

Clean Air Miles and New Riders A Banner Year for Santa Barbara MTD

Santa Barbara County
Air Quality News
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Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) had a banner year in 1999, benefiting area residents and our air. Here are some of the highlights.

◆ In November, MTD Downtown-Waterfront electric shuttles recorded **one million miles** operating under electric power since 1991. MTD currently has the nation's largest battery-electric bus fleet. The eyes of other transit operators will be on MTD more and more in the future as rules require operators to reduce diesel air pollution from transit buses (see related article this page).

◆ In 1999, MTD received final approval for \$9.2 million in federal funds to purchase 41 new battery-electric buses and begin implementation of the

agency's South Coast Transit priorities. The electric buses will be part of a new approach to transit termed The Electric Avenue. This represents three lines that will be converted to electric vehicles, reflecting an overall effort by MTD to expand and improve service and to balance the choice between driving a car and taking the bus.

◆ As part of an effort to introduce new riders to transit, and to meet needs of holiday travelers, MTD worked with community partners in 1999 to institute popular services, including the Shopper Express, Holiday Airporter, and First Night millennium service.

◆ In a national study of bus operators reported in July of 1999, MTD was ranked fourth overall.

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MTD Community Relations Manager David Damiano and an MTD electric shuttle. The shuttle fleet recently achieved one million miles driven under battery-electric power.

Toxic Air Pollution and Diesel New Studies and New Rules for Transit

In 1990, California, under Proposition 65, identified diesel exhaust as a substance known to cause cancer. In August of 1998, California Air Resources Board (ARB) identified diesel particulate, or soot, as a toxic air contaminant, setting in motion a process leading to the development of new rules applying to diesel fuel and diesel-powered vehicles. Toxic air contaminants, or air toxics,

are airborne substances that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other health problems.

In January, ARB held a public hearing to discuss a proposed rule requiring transit operators to reduce emissions of particulate matter and smog-forming nitrogen oxide from diesel buses over a period of years. The rule includes a variety of requirements

designed to encourage retirement of the oldest, dirtiest diesel buses, and promote the purchase of alternative-fueled buses, retrofits of diesel buses with emission controls and filters. The rule also includes a low-sulfur requirement for diesel fuel, slated to start in 2002. ARB will be considering adoption of the transit bus rule in late February.

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Santa Barbara MTD (cont'd from page one)

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◆ In 1999 MTD broke ground on a new facility expected to be fully operational by the summer of 2000. When completed, the facility will include fifty charging stations for MTD's electric fleet.

"The City of Santa Barbara is very excited about the future of electric transit," notes Santa Barbara City Council Member

The cleaner, quieter, friendlier open-air shuttles proved popular with riders. Notes David Damiano, Community Relations Manager for MTD, "During the transitional period when there were both diesel and electric vehicles on this route, some passengers would actually let the diesel buses go by, and wait longer to get on an electric shuttle."

is called The Electric Avenue, a concept designed around using the quiet, non-polluting electric buses to create a pleasant transit experience for the rider. The plan is to offer service twice as often as the conventional bus route, and operation in smaller, walking-friendly neighborhoods that might not easily accept the introduction of larger diesel buses.

"During the transitional period when there were both diesel and electric vehicles on this route, some passengers would actually let the diesel buses go by, and wait longer to get on an electric shuttle."

-- David Damiano, Community Relations Manager for MTD.

MTD also has a plan to install SuperStops along The Electric Avenue. These will offer a variety of additional amenities to riders, including interactive electronic kiosks with web-based route and schedule information, and links to information on other forms of alternative transportation. This will include information to be developed through the Take a Vacation from Your Car project, led by APCD and the American Lung Association of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, with participation from a host of community partners, including MTD. This project is a cooperative effort to promote car-free transportation to and around the Santa Barbara area to reduce traffic and air pollution.

Thirty-five percent of the passengers on the Shopper Express had never before been on an MTD bus.

Gregg Hart. "Our partnership with MTD has created the most advanced electric bus transit operation in the nation. Over the next few years, local residents can look forward to a dramatic increase in shuttle bus service that will improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion and provide quick and comfortable access to downtown."

Nine years later the electric shuttle fleet has grown to ten 22-foot shuttles, which collectively achieved the one-million-mile mark this past November. This year, MTD will be getting six new electric shuttles, to expand service and replace older vehicles, and to launch a new downtown shuttle service in Carpinteria.

In 1999, MTD also attracted new riders to transit through several initiatives with community partners. The Shopper Express provided express service between La Cumbre Plaza and downtown every thirty minutes from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Shopper Express was a joint marketing effort with The Taubman Company, the owners of both La Cumbre Plaza and Paseo Nuevo.

MTD's Downtown-Waterfront electric shuttles have recorded one million miles under electric power.

One Million Clean Miles

In 1990, MTD and the City of Santa Barbara partnered to develop a downtown-waterfront bus service, beginning the service with traditional smaller diesel buses. Soon these buses were replaced by battery-electric shuttles, designed by the same engineers who designed the Lunar Roving Vehicle that drove on the moon in 1971.

Including both the electric shuttles as well as seven larger electric buses, MTD has the largest electric bus fleet in the nation. Its leadership in this area won it a Blue Sky Merit Award in 1998 from Calstart, an advanced transportation consortium. MTD is also purchasing 41 new electric buses with the help of federal funds approved in 1999.

Attracting New Riders to Bus Service

When diesel buses replaced electric shuttles in 1991, ridership more than doubled.

One strategy MTD is developing to attract new riders

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Air Toxics and Diesel

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Air toxics are regulated through programs at federal, state, and local levels. In Santa Barbara County, APCD is responsible for implementing ARB's Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program, which applies to business and industry sources of air toxics. ARB's new rules for diesel-powered vehicles and diesel fuel will apply statewide. APCD's Innovative Technologies program implements voluntary cooperative projects to reduce emissions from diesel engines. An upcoming project will enable tour buses at the Santa Barbara Bowl to use electric power while parked at the Bowl, instead of running onboard diesel generators.

Emissions from diesel engines currently include more than 40

substances that are separately listed by the US Environmental Protection Agency as hazardous air pollutants (air toxics) and by the ARB as toxic air contaminants.

A study by South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), reported in November, determined that diesel particulate, or soot, accounted for 71% of the total cancer risk from toxic air pollution in the Southern California region covered by AQMD. The study is one of the most comprehensive studies of urban toxic air pollution ever performed.

The AQMD monitored air toxics continually for one year at ten monitoring sites. At

fourteen additional sites, AQMD monitored air toxics for one month each, using mobile monitors. The study did not assess non-cancer health risks associated with some of the air toxics. AQMD found that when the cancer risk from toxics related to diesel exhaust was added to the combined risk from other air toxics, the total cancer risk more than tripled.

For more information on state toxics rules and programs, visit ARB's website at www.arb.ca.gov. For more information on the AQMD toxics study, and its new toxics plan, see www.aqmd.gov. For more information on APCD's toxics program, see www.sbcpd.org/sbc/airtox.htm.

APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the January Board meeting.

January

- ✓ Elected Larry Lavagnino chair and Susan Rose vice-chair.
- ✓ Executed a grant agreement with a boat operator for the purchase of two low-emissions main boat engines.
- ✓ Adopted amendments to APCD Rule 330, Surface Coating of Metal Parts and Products.
- ✓ Received a briefing on attainment of the federal ozone standard.
- ✓ Executed a grant agreement with the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation for \$7,000 of cost-share funding towards installation of electric service to power tour buses at the Bowl.
- ✓ Received a report on options for the relocation of the APCD main office, and directed the APCO to return in 60 days after additional solicitation of lease options and other alternatives.

Santa Barbara MTD (cont'd from page two)

Traci Taitt, General Manager of The Taubman Company notes, "Shopper Express was a tremendous success in that customers were able to enjoy two distinct shopping experiences in the same day without having to drive their cars."

According to a survey performed on the buses, a total of thirty-five percent of the passengers on the Shopper Express had never before been on an MTD bus. "Shopper Express presented a unique opportunity to provide MTD service to individuals and locations that we ordinarily would not serve," says Damiano. "We tried to make the service easy to understand and easy to find, and to make the collective choice to take the bus instead of driving the car an easy one."

Working with the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport, MTD instituted the Holiday Airporter service to transport UCSB students to and from the airport for holiday flights. MTD also provided extra evening service along State Street on New Year's Eve, transporting more than 1,600 people after midnight.

In 1999, MTD was ranked fourth overall in a study of 120 of the nation's largest transit operators conducted by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The ranking was based on service density (percentage of the population that rides the bus, and mileage covered); safety; reliability (frequency of breakdowns and disruption of service); and tax burden

(taxpayer funding compared with farebox revenue funding). MTD has been ranked among the top ten most efficient transit operators in the country for the past nine years.

Damiano notes: "The achievements of this past year are the culmination of many years work, with a strong commitment to our goals of technical excellence and service. We look forward to some very exciting years coming up, as we continue in new directions and take on new challenges."

For more information on MTD, visit the agency's website at www.sbmtd.gov, and watch these pages for updates.



Air Pollution Control District Board

Supervisor Naomi Schwartz

First District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Susan Rose

Second District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Gail Marshall

Third District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Joni Gray

Fourth District

Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Tom Urbanske

Fifth District

Santa Barbara County

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City of Buellton

Councilmember Dick Weinberg

City of Carpinteria

Mayor Sam Arca

City of Guadalupe

Councilmember DeWayne Holmdahl

City of Lompoc

Councilmember Gil Garcia

City of Santa Barbara

Councilmember Larry Lavagnino

City of Santa Maria

Councilmember Ed Andrisek

City of Solvang

APCD Board Calendar

*All meetings start at 2 p.m.
For final meeting agendas,
call the APCD Board Clerk,
568-2245.*

March 16, 2000

Solvang Municipal Center
Board Room
1644 Oak Street
Solvang, California 93463

April 20, 2000

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

May 18, 2000

Lompoc City Hall
Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, California 93438

Community Advisory Council

The APCD Community Advisory Council meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Days Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call Linda Beard, 961-8853.

Permit & Compliance Summary

	NOV	DEC
ATC Applications Received	16	8
ATC Permits Issued	12	10
PTO Applications Received	7	3
PTO Permits Issued	3	1
Exemption Requests	7	5
Exemptions Determined	2	2
Inspections Made	51	96
Notices of Violation Issued	30	8
Administrative Infractions (subset of above)	2	0
Complaints Received	16	53



Earth Day 2000 will be celebrated around the county in April. Santa Barbara and Santa Maria are planning celebrations for April 22; other areas, including Carpinteria, Solvang, and Santa Ynez are also planning celebrations. Take advantage of this chance to learn more about the environment and about new ways to reduce pollution. For more information, visit the APCD website at www.sbapcd.org/apcd/earthday.htm. To find out how your school can be involved, call 961-8833 or contact byrdm@sbapcd.org



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On the Air is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Community Assistance Section of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.

For further information on items in this newsletter, or to be added to our subscription list, please call Bobbie Bratz, 961-8890 or Email bratzb@sbapcd.org.

Our Vision: Clean Air



Investec Wins State Award

Investec Real Estate Companies recently became one of ten companies statewide to receive the prestigious Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) of the Year award from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Investec was honored for recycling 83% of the construction waste from its Summerland Heights project. Stephen MacIntosh, Construction and Debris Recycling Coordinator for Santa Barbara County Solid Waste and Utilities Division, notes, "What made Summerland Heights such a success was that Investec brought in additional dumpsters and made the effort to sort materials at the construction site."

He explains, "A lot of builders will bring only one dumpster to a job site, and throw everything in it-including garbage. Quite often, with this approach, the mix is too contaminated to sort and recycle, or they simply cannot retrieve as much material. Investec spent the time up front thinking about the logistics of it, and they took the time necessary to educate the workers about what should go in each bin."

The Investec effort would not have been possible, however, without MarBorg Industries, whose Santa Barbara recycling facility was able to handle the sorted materials from the site, notes MacIntosh. "MarBorg has really stepped up to the plate to help the community recycle its construction waste."



Charlie Eckberg (right) and Jim VanDerhyden of Investec with Frances Gilliland of APCD.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE MARCH 1ST

The 1999 Annual Report for permitted facilities is due to the APCD by March 1st. Specific reporting requirements for each facility appear in the permit. Some facilities require additional information not listed in APCD annual report forms. If your facility did not operate in 1999, you are still required to notify APCD in writing with the company name, address, phone, and permit number/s.

Report forms were mailed out in December. You can also download forms from the APCD website at www.sbcapcd.org/eng/dl/dl08. Contact Frances Gilliland on the APCD Businesses Assistance Line at 961-8868 with questions, or email gillilandf@sbcapcd.org.

The company started recycling construction debris about nine years ago, handling up to 100 tons a day. MarBorg recently increased capacity and added to the list of materials recycled, and is now recycling up to 250 tons of construction waste a day.

According to MacIntosh, a 1998 EPA study indicates that more than 130 million tons of construction and demolition debris are generated each year in the United States (this number excludes waste from federal and state roads projects). This tally by the EPA represents

waste generated in addition to the more than 250 million tons of municipal solid waste that Americans generate every year in their homes and businesses. Due to the MarBorg facility, a new sorting operation at the County's South Coast Transfer Station, and a handful of other private construction debris recyclers, only about 14% of all the waste in South Coast landfills is construction waste.

"But we could do much better," notes MacIntosh. "That fourteen percent represents 33,000 tons of construction waste in a given

Kilovac First to Get ISO 14001 certification

Carpinteria-based CII Technologies Kilovac Division, profiled in this newsletter last year, recently became the first company in Santa Barbara County to receive certification for superior environmental policies and practices under the ISO (International Standards Organization) 14001 program. ISO 14001 (also referred to as ISO 14000), which refers to environmental management systems, is similar to the ISO 9000 quality management program.

Kilovac General Manager Dan McAllister remarks, "For us, going through this program meant putting our environmental processes in the same book as our quality management processes, putting our environmental objectives on the same page with our overall company objectives."

Kilovac, a division of North Carolina-based CII Technologies, makes electrical relays and systems. The company has been recognized for outstanding environmental practices, with a 1994 Green Award, and a 1998 Business Waste Reduction Award from the City of Carpinteria and the Carpinteria Chamber of Commerce.

But a company does not need to be "clean and green" already to receive ISO 14001 certification, says McAllister. "The important thing is to commit to improvement. A lot



Paul Strange (left) and Dan McAllister of CII Technologies Kilovac Division, with the General Motors EV-1.

of companies might think that they shouldn't go after 14001 certification - they might think 'oh, no we can't get that, we've got this problem over here.' What they don't realize is in this process, solving that problem just becomes a major objective. The idea of ISO 14001 isn't to certify only those companies that are already 'green,' but to get companies on the road to improvement."

Paul Strange, of Millennium Environmental, worked as a consultant on the Kilovac certification and prepared all of the company's documentation and implementation programs. He notes that only fifty companies in California are currently certified, and only 520 companies in the country are certified. "Kilovac passed the third-party audit without a single nonconformance," says Strange.

Kilovac manufactures an electrical relay used to handle higher voltage direct current (DC). The relay is used in electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles,

and prototype fuel cell vehicles. Fuel cells produce electricity through chemical reactions involving hydrogen, using a variety of fuels as the source of hydrogen. The Kilovac component is also used in a range of alternative energy power source applications,

including large-scale fuel cells, microturbines (natural gas fueled engines similar to jet engines), and solar and wind energy generation.

"Candid views of Fortune 500 Companies" on ISO 14001 are provided on the U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership website at:

<http://www.usaep.org/gem/report.htm>.

For information on local business programs, call APCD's Business Assistance Line at 961-8868, or call Bob Peterson, at the Regional Environmental Business Resource Assistance Center (REBRAC) at 922-6966 ext. 3739 or 3738. For more information on Kilovac's programs, call Paul Strange at 684-4575, ext. 189.

Investec (cont'd from other side)

year-I'd like to see us get down under 10,000 tons per year. With the right incentives, I think we can achieve such a goal." North County does not yet have a recycling facility like the MarBorg one, so is not able to recycle as much construction waste.

MarBorg Industries won a 1996 Green Award for its outstanding recycling efforts. The Green Award is an annual award announced in September by the Green Consortium, made up of APCD, The Community Environmental Council, Santa Barbara County Solid Waste

and Utilities, and Traffic Solutions.

Investec won a 1998 Green Award for its commitment to green building. Notes Investec Vice President Charlie Eckberg, "We have a strong commitment to using sustainable building techniques. Showing these techniques can work in the real world is the best way to encourage other builders to try them... We can make Santa Barbara a model for other communities. That's what this community is all about: to take these ideas and show the rest of the world it can be done."