

Going the Extra Clean Mile

Clean-Air Vehicles and the People Who Drive Them

Santa Barbara County
Air Quality News
Issue 59
November/December 2000

Cars and trucks are responsible for more than half the smog-forming pollution in our county. One of the biggest ways any of us can help keep our air clean is to drive less, and to bike, walk, take the bus or train, telecommute, or carpool, more. When we do drive, we can keep our cars tuned up, and combine car trips.

*We can also drive cleaner vehicles. This issue of **On the Air** features some of the clean-air vehicles in use around our county, and the people who are driving them.*

Electric Utility Vehicles

Ranger Terese Zilke, California State Parks, rides in an electric mini-pickup vehicle at Carpinteria State Beach. A recent event celebrated the launch of these vehicles in state beach campgrounds at Carpinteria, El Capitan, Refugio, and Gaviota. The project was funded by APCD and California State Parks, and facilitated by the Friends of Channel Coast State Parks. Campground hosts are using the vehicles, also known as E-Carts, to collect fees, check campsites,

respond to complaints or requests, patrol at night, and perform other general support and maintenance tasks.

Previously, hosts have used their own (typically heavy-duty gas or diesel powered) vehicles for these multiple short trips. The E-Carts are expected to reduce about seven tons of air pollution over the ten-year life of the project. Says Zilke, "I'm delighted we can do something that's good for our campers, our



APCD Project
Manager Ray McCaffrey

campground hosts, and our air—all at the same time!"

Adds Carpinteria Campground Host Jeanine Lewis, "We've logged 55 hours on our E-Cart just since October. We've used it to haul wood, transport hurt kids and lost dogs, run back and forth between the kiosk and the camp spaces many times a day, and patrol at night. It's a lot of fun to drive."

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Ranger Terese Zilke

Kids Care for Clean Air

In December, APCD and Traffic Solutions distributed the Kids Care for Clean Air 2001 Calendar, featuring pictures by kids ages 5-12 who were winners of a countywide contest to draw pictures depicting "fun ways to get around without creating air pollution." Additional calendars may be available (while supplies last). Contact APCD at 961-8800, or apcd@sbcapcd.org.



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Going the Extra *Clean* Mile (cont'd)



Gas-Electric Hybrid Car

Jessica Helgerson (pictured right) of Jessica Helgerson Interior Design with her Honda Insight, a two-seater gas-electric hybrid considered an ultra low-emission vehicle (ULEV). Helgerson attended the Santa Barbara Earth Day 2000 event, noticed the Insight featured at the APCD booth, and asked about local availability. When told the Santa Maria dealer had an Insight available, she reports, "I called the dealer, left Earth Day then and there and drove to Santa Maria to make the down payment." She notes, "It was definitely an impulse buy, but I've been very happy with it. It's really quiet and zippy. It's got a lot of pep – I have to be really careful not to drive it too fast." She's getting about 50 miles per gallon (mpg) in town, and about 70 mpg on the freeway, and remarks, "Every time I'm in a parking lot I feel like I'm a movie star. I'm just swamped by people who are interested in the car."

Electric Car

Ed and Kathy Miller demonstrate their General Motors second generation EV-1, an electric vehicle, at the Santa Ynez Earth Day event. The Millers drove the car about 16,000 miles in 2000, making roundtrips from Goleta to Oxnard, Santa Maria, and Santa Ynez, driving the car up to 120 miles before charging. They typically charge the car overnight, and are paying around two cents a mile for electricity costs, including the monthly charge for the extra electric meter. Says Ed Miller, "We hardly use our other car anymore; we always want to take the EV-1. It's a great car. I'd absolutely recommend it to anyone!"



Gas-Electric Hybrid Car

Santa Barbara County dispatcher Frank Stone demonstrates the new gas-electric hybrid Toyota Prius the County is using as a pool car (below). Paddy Langlands, County Fleet Manager, is collecting feedback from the employees driving the car, as the County is considering purchasing more.

The Prius, a four-seater, is considered a super ultra low-emission vehicle (SULEV), currently the lowest possible emissions classification before the zero-emission vehicle category. Langlands was surprised to find that the Prius actually gets better mileage (55 mpg) around town than it does on the freeway (45 mpg). He explains that in stop-and-start driving, the car's regenerative braking feature feeds additional power back into the battery when the car is slowing. In freeway driving, without a lot of

braking, this feature doesn't provide as much mileage benefit. Notes Langlands, "In the feedback we've received, most people say they would buy a car like this one, and they support the County buying one. It's a hot item. We get a lot of requests for it."

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Learning about Clean-Air Vehicles



APCD Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the November Board meeting.

Note: the APCD Board did not meet in October and December.

November

- ✓ Executed grant agreements for a low-emissions boat engine, and a low-emissions tour coach engine.
- ✓ Adopted administrative update to the APCD Environmental Review Guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- ✓ Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Barbara County Association of Governments regarding transfer of administration of the Clean Air Express Commuter Bus Program.
- ✓ Approved up to \$200,000 in Carl Moyer Program Funds and other Innovative Technologies Group funds for an On-road Heavy-Duty Vehicle Repower Program.
- ✓ Executed a grant agreement with Gaither Coach Tours to provide \$20,818 for repowering a tour coach with a low-NOx diesel engine

APCD demonstrates electric vehicles, and other clean-air vehicles, at schools, business and organization meetings, and community events, and makes presentations on advanced vehicle technologies and air pollution. For more information, and to schedule a visit to your event or meeting, or classroom, contact APCD at 961-8800, or apcd@sbcapcd.org.



For More Information...

Here are just a few places to go for more information on alternate-fuel vehicles:

- ◆ Alternate Fuel Fleet Buyer's Guide: www.fleets.doe.gov/
- ◆ Alternate Fuels Data Center: <http://www.atdc.doe.gov/>
- ◆ ARB's Buyer's Guide to Cleaner Cars: www.arb.ca.gov
- ◆ Advanced vehicle technologies: www.calstart.org
- ◆ EV information: www.zevinfo.com
- ◆ California Fuel Cell Partnership: <http://www.drivingthefuture.org/>
- ◆ EPA's Vehicle Emissions Guide: <http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/info>
- ◆ Hybrid vehicles: <http://www.hevs.com/>
- ◆ Department of Energy Fuel Economy Guide: www.fueleconomy.gov
- ◆ California Energy Commission: www.energy.ca.gov/afvs

For local information on alternative transportation options, see the Traffic Solutions website at www.sbcag.org/ts.htm.

Going the Extra Clean Mile (cont'd)

Electric Truck

APCD Inspector John Garnett (below) uses a Ford Ranger EV electric truck when he goes out on inspections. "It's extremely quiet and smooth," he remarks. "The acceleration is superior to that of other alternate-fuel vehicles I've driven. And it's so easy to charge overnight, eliminating those trips to the gas station." The City of Santa Barbara has six Ford Ranger

EVs, used in a variety of departments ranging from the Parking Department to the Police Department's Property and Evidence Group. Notes Mike Grimes, Public Works Facilities Manager for the City of Santa Barbara, "The key for us has been to match the vehicle to the location and the task we need it to perform.



Electric Shuttle

Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD) recently launched a new "Seaside Shuttle" electric shuttle service in Carpinteria, (above) patterned after the successful Downtown Waterfront Shuttle in Santa Barbara. MTD currently has 25 electric buses, and will be adding more. The agency has one of the largest electric transit bus fleets in the country.



The trucks have been able to perform their assignments, and everyone is enjoying them." The City of Santa Barbara also has several vehicles powered by cleaner burning compressed natural gas: one streetsweeper, three animal control vehicles, and six three-quarter ton trucks.



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

Mayor Russ Hicks

City of Buellton

Councilmember Dick Weinberg

City of Carpinteria

Mayor Sam Arca

City of Guadalupe

Councilmember DeWayne Holmdahl

City of Lompoc

Councilmember Elinor Langer

City of Santa Barbara

Councilmember Larry Lavagnino

City of Santa Maria

Mayor Ed Andriese

City of Solvang

APCD Board Calendar

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

January 18

Board of Supervisor's
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria

February 15

Board of Supervisors Hearing
Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara

March 15

Board of Supervisor's
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria

Community Advisory Council

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

Saving Energy

The recent electricity crisis gives us added incentive to form new, energy-conserving habits. We can try to reduce our energy use overall, and to shift energy use to off-peak hours. Here are some ideas for both.

- ❖ Wait until after 8 PM on weekdays to start charging electric vehicles, to run dishwasher or washer loads, or to use other electric appliances, whenever possible.
- ❖ Use compact fluorescent light bulbs, and turn off lights.
- ❖ Use motion-activated outdoor lights.
- ❖ Turn down the thermostat in the wintertime, and wear warmer clothes.
- ❖ Buy energy-efficient appliances.
- ❖ Consolidate energy use whenever possible (e.g., run appliances like washers and dishwashers fully loaded).
- ❖ Visit www.sce.com, or www.pge.com/index.shtml to find out about home energy audits, and for more energy-conserving tips and links.

On the Net www.sbcapcd.org

New APCD web pages list the county's significant risk facilities for air toxics, airborne chemicals that pose potential health risks. The pages provide additional information on specific substances, and on APCD's Air Toxics program. See "Air Toxics" under "About Air" on the APCD website home page. For more information, contact Rebecca Gaffney at 961-8888, or gaffneyr@sbcapcd.org.



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Air Pollution Control District

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Daily Air Quality Report

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apcd@sbcapcd.org

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, 961-8920 or Email bratzb@sbcapcd.org.

Our Vision: Clean Air



Funding for Alternate-Fuel Vehicles

A number of programs are currently available to help fund the purchase of many types of low-emission vehicles.

Zero Emission Vehicle Incentive

California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved guidelines for

a new zero-emission vehicle incentive at its December Board meeting. Highlights of the new incentive include:

- ❖ \$18 million available in grants to fund the lease or purchase of new ARB-certified zero-emission vehicles between October 1, 2000 and December 31, 2002.

- ❖ Grants are available to individuals, state and local

government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses.

- ❖ Individual grants totaling up to \$9,000 over three years are available.

Additional information on this (and on other incentives) is available at www.zevinfo.com, through ARB's information line, 1-800-END-SMOG, or by contacting Gary Hoffman at APCD at 961-8818, or hoffmang@sbcapcd.org.

This ZEV incentive can only be used for ARB-certified vehicles currently considered zero-emission (e.g., electric vehicles, and perhaps some fuel-cell vehicles in the future). In January, ARB will consider its ZEV mandate, and

incorporate new guidelines for automakers to meet requirements with hybrid gas-electric vehicles, fuel-cell vehicles, super low-emission gas vehicles, and other vehicles, in addition to electric vehicles.

For more information, see www.arb.ca.gov

Diesel Repower Funds Available

APCD's Innovative Technologies Group is administering a new program that will provide on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicle operators with funds towards the purchase of new or rebuilt cleaner burning engines, powered either by diesel or alternative fuels, to replace existing diesel engines. The program, part of the state Carl

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Compressed Natural Gas Cars

Mark Rousseau, Energy and Environmental Manager, with the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) Housing and Residential Services Department, demonstrates a new Honda Civic GX vehicle, powered by cleaner burning compressed natural gas. Honda has referred to the GX as the "cleanest car on earth," claiming the exhaust from the tailpipe can actually be cleaner than the surrounding air in a highly polluted area on some days. In addition to two Civic GX vehicles, Rousseau's department at UCSB also has three trucks powered by compressed natural gas, five electric pickups, one electric car, and five electric grounds maintenance vehicles. Some of the vehicles were purchased with the help of funding from APCD's



Innovative Technologies Program. "Our department has really led the way to making a commitment to alternate-fuel vehicles here at UCSB," notes Rousseau. "We get a lot of questions about them, and really feel we're doing our part to educate students about cleaner vehicles."

Compressed Natural Gas Buses

Lompoc Unified School District currently has fifteen school buses that run on cleaner burning compressed natural gas. The buses, which represent a significant portion of the District's fleet (pictured in the School District's yard, below), have been on the road since 1994. A new state program provides funds for the purchase of lower emission school buses (see article).



Annual Reports Due March 21st

All APCD Permit Holders must submit annual report forms by March 1st. Specific reporting requirements for each facility appear in the permit. Some facilities require additional information not listed in forms. Companies with facilities that did not operate in 2000 are still required to notify APCD in writing with the company name, address, phone, and permit number. Report forms were mailed out in December, and are also available on the APCD website at www.sbcapcd.org/eng/dl/dl08.htm.

Contact Frances Gilliland on the APCD Businesses Assistance Line

at 961-8868 with questions, or email business@sbcapcd.org

Please mail or fax all required forms and/or information by **March 1, 2001** to:
Santa Barbara County APCD
Att'n: Annual Reports
P.O. Box 8120
Goleta, CA 93118
Fax: 805-961-8801

A request for an extension must be submitted in writing by **February 15, 2001** to:
Att'n: John Garnett at the above mailing address or fax number, or via email to garnettj@sbcapcd.org

Compressed Natural Gas

Currently there are eight Clean Air Express buses taking commuters to work in Santa Barbara and Goleta from their homes in Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Ventura. Five of the buses are powered by cleaner burning compressed natural gas (CNG); all eight will be running on CNG next year. APCD Project Manager Eric Peterson estimates that the buses reduce about one ton of air pollution per bus, per year. To find out more about the Clean Air Express program, call Santa Barbara Airbus at 964-7759.



Adhesives and Sealants

The APCD will be holding a Compliance Workshop for Rule 353, Adhesives and Sealants, to help contractors, sellers, adhesive manufacturers, sales representatives, and industrial users understand the requirements of this rule, which was adopted in 1999. The workshop topics to be discussed include applicability, rule product categories, reactive organic compound (ROC) limits, labeling requirements, allowed exemptions, and substitute products. The workshop will be held on January 31 at 9:30 AM in the District Goleta office. For more information contact Glenn Griffing at 961-8889, or griffing@sbcapcd.org

Funding for Alternate-Fuel Vehicles

(continued from front)

Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program, is designed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from these vehicles. Public agencies and private operators may apply. Possible repower opportunities include, but are not limited to: tour buses; refuse collection and transport, line-haul, low-bed and other haul trucks; and other on-road heavy-duty equipment with records of high diesel fuel usage rates.

More information is available about the state program at www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/moyer/moyer.htm. For application information and instructions, contact Ray McCaffrey at 961-8826, or mccaffrey@sbcapcd.org.

Clean School Bus

The state Air Resources Board has established a new school bus program with \$50 million in funds to be administered through California Energy

Commission and local air districts, including APCD. Funds apply to the purchase of new clean diesel or alternate fuel school buses, and to the retrofit of existing bus engines with particulate matter traps. Clean diesel engines are significantly cleaner than the school bus engines they will replace—about twice as clean for NOx emissions, and ten times as clean for particulate emissions. Retrofit particulate matter traps will reduce particulate emissions by at least 85%.

All diesel engines funded under the program will be required to use low-sulfur diesel fuel, which reduces emissions of particulate matter in diesel exhaust, and also makes possible the use of a catalytic converter to reduce NOx emissions. Some funds may be available for refueling infrastructure. For more information, see www.arb.ca.gov, or contact Ray McCaffrey at 961-8826, or mccaffrey@sbcapcd.org.