Major Milestone Reached in Cutting Shipping Emissions

In March the International Maritime Organization (IMO) took action that represents a leap forward in the effort to reduce air pollution from one of the largest sources in this county. The IMO designated the coast off the United States and Canada an Emission Control Area, and large ships traveling up to 200 miles off our coast now face stricter engine and fuel standards.

“This is great news,” said Tom Murphy, Manager of the Technology and Environmental Assessment Division at the District. “We are excited to see significant movement in the right direction for the first time. Could it be faster? Could it be more? Absolutely. But we are taking our victories one step at a time, and we’ll take this one.”

The international action is particularly significant given that ninety percent of the ships traveling off the coast of Santa Barbara County are foreign-flagged. District Board Member 1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal noted, “It is so gratifying to see this action at the international level, since this huge source of pollution off our coast is not under our local control.” In 2009, Carbajal sponsored a National Association of Counties resolution to urge the federal government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pursue strategies to control pollution from marine shipping.

Murphy remarked, “For years it has been incredibly frustrating. Here is this huge source of air pollution affecting our county. We have absolutely no control over it, and yet we are responsible for addressing it in our planning efforts.” After decades of identifying the problem in Clean Air Plans, presenting the Santa Barbara County case study at conferences, and raising the issue at state, regional, and national levels, the District finally took legal action, joining other parties in filing lawsuits calling on the EPA to act.

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District Receives National Clean Air Award for Santa Barbara Car Free Project

The District was honored with a Clean Air Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee for the Santa Barbara Car Free Project at a May 26 ceremony in Washington, D.C. The District is one of only fifteen award recipients from around the country. District Director Terry Dressler said, “We are so honored to be selected for this award.

We thank our area partners for the outstanding collaboration that has made this project possible.”

The Santa Barbara Car Free Project was founded in 1998 by the District to reduce air pollution from visitors’ cars. It is supported by the City of Santa Barbara, Amtrak California® and more than 100 partners—business, organizations, and individuals—working together to promote car free travel to and around Santa Barbara for cleaner air and a more sustainable community.

California 23rd District Congresswoman Lois Capps remarked, “I am very proud of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District and the Santa Barbara Car Free Project and its many partners. It’s good to see the Project’s work

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And, in December of 2009, the EPA did act, announcing new standards for new engines on U.S.-flagged ships, and also, with Canada, proposing that the IMO designate up to 200 miles off the coast of North America an Emission Control Area. The District estimates that the new IMO standards will reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from ships affecting this county by 37 percent by 2020, and by 61 percent by 2030, as shown in the graph on page one.

The District’s emissions inventories have focused on emissions of ozone precursors such as NOx in the past, since Clean Air Plans are designed to show how the county will attain and maintain federal and state ozone standards. In recent years, more attention has focused on ship emissions of diesel particulate, which includes multiple air toxics.

On July 1, 2009, a new state rule took effect requiring ships to use a lower-sulfur diesel fuel when within 24 nautical miles of the California coastline. Use of this fuel results in lower emissions of sulfur compounds and diesel particulate. Since July 1, 2009, some shipping companies have been taking a route outside the Channel Islands to avoid having to use the cleaner and more expensive fuel. The internationally-approved commercial shipping lanes currently go through the Channel; the route outside the Channel does not currently include internationally-designated shipping lanes. Concerns about ship traffic outside the Islands since implementation of the new fuel rule have led the U.S. Coast Guard to announce it will conduct a Port Access Route Study to assess the optimal location of designated shipping lanes for ships heading into the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports.

The District has provided comments on the study, recommending that it include a thorough evaluation of onshore air quality and public health impacts, and has asked the California Air Resources Board to perform modeling studies to develop this information. Said Murphy, “Clearly there is potential for significant air quality benefits for our county from relocation of the shipping lanes to outside the Channel. The state’s modeling studies will help quantify that, and also provide information on regional impacts.

It is important to view this from a regional perspective.” He noted that if the designated shipping lanes were to remain inside the Channel, other options should be examined, including reducing the speed of ships traveling inside the Channel to 12 knots, which could achieve reductions of more than 50 percent in emissions of NOx, particulate matter and other pollutants.

Murphy emphasized that the District will continue to monitor developments in this area, and concluded, “The good news is that with this recent IMO action, for the first time all the emissions inventories in our Clean Air Plan now show emissions going down over time. That’s tremendous.”

For more information, see www.OurAir.org/shipemissions.htm.

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**Clean Air Award (cont’d)**

for sustainable tourism—and a sustainable community—honored with this national award.”

The District Board thanked the Project’s partners with a Resolution of Appreciation adopted at the June 17 Board meeting. Karen Kukurin, Deputy Director and Community Liaison with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Office, attended the meeting and read a congratulatory letter from the Governor that stated, “To the district members, and all those who have had a hand in the Santa Barbara Car Free Project, I thank you for your exemplary accomplishments. Your outstanding efforts help cement California as a world leader in going green.”

Gina McCarthy, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, said of the award winners, “Innovation and commitment are the keys to environmental progress, and our Clean Air Excellence Award winners are tremendous examples. As we look to the future, these winners will help lead the way toward cleaner air and a healthier environment.”

The Clean Air Excellence Awards Program, established in 2000 at the recommendation of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, annually recognizes and honors outstanding innovative efforts to help make progress in achieving cleaner air. Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant emissions, demonstrate sustainable outcomes, and provide a model for others to follow.

For more information, see www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org
Following are the highlights of the March, May and June Board meetings.

March
- Received and filed a report on City of Santa Maria stand-by generator issue.
- Adopted a resolution that provides for the making of contributions to the District’s Retiree Medical Account for fiscal year 2009-10.
- Adopted Resolutions of Appreciation for Bobbie Bratz and Linda Beard upon the occasion of their retirements.

May
- Adopted a resolution establishing the cost effectiveness limit for grant agreements as allowed under the current state Carl Moyer Program Guidelines.
- Authorized the Air Pollution Control Officer to increase the funding amount for the Old Car Buy Back Program by $150,000, with the option of an additional $100,000 increase, if community interest justifies it.
- Received and filed an update on actions to control air pollution from marine shipping, and directed staff to continue vigorous efforts in this area.
- Held hearing to consider the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Comprehensive Program Summary and Proposed Budget, and scheduled a budget adoption hearing for June 17, 2010.

June
- Authorized the Air Pollution Control Officer to enter into Memorandums of Understanding with several employee groups.
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation for Tom Murphy upon the occasion of his retirement.
- Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation for Santa Barbara Car Free Project Partners.
- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Budget.

Transitions at the District

Recently several District staff took on new responsibilities.

In back: Joel Cordes, Air Monitoring Supervisor; Sara Brumit, Executive Secretary and Board Clerk; Jon Mundt, Inspection Specialist III.

In front: Molly Pearson, Community Programs Supervisor; Kaitlin McNally, Air Quality Engineering Supervisor; Mary Byrd, Public Information Officer; Ben Ellenberger, Air Quality Engineer III.

Linda Beard, the District’s Executive Secretary and Clerk of the Board, retired in April after more than 12 years at the District. In addition to keeping the executive offices running smoothly and efficiently and managing Board dockets and hearings, Beard led the District’s annual United Way campaign.

Under her leadership the District won the United Way Employee Campaign Award for Outstanding Employee Giving for eight consecutive years starting in 1997.

Beard organized multiple holiday celebrations at the agency, and was known for her morale-building efforts. She is looking forward to a happy retirement in Florida and to spending more time with her grandchildren. Beard remarked, “I really enjoyed working at the District and being part of a dedicated, professional staff.” She will be missed.

New Adventures for Allison King

In June, Allison King, the District’s Public Outreach Intern since the fall of 2008, received her Masters from the University of California at Santa Barbara Bren School for Environmental Science and Management and embarked on new adventures. As District intern, King made presentations for hundreds of students at county schools from Carpinteria to Guadalupe, demonstrated wind and solar energy technologies at numerous science nights, and represented the District at community events, including a recent Bike FROM Work Day celebration in Santa Barbara (pictured). King’s Masters Group project developed tools for communities to use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She and her group traveled to China in late June to share their project’s strategies and software tool with graduate students at Nanjing University’s School of the Environment. We wish her well!

For more information on the group project, see www.brenaecom.org.
**Community Advisory Council**

The APCD Community Advisory Council meets monthly at the Days Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call 961-8800.

**Earth Day Grand Prize Winner**

Mark Sapp was the Grand Prize Winner of a pair of Amtrak Coast Starlight® roundtrip tickets to Portland or Seattle at the “Come to Earth Day Car Free and Win” promotion at the South Coast Earth Day Festival this year, put on by the District and the Santa Barbara Car Free Project. Sapp, who biked to Earth Day, has family (including an 18 month old grandson) in Seattle, and looks forward to the train trip with his wife.

Sapp, a brick layer who has lived in Santa Barbara for the past fifteen years, noted, “I bike everywhere, even to jobs in Carpinteria or up in the hills in Montecito—except when I have to carry a lot of tools. I try to live car free as much as possible. It’s just more fun to bike than to drive.”

He is a member of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, and likes to volunteer at Bici Centro on Open Shop Nights. Ed France, Executive Director of the Bicycle Coalition and Bici Centro, explained, “This is a community drop-in shop. We walk people through making their own repairs. Sometimes people are riding bikes that are not safe to ride, or sometimes they’ve put their bikes away and are not riding, when it’s something that’s easily fixed. Either way we can help.” Bici Centro, a project of the Bicycle Coalition, offers a range of programs, including youth bicycle education, bicycle street skills classes, programs for Spanish speakers, and more.

Sapp remarked, “I remember when I was growing up it was way uncool for us to ride bikes in elementary, junior high and high school. So I didn’t really get started riding bikes until college – 40 years ago – and I’ve been riding ever since.”

For more information on the Bicycle Coalition and Bici Centro, see www.sbbike.org and www.bicicentro.org.
Old Car Buy Back Program
Now Pays $1,000 per Vehicle

In May the District announced that the popular Old Car Buy Back Program will now pay $1,000 for gasoline and diesel vehicles 1992 and older. Since the change in funding to $1,000 (from $800) and the publicity that ensued, the program is receiving four times the number of requests from county residents that it received before the change. “Since we started this new phase of the program, we have bought back more than one hundred vehicles,” said Jim Fredrickson, who is managing the program at the District.

Cars and trucks are the major source of onshore smog-forming pollution in Santa Barbara County, and older vehicles pollute much more than newer ones. In fact, the vehicles that qualify for the Old Car Buy Back Program represent only 15 percent of vehicles in the county, but contribute more than 66 percent of the air pollution from county vehicles. District Director Terry Dressler said, “We estimate the program has cut almost 50 tons of smog-forming air pollutants since 2006 by taking almost 1,400 of these higher-polluting vehicles off the road.”

Leaf Blowers
Attention: Professional Landscapers, Residents of the City of Santa Barbara, and County Residents!

Gasoline-powered leaf blowers produce emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons, which are involved in the formation of ground-level ozone. They also emit airborne toxics as a result of partial combustion, and greenhouse gases and particulate matter. Use of leaf blowers is particularly problematic after wildfire events since the blowers force ash particles that have settled on the ground back up into the air.

District Inspector Glenn Gazdecki has received multiple complaints from people concerned about the effects of leaf blowers on the air they are breathing. He remarks, “Some people I’ve talked with are not home during the day and they don’t realize that their landscaping or gardening service is creating an impact on the health of their neighbors.”

Gazdecki offers the following tips for county residents about the use of leaf blowers.

- First, be a considerate neighbor. Ask your neighbors if they are being impacted. Remember, with warm weather upon us, many people like to leave their windows open, and dust may be blown directly into their homes.

- Ask your landscaping service to use an alternative to leaf blowers, such as gentle sweeping with a push broom followed by light hosing with water, or use of a high-quality shop-vacuum equipped with a high-efficiency particulate filter and a disposable filter bag.

- Ask your landscaping service to be aware of wind direction when using blowers. If the neighbors’ windows are open, or there are children playing nearby and the wind is blowing that way, it is not a good time to use a leaf blower.

Under Municipal Code (9.16.020-021), it is illegal to use gasoline-powered leaf blowers in the City of Santa Barbara at any time. Individuals affected by the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in Santa Barbara may contact the City Police Department at 897-2410.

Outside the City of Santa Barbara, gasoline-powered leaf blowers are allowed to be used. Individuals affected by them may call the District at 961-8800.
Driving and Car Care Tips for Less Pollution and Better Gas Mileage

No matter what vehicle you drive, you can improve your gas mileage and reduce pollution. Here are some ideas.

- Keep your speed consistent, use cruise control, observe the speed limit. Fuel efficiency goes down rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour.
- Avoid rapid acceleration and braking when possible, and avoid excessive idling.
- Don’t keep heavy items in your vehicle that you don’t need, and drive smaller vehicles when you have a choice.
- Keep your car tuned up, keep your tires properly inflated, check and replace air filters regularly, use the recommended grade of motor oil, fix leaky air conditioning systems, and don’t top off your tank.
- Combine car trips; plan ahead and carpool.

Old Car Buy Back (cont’d)

program are crushed by licensed auto dismantlers located in Santa Maria, Goleta, and Lompoc. The District was able to raise the amount offered per vehicle to $1,000 due to recent changes in state guidelines.

Fredrickson noted that vehicles bought under the program come from all parts of the county (see graph). Gasoline or diesel cars, light-duty trucks, vans, or sport utility vehicles model year 1992 and older can qualify for the program if they have been registered in Santa Barbara County for the past two consecutive years, are in working condition, are smog certified, and meet additional requirements as listed on the District website.

Fredrickson explained why vehicles must be in running condition to qualify for the program: “The idea is to take older, higher polluting vehicles that are now operating legally on the road off the road. The state has a program for vehicles that fail smog check.”

For more information, see www.OurAir.org.

Registrations for Vehicles Purchased Under the Old Car Buy Back Program

May 2006 through May 2010

Carpinteria - 4.9%
Buellton - 1.8%
Solvang - 1.2%
Summerland - 1.0%
Guadalupe - 1.0%
Santa Ynez - 0.8%
Orcutt - 0.3%
Los Olivos - 0.3%
Isla Vista - 0.1%
VAFB - 0.1%
Los Alamos - 0.1%
Casimilla - 0.1%
Montecito - 0.1%
Santa Barbara - 39.0%
Santa Maria - 20.6%
Goleta - 11.0%
Lompoc - 17.4%