the upcoming cycle of Urban Water

Management Plans that are required for municipal water districts."

At the District, Hewes produced infographics and videos, attended community events, made presentations in county classrooms, and led demonstrations at school science nights. He also helped with

the implementation of a new District website and a new Santa Barbara Car Free website. He received a 2015 Bronze Award from Horizon Interactive Awards for a series of "Take the Train" videos for Santa Barbara Car Free.

The infographic shown at left is his favorite: "We had to break down some very complicated topics into an easily understood four-step process. It was fun to collaborate with the Air Toxics Team on a series of three infographics that culminated with this one!"

To view District videos and infographics produced by Chris Hewes, including the latest video "Snapshots from 2014," see: [www.ourair.org/edu/publications/](http://www.ourair.org/edu/publications/).

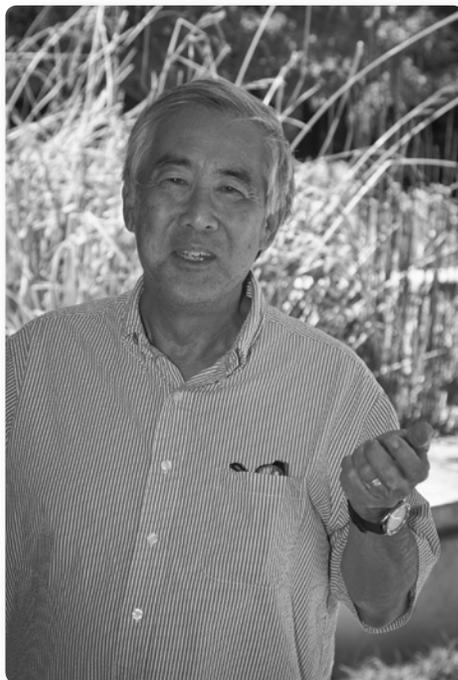


Chris Hewes with the District's Santa Barbara Car Free booth at a Train Day celebration.

## Remembering Ron Tan

Ron Tan, former District Planning and Technology Supervisor, passed away in March unexpectedly. He first started with the District as a consultant in 1984, and retired in August 2013.

Glenn Gazdecki, District Inspection Specialist, remarked, "Ron and I were instant friends after I started working at the District 27 years ago. Like many, I smile when I think about him. He loved to laugh. During normal conversation and banter, Ron would raise the stakes and make the discussion deeper, testing your knowledge, reasoning, and values. He was a principled man, with a strong penchant for helping people in



generous, selfless, and unexpected ways."

Tan was born in Canton (Guangzhou), China. He received a bachelor's degree in Math from Stanford University, a master's degree in Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Ph.D in Environmental Science and Engineering from the University of California at Los Angeles. In an interview in the District's newsletter on his retirement, he remarked, "When

I think of all the pollution reduced through our funding programs, and all the benefits to our farmers, our fishermen, our schoolchildren, and the general public, I am proud."

Doug Grapple, former District Air Quality Engineer who worked with Tan for almost 30 years, remarked, "His generosity was part of his DNA. He was a caring people person. He had a wealth of information on air quality matters, and was a great contributor to our collective knowledge. He is sorely missed."

To learn more about Ron Tan, see the Spring 2013 newsletter: [www.ourair.org/on-the-air/](http://www.ourair.org/on-the-air/).

## CycleMAYnia

### District Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the 2015 Board meetings to date. There was no meeting held in February. No meeting was scheduled for July; the next meeting will occur in August. For full information on past actions and future meetings, visit [www.ourair.org](http://www.ourair.org).

**Note:** The November 2014 meeting was closed-session only, with nothing to report. The Board did not meet in December 2014.

#### January, March, and April

- For calendar year 2015, elected Janet Wolf as Chair and Peter Adam as Vice-Chair; chose Board members Wolf, Adam, and Holly Sierra to serve on the District Executive Committee; appointed Wolf to serve as the representative to the South Central Coast Basinwide Control Council; selected Board members Adam, Salud Carbajal, Michael T. Bennett, Jim Richardson, and Alice Patino to serve on the District Hearing Board Nominating Committee.
- Adopted Resolution of Appreciation to Ashley Costa for her service on the District Board of Directors.
- Received and filed an update on the EPA's proposal to update the eight-hour standard for ground-level ozone and implications for Santa Barbara County.
- Received a presentation from District staff on the District's air toxics program and a presentation from Dr. Melanie Marty on the now-revised OEHHA Guidance Manual for health risk assessments.
- Authorized the Air Pollution Control Officer to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with DOGGR and CARB regarding Senate Bill 4.

- Adopted the 2013 Clean Air Plan and authorized the Chair to sign a letter transmitting the Plan to the California Air Resources Board.
- Approved a contract with Dave Van Mullem for Executive Officer services from August 20, 2015 to and including January 21, 2016.
- Held two special meetings to discuss and adopt a greenhouse gas threshold for stationary sources.

#### May and June

- Reappointed Dr. Francis Lagattuta, the medical representative, and Donald Ward, a public representative, to the District Hearing Board for three-year terms.
- Received a presentation titled "Investigating the Feasibility of Greenhouse Gas Mitigation in Santa Barbara County" from a recent UCSB Bren School graduate.
- Received a presentation from Keith Malone of the California Fuel Cell Partnership on the role of hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles in the state's transportation future, and adopted a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to execute an agreement with the California Energy Commission for a grant to prepare Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties Hydrogen Readiness Plan.
- Authorized the Chair to execute a contract for recruitment services for the position of Air Pollution Control Officer.
- Adopted the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget.

In May, eight District staff members – dubbing themselves the “Airheads” – bicycled a combined 1,123 miles to work as part of the CycleMAYnia bike challenge. Led by SBCAG (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments) Traffic Solutions

and sponsored by numerous local government agencies, businesses, and organizations, CycleMAYnia encouraged more than 600 riders throughout the county to commute via two wheels instead of four. Countywide, participants bicycled nearly 100,000 miles.



*The District Bike Challenge Team (from left): Chris Hewes, Mary Byrd, Bryan Wong, Joel Cordes, Ben Ellenberger, David Harris, Kevin Brown, and Krista Nightingale.*

### Earth Day

In April, the annual Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival organized by the Community Environmental Council drew more than 29,000 people – 8,000 visited without using a car! The District's booth served as the first stop for 800 people

who registered to receive car-free prizes. Kids of all ages also flocked to the District booth (the first stop in the popular Earth Day kids passport program) to answer questions about air pollution and transportation, and spin the Wheel of Change.



*Many people biked to Earth Day and parked their bikes at the free bike valet managed by the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition.*

# District Board Calendar

## Board of Directors

- Supervisor Salud Carbajal  
*First District*  
*Santa Barbara County*
- Supervisor Janet Wolf, *Chair*  
*Second District*  
*Santa Barbara County*
- Supervisor Doreen Farr  
*Third District*  
*Santa Barbara County*
- Supervisor Peter Adam, *Vice-Chair*  
*Fourth District*  
*Santa Barbara County*
- Supervisor Steve Lavagnino  
*Fifth District*  
*Santa Barbara County*
- Mayor Holly Sierra  
*City of Buellton*
- Councilmember Al Clark  
*City of Carpinteria*
- Councilmember Michael T. Bennett  
*City of Goleta*
- Mayor John Lizalde  
*City of Guadalupe*
- Mayor Pro Tem DeWayne Holmdahl  
*City of Lompoc*
- Mayor Helene Schneider  
*City of Santa Barbara*
- Mayor Alice Patino  
*City of Santa Maria*
- Mayor Jim Richardson  
*City of Solvang*

All meetings start at 1 p.m.  
For meeting agendas, call Sara  
Hunt at 961-8853 or visit  
[www.ourair.org](http://www.ourair.org).

Check the website for updated  
information, as meetings can be  
changed or canceled.

### August 20, 2015

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California  
93101

### October 15, 2015

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California  
93101

### December 17, 2015

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California  
93101

## Community Advisory Council

The APCD Community Advisory  
Council meets as needed, often the 2nd  
Wednesday of the month, in Buellton.  
The public is welcome. For more  
information, call Sara Hunt, 961-8853.

## Clean Air Express

### New Saturday Bus Service between Santa Barbara and the Santa Ynez Valley

After much planning and collaboration by SBCAG (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments) and its partners, a new Saturday Clean Air Express service between the Santa Ynez Valley and Santa Barbara launched on July 11 with a free ride. The inaugural round-trip loop attracted several District Board Members and community members celebrating this new inexpensive transportation option for county residents and visitors alike.

The District will promote the new service to car-free visitors to the area through Santa Barbara Car Free, an award-winning project founded and led by the District since 1998 – with more than 100 community partners promoting car-free travel to and around Santa Barbara for cleaner air and a healthier planet.

The bus offers complimentary wi-fi, reclining seats, and internal bays for bicycles. Riding the route costs \$7 each way, or \$50 for an advance booklet of 10 passes. Kids ages 2 and younger always ride for free.

For more information, visit  
[www.santabarbaracarfree.org/weekend-bus-service-to-syv/](http://www.santabarbaracarfree.org/weekend-bus-service-to-syv/).



Lyz Hoffman, the District's new Public Information and Education Specialist (on left) celebrates the launch of the new bus service with Tracy Farhad, Executive Director of the Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau.

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Complaints/Public Information  
(805) 961-8800  
Air Quality Advisory Information  
(805) 961-8802  
World Wide Web  
[www.ourair.org](http://www.ourair.org)  
Publications and Videos  
[www.ourair.org/edu/publications](http://www.ourair.org/edu/publications)  
Twitter @ourairSBC and @sbcarfree



Printed using organic toner on  
100% recycled chlorine-free paper  
that is manufactured using  
wind-generated power.

On the Air is a quarterly  
newsletter written by Mary Byrd and  
Lyz Hoffman, and published by the  
Community Programs Section of the  
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution  
Control District.



## District Board Adopts Greenhouse Gas Threshold

In April, at the culmination of a year-long process, the District updated its Environmental Review Guidelines to include a threshold for greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources. Certain gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons, are termed “greenhouse gases” because they trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere in a process known as the “greenhouse” effect. Human activities are causing these gases to build up in the atmosphere. The result is global warming, also referred to as climate change.

Stationary source projects subject to the new greenhouse gas (GHG) threshold include processes and equipment that require a District permit, such as new or modified oil and gas facilities, landfills, and facilities with large combustion devices.

The new threshold applies to new and modified stationary source projects where the District serves as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which occurs infrequently. More often, Santa Barbara County and the incorporated cities in the county serve as CEQA lead agencies. Lead agencies that do not have established thresholds are encouraged to use the District’s.

As part of an extensive public review and noticing process, the District held four public workshops, hosted publicly accessible stakeholder meetings, created a dedicated webpage where all comments and materials were posted, and maintained email lists for project updates.

Following recommendations by the District’s Community Advisory Council and Air Pollution Control Officer, the District’s Board of Directors voted to implement a threshold termed the “AB 32 Consistency” threshold with a business-as-usual reduction aligned with the goals of AB 32, the state’s Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

Under the new threshold, projects with emissions of GHGs defined as less than 10,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year are considered less than significant and are not subject to requirements to mitigate those emissions. Sources that fall under California’s Cap and Trade program (emissions greater than 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year) are considered consistent with a plan for the reduction

of GHG emissions, and are not required to mitigate emissions over and above the requirements of the Cap and Trade program.

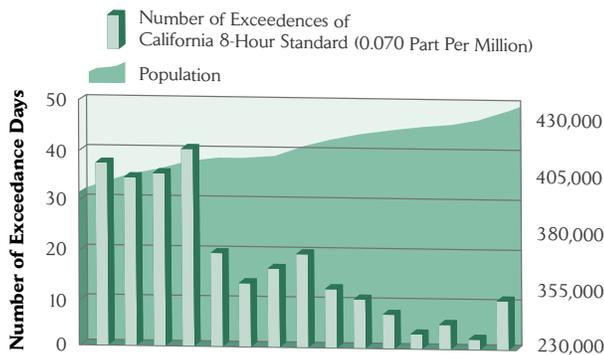
Projects with emissions between 10,000 and 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year are required to mitigate their emissions using a “percent reduction from business as usual” method (currently 15.3% based on the 2014 First Update to the state’s *Climate Change Scoping Plan*). The “AB 32 Consistency” threshold adopted by the District Board included a commitment to revise the threshold, and remain consistent with California’s long-term GHG reduction targets, if additional GHG reductions are mandated by the state.

For more information, see: [www.ourair.org/greenhouse-gases-and-ceqa/](http://www.ourair.org/greenhouse-gases-and-ceqa/).

## Santa Barbara County Air Quality in 2014

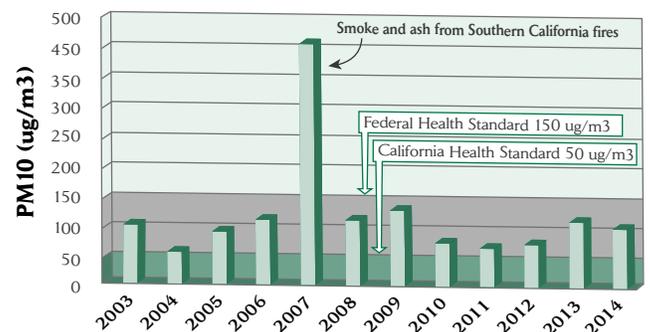
In 2014, Santa Barbara County air exceeded state and federal standards for ground-level ozone, a principal component of smog, on 10 days, and exceeded the state standard for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) on 23 days.

### Ozone Exceedance Days and Population 2000-2014



As shown in the chart above, Santa Barbara County air quality has improved even while population has increased. However, a period of hot weather in October 2014 resulted in additional days exceeding the state standard. During that period, District monitoring stations also recorded four days exceeding the federal eight-hour ozone standard.

### Maximum Daily Particulate Matter Concentrations (PM<sub>10</sub>) - 24-Hr Average (ug/m<sup>3</sup>)



As shown in the chart above, District monitoring stations record exceedances of the state standard for PM<sub>10</sub>, but typically not of the federal standard, except when smoke and ash from wildfires have affected county air quality.

## Retirement Roundup

### Marc Moritsch

If Marc Moritsch's travel plans sound like a slate straight out of National Geographic, it's because his stunning pictures could very well wind up in that magazine. In February 1997, his shot of a tiger taken in the Russian Far East graced the cover, an experience he called "a gold medal in photography." Moritsch – seen in the (above) photo in the mesquite dunes of Death Valley – got bit by the photography bug in high school, he said, and decided to dedicate more time to working for the National Geographic Society when he retired from the District earlier this year after nearly 15 years of service. During his District career, Moritsch served as an Air Monitoring Specialist and used his



Marc Moritsch (photo by Lisa Hoffner)

photography talents to record air quality incidents. Now, he'll be using those talents to snap pictures of jaguars in Brazil in August, a long-planned trip that he called "a once-in-a-lifetime thing." Visits to Yosemite, Colorado, Costa Rica, and Alaska's Katmai National Park (one of the best places to photograph brown bears) are also possible, he said. "I want to go everywhere," he said. "It doesn't matter where I go – I like to take pictures."

### Doug Grapple

Doug Grapple worked in two Sections during his career at the District, as both an Air Quality Engineer and in Permitting and Rule Development. He joined the District in September 1980 and worked here for 34 years – making him the most veteran employee. Grapple, who worked on the District's Clean Air Plans and was known for his skill in working with stakeholders during the permitting and rulemaking process, retired in 2014. He is enjoying retirement, he said, noting his continued penchant for reading a wide range of books, bicycling – he rode his bike 14 miles round-trip to work every



Doug Grapple

day – and playing handball. A Minnesota native, Grapple said his travel plans include visiting his father and stepmother in Florida later this year. The three of them, along with other family members, embarked on a partial transit of the Panama Canal last December.

### Brian Shafritz

In May, Brian Shafritz and his family headed overseas for a month, exploring Israel and London for the first time. A trip to the East Coast is in the works, and Paris "would be nice" one day, Shafritz said. "So far, so good," he said of his retirement, which began in January after a 30-year career with for the District. In addition to traveling, Shafritz has taken art history and singing classes and expressed a desire to do volunteer work with kids. He also likes to stay clued in to what's going on at the District, where his career involved work with permitting, planning, air toxics, compliance and air modeling. He ended his career as Manager of the Technology and



Brian Shafritz

Environmental Assessment Division. Reflecting on his career, Shafritz deemed the last major project he worked on – the Marine Shipping Vessel Speed Reduction trial – his favorite project, calling it "a great learning experience" and "such a unique collaboration."

### Bob Thornburg

Thornburg joined the District in 1988 as an Air Quality Inspection Specialist and recently retired after 24 years of service. During his tenure, he performed thousands of site inspections, including inspecting and conducting source test observations of oil platforms on the Outer Continental Shelf.

### Craig Strommen

After nearly 33 years of work for the District, Strommen recently retired. During his career, he spearheaded the District's permitting efforts for the Exxon Santa Ynez Unit Project in the 1980s. He joined the District in 1982 as an Air Quality Engineer writing permits and ended his tenure as the manager of the District's Compliance Division.

### Bob Van Beveren

Van Beveren spent most of his 21.5-year District career working for the IT Department. While there, he aided the District in implementing state-of-the-art technology to streamline activities. He also helped implement the Data Acquisition System for acquiring and monitoring real-time data from large industrial facilities. Van Beveren, who came aboard in 1993, also had a hand in ensuring that the Casa Nueva building featured energy conservation practices.