

On the Air

Aeron Arlin Genet Announced as New District Director

On December 17, 2015, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors unanimously approved the appointment of Aeron Arlin Genet as the new District Director and Air Pollution Control Officer. The appointment is the culmination of a search and recruiting process that began in July 2015. Arlin Genet started at the District on January 21, 2016, following the January Board meeting.

“Aeron Arlin Genet has a deep understanding of air quality and an outstanding ability to work collaboratively. She is a great fit to lead this agency,” said Janet Wolf, Santa Barbara County Second District Supervisor and then-Chair of the District Board of Directors. “We know she will excel in fulfilling the District’s mission: to protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution.”

Arlin Genet brings many years of experience in air quality, and demonstrated leadership in climate action planning and alternative fuels. Arlin Genet joined the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) in 2000, managing policy development, and implementing clean fuels and outreach programs. In 2002, she was promoted to Manager of the SLOAPCD’s Planning, Monitoring, and Outreach Division.



As a Manager at SLOAPCD, Arlin Genet worked on air quality planning, air quality monitoring, land use planning, and grants programs. Starting in 2006, she led efforts by San Luis Obispo County agencies and cities to prepare climate change initiatives, and obtained funds for development and implementation of climate action plans for all of the jurisdictions.

For almost 10 years, as the founder of the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition, Arlin Genet has secured federal Department of Energy funding for clean vehicles programs for

Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. The Coalition brings together schools, fuel and vehicle providers, the public, and government agencies — including the District — throughout the region.

“I am excited to bring my experience to the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District,” Arlin Genet said. “I have worked with many of the staff, who have helped the District forge partnerships and create dynamic programs. I look forward to us reaching out to industry and community partners as we work together to achieve clean-air goals.”

Prior to working for the SLOAPCD, Arlin Genet served first as an Environmental Issues Coordinator and then as the External Affairs Coordinator for the Western States Petroleum Association, an oil industry trade organization. Previously, Arlin Genet graduated from Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo with a B.S. in Biological Sciences. Arlin Genet enjoys competitive and recreational running. She and her husband will be moving to Santa Barbara County.

“Transparency is important to me,” Arlin Genet said. “I am confident that the District team, with direction from our Board and input from the public and businesses, can craft innovative strategies to accomplish our shared objective: clean air for everyone in Santa Barbara County.”

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New Federal Ozone Standard

On December 28, 2015, the new standard for ground-level ozone (a principal component of smog) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took effect. The new eight-hour ozone standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb), announced by the EPA on October 1, 2015, replaces the previous federal eight-hour standard of 75 ppb. The EPA determines whether an area is considered in attainment of the standard based on the fourth-highest level of ozone recorded at monitoring stations within a three-year window. The District has 12 monitoring stations that continuously measure ozone concentrations in Santa Barbara County, where ozone season typically runs from April through October.

Santa Barbara County attains the 75 ppb federal eight-hour standard. Based on current data, the county will also meet the new standard of 70 ppb. The EPA has indicated that it will



make attainment/non-attainment designations for the new standard in October 2017. Those designations will likely come from air quality data recorded between 2014 and 2016.

Santa Barbara County doesn't meet the California eight-hour ozone standard, which is also 70 ppb but is calculated differently than the federal standard.

High up in the atmosphere, the ozone layer occurs naturally and guards against harmful ultraviolet rays. However, at ground level, ozone produced from air pollutants harms crops, buildings, and human health. Ozone is a gas created when nitrogen oxides (NO_x) – which can come from transportation and industrial sources – and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – which can come from solvents, smoke, and gasoline vapors –

chemically react in the presence of heat and sunlight. Ground-level ozone is a principal component of what we think of as smog.

Studies have shown that exposure to ground-level ozone – even at very low levels – can lead to many respiratory health issues, particularly over time. Inhaling the pollution irritates and inflames the

lungs. Symptoms of ground-level ozone exposure can range from coughing and wheezing to pain when taking deep breaths and difficulty breathing during exercise or outdoor activities. Those most vulnerable to impaired health from ozone exposure are older people and children.

Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution because their lungs are still developing, they spend more time outdoors, and they breathe at a faster rate than adults. Recent studies have shown that air pollution can harm lung development in children and can contribute to early childhood asthma.

Also vulnerable are adults who work or exercise vigorously outside, people with respiratory illnesses like asthma and emphysema, and people with unusual susceptibility to ozone.

For more information, visit www.ourair.org/todays-air-quality/.

Joe Petrini Retires



It was August 1991 when Joe Petrini joined the District, hired as an Air Quality Specialist in the Air Toxics section. It was October 2015 when Petrini,

then an Emission Inventory and Planning Specialist for the District, retired after a more than 24-year career. In retirement, Petrini said, he plans on spending more time with his family and friends and volunteering in the community.

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, Petrini received his B.S. in Meteorology from San Jose State University. When he started his career at the District focusing on toxics, he helped conduct Health Risk Assessments under the state's "Hot Spots" program, also known as AB 2588. Later, he moved over to the Planning side of the building, where he applied

his meteorological knowledge to the District's issuing of air quality advisories and forecasting for prescribed burns. He liked getting to "dabble" and put those skills to use, Petrini said.

For the last 15 years of his career, Petrini served as the primary person tasked with maintaining the District's emissions inventory, which tracks all of the sources of air pollution in Santa Barbara County. Keeping that inventory updated is not only required by state code but also plays a crucial role in evaluating the District's progress toward meeting clean-air goals. Petrini's contribution to

attaining those goals also involved working on five Clean Air Plans, data analyses, and marine shipping inventories.

"Those of us who had the privilege of working with Joe will tell you that his contributions to the District and the individuals who work here far exceed any metric that can be applied to one's job duties. Joe always added to those around him," said District Inspection Specialist Glenn Gazdecki, who worked with Petrini for all of Petrini's District career. Continuing, Gazdecki said, "It has been an honor and a joy to work with him."

Cleaner Fireplace Burning

Every year, as the weather gets colder, the District hears from residents concerned about breathing smoke from their neighbors' fireplaces. The District hasn't adopted any regulations on fireplace or woodstove burning, but smoke does prompt complaints.

Often, people don't realize they have been causing anyone discomfort. Many are willing to adjust their burn times or contact their neighbors before burning. Inhaling wood smoke can reduce lung function, aggravate lung and

heart diseases, trigger asthma, and cause a range of respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms.

"We realize how enjoyable it can be to sit in front of the fireplace on a cold night. But, because of the risks that fires can pose, try to save using your fireplace for special occasions," said District Inspection Specialist Glenn Gazdecki. "During the times you do use your fireplace, keep in mind tips to minimize any smoke impacts on your neighbors and to protect your family from any fire dangers."



District Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the final Board meetings of 2015 and the first Board meeting of 2016. The next meeting will occur in March. For more information on past actions and future meetings, visit www.ourair.org.

Note: The September 2015 meeting was closed-session only, with no reportable action. The Board did not meet in November 2015.

August, October, and December 2015

- Ⓐ Authorized the Chair to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District to collaborate on the Tri-Counties Hydrogen Readiness Plan.
- Ⓐ Received an update on the outlook for 2015-2016 weather patterns from Eric Boldt, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Los Angeles/Oxnard.
- Ⓐ Approved updates to the Carl Moyer Program.
- Ⓐ Authorized the Chair to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum to display an educational hands-on exhibit on the movement of air and air quality.

- Ⓐ Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation to Joe Petrini upon the occasion of his retirement.
- Ⓐ Approved updates to the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Infrastructure Program.
- Ⓐ Appointed Aeron Arlin Genet to the position of Air Pollution Control Officer and approved a two-year employment contract.

January 2016

- Ⓐ For calendar year 2016, elected Board members Peter Adam as Chair and James Mosby as Vice-Chair; chose Board members Adam, Mosby, and Janet Wolf to serve on the District Executive Committee; appointed Board member 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 a Resolution of Appreciation to Dave Van Mullem upon the occasion of his retirement.
- Ⓐ Received and filed the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Financial Audit.
- Ⓐ Received a presentation on the ambient air monitoring network in Santa Barbara County and an update on the strengthening of the national ozone standard from 75 to 70 parts per billion.

1. Clean your chimney.

A dirty chimney is full of flammable creosote. Schedule regular maintenance by a professional chimney sweep.

2. Don't burn trash or fuels.

Don't burn plastics, chemicals, wrapping paper, magazines, or colored or coated papers.

3. Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter, or other fuel to light or relight a fire.

The vapors can explode.

4. Build better fires.

Burn only dry, well-cured wood. Hard woods are dense, making for a slower and more even burn with more heat and less smoke. Avoid "roaring" fires, which can start chimney fires and overheat wall and roof materials.

5. Burn less.

Use your heater for heat and your fireplace for special occasions.

6. Upgrade your fireplace.

A gas fireplace or a fireplace using an EPA-certified insert will create less pollution than a typical wood-burning fireplace or stove. Never burn wood in a fireplace that was designed for a gas log!

7. Don't allow small children near the fireplace.

Keep kids away from the fire. Their clothing can easily ignite.

8. Never leave a fire unattended.

Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.

9. Be sure no flammable materials hang down from or decorate your mantel.

10. Make sure you have basic fire safety equipment.

Keep a type-ABC extinguisher near the fireplace. Install a screen that covers the fireplace opening, equip your house with smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors, and use a spark arrester on top of your chimney.



Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District

District Board Calendar

Board of Directors

- Supervisor Salud Carbajal
First District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Janet Wolf
Second District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Doreen Farr
Third District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Peter Adam, *Chair*
Fourth District
Santa Barbara County
- Supervisor Steve Lavagnino
Fifth District
Santa Barbara County
- Councilmember Holly Sierra
City of Buellton
- Councilmember Al Clark
City of Carpinteria
- Councilmember Michael T. Bennett
City of Goleta
- Mayor John Lizalde
City of Guadalupe
- Councilmember James Mosby
Vice-Chair
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.

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

March 17

Board of Supervisors'
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, California
93455

May 19

Board of Supervisors'
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, California
93455

June 16

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

Community Advisory Council

The District 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 at 961-8853 or visit www.ourair.org.

District Staff Attend Career Fair



On January 15, 2016, District Air Quality Engineers Kevin Brown (pictured) and Charlotte Mountain attended the Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo Career Fair to talk with students about a career working for the District, including a current recruitment for an Air Quality Engineer position in the Air Toxics section of the Engineering Division.

"It felt great to talk with students about the different types of jobs we have at the District, and about our particular needs for graduates with engineering and science backgrounds," Brown said. Mountain, a new employee at the District and a recent Cal Poly graduate, added, "I attended the Career Fair as a student, and I really enjoyed meeting representatives of businesses and agencies. I enjoyed being on the other side of the table this time, answering their questions."

For more information on the current recruitment and other opportunities, visit www.ourair.org/apcd/employment-opportunities/.



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Air Pollution Control District

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Publications and Videos

www.ourair.org/edu/publications

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District Helps Replace Marine Engines

At a farm tucked away along the Gaviota coast, farm General Manager Doug Bush stops beside a tank filled with seawater from the Santa Barbara Channel. He points inside of it, where countless specks dot the tank's walls. He walks farther into the farm and stops beside another tank and another, each time pointing inside to specks that grow bigger and more colorful with each new tank. Those specks – which over the course of three-to-four years grow to the size of the palm of your hand – are live red abalone in all of their life stages, from brown larvae to rainbow-hued adult. The farm is the Cultured Abalone Farm, a decades-old Santa Barbara County business that produces the seafood using sustainable practices.

Floating around among the abalone is kelp, the abalone's preferred meal. Like "snails chomping in the garden," Bush



District Air Quality Specialist Jim Fredrickson, Captain Rick Gutierrez, and General Manager Doug Bush aboard the MV Ocean Harvest.

said, the abalone – the farm produces 40-50 tons of it a year – can't get enough of the seaweed, eating up to 14 tons of it in just a matter of days. To keep the abalone eating, several times a week the farm crew boards its boat, MV Ocean Harvest, to gather more kelp from local coastal beds. Built into the 50-foot long boat – whose front end features fearsome painted-on shark teeth – is an adapted wheat thresher, which cuts the kelp like a lawnmower cuts grass and flips the cuttings into the boat.



The MV Ocean Harvest arrives in the Santa Barbara Harbor to unload several tons of kelp.

Up until a few months ago, those day-long harvesting trips were much noisier and dirtier, Bush said. In November 2015, with help from an \$89,000 grant through the District's Carl Moyer Program, the farm replaced the boat's two 1953 diesel engines with 2015 models. The new engines are quieter than their older counterparts and more fuel-efficient, making for shorter trips, decreased fuel use, and reduced air pollution. The engine replacement will cut almost six tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx), reactive organic compounds (ROC), and particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM 10).

"The new engines will ensure that we run more efficiently, increase reliability, and build on our desire to have a more sustainable footprint," Bush said. District Air Quality Specialist Jim Fredrickson thanked the Cultured Abalone Farm for applying for the grant. "We are always happy to help businesses modernize their equipment and engines,

which reduces their fuel use, saves them money, and reduces pollution," Fredrickson said.

Along with approving the abalone farm's grant, the District in 2015 also approved a \$15,486 grant to replace a 1979 diesel engine with a 2013 model in the popular Lil' Toot water taxi, operated by Epic Cruises in the Santa Barbara Harbor. That switch will cut more than a ton of NOx, ROC, and PM 10 pollution.

For more information on the District's grant programs, visit www.ourair.org/clean-air-funding-programs-info/.

Dave Van Mullem Thanks Staff



Dave Van Mullem's last day as the District Air Pollution Control Officer was January 21, 2016. Van Mullem started at the District in August 2011 after several years heading the Santa Maria office of AECOM, an international environmental consulting firm. He began his career as a pilot in the United States Air Force, where he earned the rank of Colonel and served as the Director of

Environmental Management at Vandenberg Air Force Base. He also sat on the District's Hearing Board for nine years.

"I am very proud of what the fantastic District team has achieved. I am honored to have worked with the staff and am so pleased with the partnerships we have made," stated Van Mullem, who said he will be retiring. He noted that he is looking forward

to honing his green thumb, enjoying nature, and spending more time with his family.

New Director Aeron Arlin Genet assumed the position on January 21, following the Board of Directors meeting.

Van Mullem praised his successor, saying, "I have worked with Aeron Arlin Genet and I know that she will make a terrific Director."

School District Installs CNG Station

The morning of November 23, 2015 was one of celebration for the Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD). With several elected representatives and many other supporters (including the District's Public Information & Education Specialist, Lyz Hoffman) in attendance, LUSD officials unveiled a public fueling station for compressed natural gas (CNG), underscoring their continued commitment to transitioning to cleaner fuels and providing an opportunity for other fleets in the region to do the same.

"For the last several years, we have strived to make CNG an integral part of our bus fleet. Choosing CNG lowers the exposure of our students, our



LUSD Transportation Manager Frances Lemons, standing in front of the school district's newest CNG bus, speaks to the benefits of CNG fuel at the station ribbon-cutting on November 23, 2015. The station is located at 596 East Central Avenue in Lompoc. (Photo courtesy of Frances Lemons, LUSD Transportation Manager)

employees, and area residents to toxic gas and diesel emissions," said LUSD Transportation Manager Frances Lemons. "We are so excited to open this public CNG station and would like to thank everyone who helped make it happen."

The new station is the only public-use CNG fueling station

between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. With its opening, the school district aims to increase the number of CNG buses in its 44-bus fleet; 15 currently run on CNG. Revenue from the public sale of CNG will go toward maintenance and operation costs. The station was paid for in part by a grant from the California Energy Commission.

Replacing diesel buses with CNG buses reduces levels of smog-forming nitrogen oxides and reactive organic gases, which can pose health problems, particularly for kids. Diesel buses also produce harmful diesel exhaust particulate, the top cancer-causing air toxic in California. Diesel exhaust particulate, especially with older buses, pollutes the air inside and outside the vehicle.

The Air Pollution Control District has worked with LUSD in the school district's efforts to move away from diesel buses and toward CNG buses. "The school district has been an absolute leader in this area, and we have been happy to help support them," said District Air Quality Specialist Jim Fredrickson. "The switch to CNG is great for the health of the students and the community."

Meet an Inspector: Aimee Long

Fifth in a series



Prior to moving to northern Santa Barbara County about eight years ago, Long lived in Bakersfield, where she was born and raised. She attended California State University-Bakersfield, where she earned a B.S. in Biology, with a minor

in Chemistry. After graduating, Long handled quality control — followed by research and development — at a food-processing facility.

Since joining the District, Long has taken on a diverse caseload, inspecting businesses that range from gas stations, landfills, and solvent facilities, to wineries, autobody shops, and dry cleaners. With her prior years of experience working in wastewater compliance, she also inspects wastewater operations. The variety of assignments means that "no two inspections are going to be exactly the same."

If she isn't out in the field inspecting general sources, Long is responding to odor and dust complaints, assisting with the variances process, and keeping an internal compliance website humming. "We do so much that it's hard to narrow it down," she said of the inspectors' duties.

When asked to narrow down what she most enjoys about her job, Long pointed to the interactions with the regulated community. "It's a learning opportunity for both sides," she stated, explaining that she strives to work with businesses to ensure they remain in compliance with District rules.

At a recent staff meeting, colleagues and management recognized Long for her creative approaches to working with sources. "Aimee is one of those valuable people in an organization who is able to recognize how important the seemingly little things are to smooth-functioning operation. She is eager to try her hand at creating something new, something helpful," said Engineering Supervisor Eric Kett.

Reflecting on her nearly two years at the District, Long returned the praise. "We all work well together," she said. "We have a great team."