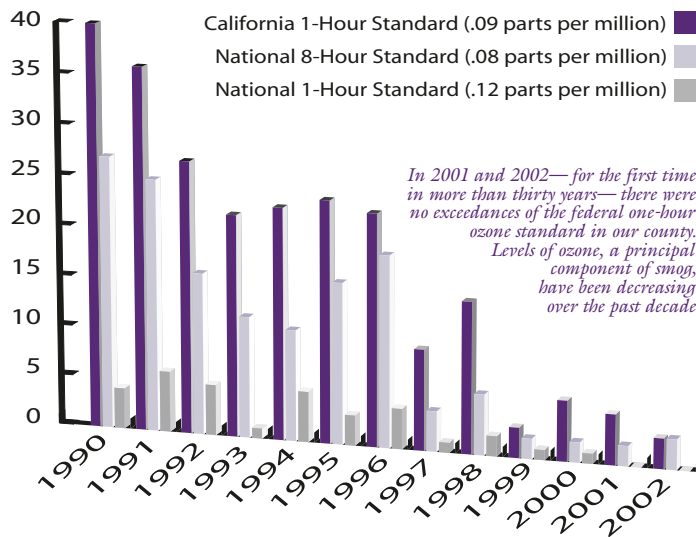


Another Good Year for Our Air

Days Exceeding Ozone Standards in Santa Barbara County 1990-2002



In 2002, our air in Santa Barbara County never once exceeded the federal one-hour standard for ozone, the principal component of smog.

“It’s immensely encouraging that we have achieved this air quality success for the second straight year,” said APCD Director Doug Allard. 2001 was the first year without an exceedance of that smog

standard since APCD first began monitoring the air in 1971.

“We also saw a reduction in the number of state ozone exceedances – from five in 2001 to only three in 2002,” he added. There were three exceedances of the federal eight-hour ozone standard in 2002, the same number as in 2001.

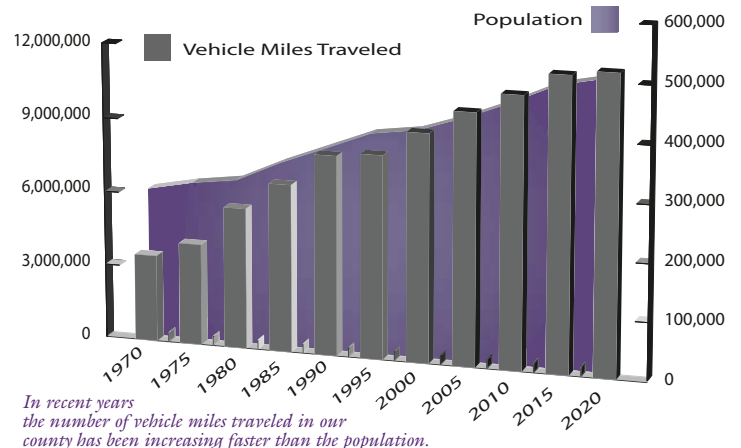
County air quality has been steadily improving over the past decade (see graph this page). Allard credited several factors: efforts by county businesses and residents; cleaner cars and gasoline, and cleaner air in surrounding regions.

“However,” Allard noted, “our margin is slim, and with a change in any one factor or particularly unfavorable weather, we could experience more air quality problems.” He pointed out that while cleaner cars and gasoline have helped improve air quality, the number of vehicle

miles traveled is increasing at a faster rate than the population (see graph this page). Other areas that will need to be addressed in coming years include: marine shipping emissions, particulate matter pollution, air toxics, greenhouse gas emissions (see related article this page) and diesel exhaust pollution. Said Allard, “We will need to work hard to maintain our air quality progress. But it’s good to see how far we’ve come.”

For more information, see www.sbapcd.org

Population and VMT Growth



California, Cars, and Climate Change

Cars are a principal source of smog-forming pollution in California. They are also a principal source of greenhouse gas emissions. And the state is taking the lead in working for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from cars and

trucks—just as it has done with smog emissions.

In July of 2002, California’s Governor signed State Assembly Bill 1493, which requires the state Air Resources Board to develop carbon pollution (greenhouse

gas) standards for vehicles in model year 2009 and beyond. This is the first law of its kind in the country.

The structure of AB 1493 reflects a significant difference between greenhouse gas

(Continued on page two)

Inside...

- ❖ Car Free
- ❖ Asbestos
- ❖ Auto shops
- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Fuel cell vehicles
- ❖ Planet Polluto
- ❖ Earth Day

California, Cars, and Climate Change

(Continued from page one)

emissions and smog emissions. While smog-forming pollutants directly impact air quality in a particular air basin, and must be reduced within that basin, greenhouse gas emissions have a global impact — and can be reduced anywhere in the world to produce a global benefit.

unpredictable, with greater variations between cold snaps and heat waves.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, since the beginning of the industrial revolution atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have increased

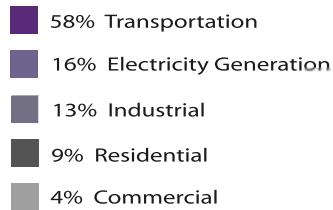
a Stanford University Research Team showed that 81 percent of a total of 1,473 species of plants and animals studied have undergone changes consistent with response to an increase in temperature.

In addition to setting guidelines for reductions in vehicle emissions, the new state bill also outlines responsibilities of the California Climate Action Registry, a non-profit voluntary registry for greenhouse gas emissions. The Registry is designed to help companies and organizations establish their baseline emissions of these gases, using general and specific tools, on a voluntary basis.

opportunity to take a leadership role in addressing climate change. Understanding our emissions is the crucial first step. The California Climate Action Registry's help in calculating, monitoring and reporting emissions is so valuable because reducing emissions increases operating efficiencies, saves money, and leads to many business advantages."

Mary Grady, Clipper Windpower's Project Development Coordinator, added, "Not only are we working on a daily basis to address climate change by developing wind energy projects—we're also tracking our own emissions through the registry, and, as a charter member, leading the way for other companies."

Transportation is California's Largest Source of CO₂.



Source: California Energy Commission, 2001

In California, more than half of fossil fuel emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a principal greenhouse gas, are related in some way to transportation.

The AB 1493 standards will thus apply to automakers' fleet averages, rather than to each individual vehicle, and carmakers will be able to apply pollution reductions from non-auto sources, such as factories, for partial credit towards achieving the standards. AB 1493 will not impose new vehicle or gasoline taxes, limit miles driven, require smaller, lighter or slower vehicles, or limit ownership of particular types of vehicles.

The most common greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Most of California's CO₂ comes from transportation, (see graph this page) and almost 40 percent is from passenger vehicles. CO₂ and other greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere and trap increasing amounts of the sun's heat. As a result, climates change and weather patterns become more

nearly 30 percent, while concentrations of methane, another greenhouse gas, have more than doubled, and concentrations of nitrous oxide have risen by about 15 percent. The Earth's surface temperature has risen by about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the past century, with accelerated warming during the past two decades, according to the National Academy of Sciences. Rising global temperatures are expected to raise the sea level, and change precipitation and other local climate conditions. Sea level measurements recorded at the Golden Gate tide gauge since 1855 show a seven-inch rise in sea level off the California coast in the last 150 years.

Changing regional climate could also alter forests, crop yields, and water supplies, and affect human health, animals, and many types of ecosystems. A recent study by

The Registry was launched in October of 2002 with 23 announced charter members, including government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses. Clipper Windpower, Inc., a Carpinteria-based company that develops power projects and wind turbine technology, is a charter member. Said President David Olsen, "Companies have the

For more information:

- ❖ *On the state's bill:*
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/gcc/gcc.htm>
- ❖ *On the California Climate Action Registry:*
<http://www.climateregistry.org>
- ❖ *On climate change:*
www.epa.gov/globalwarming

Climate Change: What One Person Can Do

Changing your travel habits will reduce your contribution to both greenhouse gas emissions and smog emissions at the same time.

Check out www.travelmatters.org to learn about how individual transportation choices affect climate change. Then try to bike, carpool or take the bus to work once or twice a week, and encourage your friends, kids, and co-workers to enjoy car-free travel.

Visit www.trafficsolutions.info to find out about your commute options, and for more ideas on what you can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions see www.epa.gov/globalwarming/.

Car Free in 2003

APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the December/January Board meetings.

December

- ✓ Recognized the winners of the “Kids Care for Clean Air” 2003 Calendar Contest.
- ✓ Approved and presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Tom Urbanske for his service on the Air Pollution Control District Board.
- ✓ Approved revisions to the 2001 Clean Air Plan.

January

- ✓ Elected DeWayne Holmdahl Chair and Cynthia Brock Vice Chair for 2003. Appointed Cynthia Brock to serve as the representative to the South Central Coast Basinwide Control Council. Reappointed Donald Ward to the APCD Hearing Board. Selected Dick Weinberg, Gregg Hart, Gail Marshall and DeWayne Holmdahl to serve on the APCD Hearing Board Nominating Committee during calendar year 2003.
- ✓ Received and filed the summary of all emission-reduction grant agreements approved by APCD Director in previous month.
- ✓ Approved and presented Resolution of Appreciation to Ed Andrisek and to Russ Hicks for their service on the Air Pollution Control District Board.
- ✓ Authorized the Board Chair to sign letters to the Chair and Members of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee urging ratification of Annex VI, Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, into the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.
- ✓ Received and filed a report on the state of the county’s air quality.

In January, Santa Barbara Car Free launched its 2003 vacation package promotion, designed to encourage tourists to “take a vacation from their cars” when visiting the area. Sixteen hotels and eleven activity partners are offering discounts, and Amtrak is providing two-for-one coupons for train travel on the Pacific Surfliner or the Coast Starlight for the first travelers to sign up for information on the promotion.

The goal of the cooperative project led by APCD is to reduce air pollution generated

by car trips to and around the area. Mary Byrd, APCD Air Quality Information Specialist, and Santa Barbara Car Free Project Manager, notes that visitors’ driving patterns in town typically involve many short car trips to specific destinations, with time at each location. This pattern of multiple short car trips, with stops that allow the car to cool off each time, can produce significant amounts of air pollution.

“Much of the pollution a car will cause occurs during the cold start, when the catalytic

converter is warming up, and not yet working to clean the exhaust emissions,” says Byrd. “So we encourage even those visitors who did drive here to leave their cars parked and get around town car free.”

For more information, see www.santabarbaracarfree.org.

Completely Car Free

Fred and Nancy Meredith of Austin, Texas, recently enjoyed a completely car free vacation in Santa Barbara County. They came by train—with their bicycles. Said Fred, “We could wish that all trains were like the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner—electric outlets at every seat and a ‘roll-on’ policy for bicycles.”

He added, “When we travel by train, we can look out the window, daydream a bit, or work on our laptops, whether it is real work or not—we watched the first season of *The Sopranos* on our laptops on this trip. Having no responsibilities while you’re getting there is great relaxation.”

The Merediths are active in the Austin Cycling Association, and Fred is a Board Member of the League of American Bicyclists. While in the area, they cycled south to Oxnard and north to Lompoc and Jalama Beach. They were inspired to visit the area by checking out the websites for the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition (www.sbbike.org) and the Santa Barbara Car

Free Project (www.santabarbaracarfree.org). Bicycle Coalition Vice President Ralph Fertig, an active partner in the Santa Barbara Car Free project, gave the Merediths some area bike tips. They enjoyed their vacation very much. Said Fred, “Santa Barbara is an easy town to get around in without a car.”



Fred and Nancy Meredith outside the South Coast Railroad Museum in Goleta.



APCD Board Calendar

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 Joe Centeno

Fifth District

Santa Barbara County

Mayor Victoria Pointer

City of Buellton

Mayor Dick Weinberg

City of Carpinteria

Councilmember Cynthia Brock

City of Goleta

Mayor Sam Arca

City of Guadalupe

Councilmember DeWayne Holmdahl

City of Lompoc

Councilmember Gregg Hart

City of Santa Barbara

Councilmember Marty Mariscal

City of Santa Maria

Councilmember David Smyser

City of Solvang

*All meetings start at 2 p.m.
For final meeting agendas,
call the APCD Board Clerk,
961-8853.*

March 20

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

April 17**

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

May 15

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

June 19

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

*** may be cancelled; check the
website for updates, or contact
the Board Clerk (above)*

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.

Save Planet Polluto!

APCD is distributing a new computer game for kids in grades 4th-8th to teachers and program managers in county classrooms, after school programs, and clubs. Save Planet Polluto, developed by Sacramento Air Quality Management District with a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is an educational, interactive air quality adventure that teaches the causes of air pollution and ways to improve air quality.

For more information, and to schedule an APCD Save Planet Polluto visit, see www.sbcapcd.org/edu/polluto.htm, or contact Mary Byrd at 961-8833 or byrdm@sbcapcd.org, or Frances Gilliland at 961-8838 or gillilandf@sbcapcd.org.



Earth Day is Coming!

Earth Day will be celebrated in April at a variety of locations around the county. Santa Barbara's celebration will be on April 27, 10-5:30 at the County Courthouse Sunken Gardens. For more information on this and other events as they are scheduled, see www.sbcapcd.org/apcd/earthday.htm.



Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District

Main Office

26 Castilian Drive
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 961-8800

Business Assistance

(805) 961-8868

Daily Air Quality Report

www.sbcapcd.org

Complaints/Public Information

(805) 961-8800

World Wide Web

www.sbcapcd.org

E-Mail

apcd@sbcapcd.org

On the Air is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Community Programs 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@sbcapcd.org.

Our Vision: Clean Air



Asbestos: What You Should Know

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been widely used because it is strong and flexible, does not burn or corrode, and insulates well. Asbestos was regularly used in construction and tire insulation until about 1979. Sprayed acoustical ceilings, also known as “popcorn” or “cottage cheese” ceilings, often contain asbestos. Other materials in a home that may contain asbestos include vinyl floor tiles, roofing shingles, duct wrap, or insulation.

Unlike most minerals, asbestos breaks up into a dust of microscopic fibers when broken

or crushed. The fibers are small and light, and can stay in the air for a long time. Once inhaled, asbestos fibers can remain in airways and lung tissues, producing the risk of severe health problems that do not appear until many years later.

Left undisturbed, asbestos-containing material does not generally pose a health risk. Construction, demolition, or renovation activities can disturb asbestos-containing materials, and cause the asbestos fibers to become airborne. APCD is responsible for implementing federal laws that apply to the

renovation and demolition of commercial buildings, including apartment buildings, condominium complexes, or townhouse complexes that have five or more units.

If you are a homeowner, and suspect materials in your home may contain asbestos (especially if your home was constructed before 1978), you should consult an independent certified asbestos inspector before you consider removal of asbestos-containing materials or renovations of areas that may have asbestos. Owners of single-family homes are not required

to follow federal rules and regulations concerning the removal of asbestos, but should be advised of the potentially serious health consequences of breathing asbestos fibers.

If you are the owner of a single condominium or townhouse, but you are located in a complex that has five or more units, you are required to follow the federal rules and regulations concerning asbestos that are enforced by APCD.

For more information, see www.sbcpacd.org/biz/asbestos.htm

First Fuel Cell Cars Leased in California

In December, Honda and Toyota delivered the first fuel cell vehicles to be leased in California. Fuel cells generate electric power through chemical reactions involving hydrogen. The process produces almost no air pollution, although some pollution may be associated with extracting and storing the hydrogen for use in the fuel cell. The Honda and Toyota prototype fuel cell vehicles refuel with hydrogen. Some other prototype fuel cell vehicles refuel with a source of hydrogen, such as methanol or gasoline, and use a reformer to extract the hydrogen on board the vehicle.

(Continued on back)



County residents got the chance to test drive the Honda fuel cell vehicle last fall, when six fuel cell vehicles arrived from Monterey as part of the California Coast 2002 road rally organized by the California Fuel Cell Partnership.

Reminder: Annual Reports Due March 1

Annual reports for APCD permitted facilities are due by March 1. Forms can be downloaded from the APCD website at

www.sbcpacd.org/eng/dl/dl108.htm

for the following types of businesses: Bulk Plants, Gas Stations, Surface Coating, Solvent Use, Dry Cleaning, Fiberglassing, Autobody Shops and Sand, Rock & Gravel Operations. These businesses also have the option of submitting their annual report online (securely) via the web site. If your company is interested in participating, please contact Joe Petri at jep@sbcpacd.org or Jim Fredrickson at jbf@sbcpacd.org.

Attention: Auto Maintenance and Repair Shops

As of the end of 2002, service stations, fleet operators, general automotive repair shops, and car dealerships may no longer use automotive cleaning and degreasing products that contain perc (perchloroethylene), MeCl (methylene chloride) or trichloroethylene (TCE), according to state law. These substances are considered toxic air contaminants.

Additional regulations coming up in the 2004-2006 timeframe will require shops to phase in less polluting auto parts cleaning or brake cleaning systems. APCD's Water-Based Cleaner Rebate Program will reward shops for acting early, and will reimburse them one dollar for every four dollars they spend purchasing commercially available water-based cleaning systems. Said APCD Project Manager Gary Hoffman, "They benefit by



Dan Giers of Malmecke Motors with APCD Project Manager Gary Hoffman.

getting funds to help with this process, and our county's air benefits, as we achieve emission reductions several years before we would through the regulations.

❖ To download the California Air Resources Board brochure, "Cleaners and Degreasers Used in Automotive Maintenance and Repair" (a PDF file), see www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/amr/brochure.pdf.

❖ For more information on APCD's program for auto repair shops, contact Gary Hoffman at 961-8818 or hoffmang@sbcapcd.org

Fuel Cell Cars (cont'd from front)

The City of Los Angeles will use a Honda FCX fuel cell vehicle as a pool car, gathering real-world data on fuel use and performance. Los Angeles will be leasing four additional vehicles as well.

The University of California campuses at Davis and Irvine are leasing Toyota fuel cell hybrid vehicles (FCHV).

Santa Barbara County residents got the chance to see and test drive these vehicles last September as part of the California Coast 2002 road rally of fuel cell vehicles, organized by the California Fuel Cell Partnership.

For more information, and links to road rally articles and photos, see www.sbcapcd.org/fcrrally2.htm.