



**Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District**

# On the Air

## Forty Years Working for Clean Air

The District, created on September 14, 1970 by resolution of the County Board of Supervisors, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. 1970 was a landmark year. The federal Clean Air Act amendments of 1970 set up the U.S. program for controlling air pollution. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1970, the California Environmental Quality Act passed in that year, and the first national celebration of Earth Day was held in 1970.

Since 1970, the District's monitoring stations have recorded significant drops in levels of ozone, a principal component of smog, in county air. "The big story of the last forty years for air quality in Southern California is a success story," said District Director and Air Pollution Control Officer Terry Dressler. "We've seen air quality improvement here in our county despite increases in population, vehicle miles traveled, and the number of industrial facilities. We have demonstrated that we can have clean air and economic growth at the same time."

He added, "In the past, the worst air pollution was from sources that could be regulated by state and local agencies—vehicles, and industrial sources. As we've been successful in regulating those sources, marine shipping and other transportation sources that haven't been controlled in the past are creating a larger portion

of the emissions. Fortunately, recent national and international actions will help reduce marine shipping emissions."

Dressler has worked in the air pollution field for the last thirty-two years, and commented, "A lot of us in positions of leadership in air pollution control in the state have been around for much of this period of time, setting up these programs. We are going to see a changing of the guard in the future."

Looking ahead to the next forty years, Dressler remarked, "As long as there is population growth we will need to reduce the amount of pollution produced per person to maintain clean air. We will need new, cleaner products and cleaner

***See timeline on page two.***



extent possible the air toxics we have invented and put into our air—and to make sure we don't increase levels of air toxics as we develop new products and technologies."

Dressler noted that the challenge of climate protection is "similar to the original challenge we faced forty years ago. As we move forward to reduce greenhouse gases to address climate change, we should experience co-benefits with reduced levels of air pollution. Ultimately, even though the regulatory approach appropriate for climate change may differ from our traditional approach to regulating air pollutants, the solution in both areas has to do with gaining efficiency in the way we use energy."

### Inside...

-  **Favorable State Audit of Moyer Program**
-  **New Division Manager Brian Shafritz**
-  **New Face at Front Desk**
-  **Fred White Retires**
-  **Tom Murphy Retires**
-  **Teacher Grants**

## Working for Clean Air (cont'd)



### FORTY-YEAR TIMELINE

*Some key air quality issues and milestones of the last forty years appear in the timeline above.*

## Tom Murphy Retires after 23 Years

**T**om Murphy, the District's Technology and Environmental Assessment Division Manager, retired in July after twenty-three years at the agency, and twenty-six years in the air quality field. He said, "I feel very fortunate to have had such a rewarding career in air pollution science and regulation and at the same time protecting public health." He was recently honored with a Public Service Award from the Citizens Planning Association for his leadership in working for clean air.

Murphy led several efforts at the District, and played a key role in raising awareness of the impact of marine shipping emissions on the county's air quality. During his tenure, he has seen state, federal, and international agencies take action to reduce shipping emissions, and the county has met important state and federal air quality standards. He remarked, "I am most proud of the fact that air quality has improved dramatically while I've been at the agency. And I'm so proud of everyone here for working so hard to further our clean air mission."

He is also pleased with the District's success in controlling emissions from federal and international sources: "For a small district, we've had a relatively large impact. First, in 1990, we helped ensure offshore oil and gas platforms would be under local control in the federal Clean Air Act amendments. Then we quantified the amount of air pollution from ships going through the Santa Barbara Channel, and we became an important case study. People were



shocked to see the magnitude of these shipping emissions for Santa Barbara County, especially since we don't have a port. We took our case study everywhere and a lot of people heard about it, and we kept the pressure on. The momentum built and finally both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the International Maritime Organization adopted standards that will greatly reduce emissions from this very large source."

Murphy, who has a Masters in Geography, started out working in the field, launching weather balloons, taking air samples, "using all the classic 1980s air sampling techniques." Initially, working as an analyst for electric utilities, he performed air modeling studies, analyzed air quality and meteorological data, and studied severe wind events. Then, as an atmospheric scientist with an environmental consulting firm, he performed air quality impact assessments in connection with permits, and analyzed ozone and weather data.

He started at the District in 1987, performing modeling studies, reviewing risk management and prevention plans and conducting air quality impact analyses. He moved on to supervising the development of District Clean Air Plans, which show how the county will meet air quality standards, and managing the District's grant program that provides funds for cleaner engines.

As Manager of the Technology and Environmental Assessment Division (one of two technical divisions at the District) since 2004, he has provided management and policy direction for the programs in planning, rules, air monitoring, grant funding for cleaner engines, public outreach, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. He has led negotiations on technical issues and policies with industry representatives and with federal, state, and local agencies. He has also managed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants and state funding allotments, and

performed technical studies. He has published technical papers on marine shipping emissions, made countless presentations, and served on peer review panels.

As the county experienced wildfires in recent years, Murphy and his staff responded with efforts to communicate the impacts of these fires on air quality. He said, "I'm proud of our team effort in connection with these unprecedented wildfires. It was a combination of understanding the meteorology, expanding our particulate monitoring, and partnering with the fire and public health departments on the communication effort."

Murphy has also worked closely with neighboring air districts. He observed, "One thing that's always been important to me is developing close working relationships with people in other agencies. We share an air basin with the Ventura and San Luis Obispo air districts, and our three districts have a very positive collaborative working relationship. We increase our collective productivity by relying on the strengths of each of us within the air basin."

Murphy has enjoyed his work at the District: "I am a scientist at heart. I love coming in every morning, looking at the meteorology, checking the winds, looking at the air quality, seeing where we are." He added, "Twenty-six years in an office environment is quite an achievement for me. I plan to take six months off from the work world, take a deep breath and then think about what to do next. All options are on the table."

There were no Board meetings in July and August. To view Board actions, see [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).



# APCD Board Calendar

## Board of Directors

- Supervisor Salud Carbajal  
*First District  
Santa Barbara County*
- Supervisor Janet Wolf  
*Second District  
Santa Barbara County*
- Supervisor Doreen Farr, Chair  
*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*
- Vice Mayor Al Clark  
*City of Carpinteria*
- Mayor Lupe Alvarez  
*City of Guadalupe*
- Mayor Pro Tem Cecilia Martner  
*Vice Chair, City of Lompoc*
- Mayor Helene Schneider  
*City of Santa Barbara*
- Mayor Larry Lavagnino  
*City of Santa Maria*
- Councilmember Ed Skytt  
*City of Solvang*
- Councilmember Ed Easton  
*City of Goleta*

All meetings start at 1:30 p.m.  
For final meeting agendas, call  
Sara Brumit, 961-8853.

The September 16 Board Meeting  
scheduled for Santa Maria is proposed  
to be adjourned to September 20.

**September 20**  
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, California 93455

**October 21**  
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

**December 16**  
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

The Calendar for 2011 will be set in  
December.

## 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  
Sara Brumit, 961-8853.



## Teachers Grants Program Returns for 2010-2011

The successful teachers grants program launched last year to help schools save energy and cut traffic and pollution is back for this school year. Developed by the District in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Education Office, with support from Southern California Gas Company, the program provides \$200 grants to county 4th-12th grade teachers for projects with their students in either of two areas: reducing school energy use; or promoting alternative transportation options to reduce vehicle traffic and pollution at the school. The deadline for this year's applications is November 10.

Last year grants were provided to fifteen teachers at nine county schools; projects ranged from sponsoring a "Walk to School" Day to measuring electricity use by appliances in order to reduce energy use. A teacher at one school developed a "Power Down Patrol" with her fifth grade students, which helped the school save \$300 on its electricity bill for the first month the Patrol was in action. According to the California Energy Commission, most schools spend more on energy than on school supplies, and can employ simple conservation strategies to cut energy costs by 20 percent or more. Reducing vehicle traffic at schools not only reduces air pollution at the site, it can help reduce the number of accidents near schools, and make it safer for students to walk or bike to school.

The District has partnered with the Education Office on teacher grants programs for several years; last year was the first for the "Care for our Earth" program.

For more information, see [www.OurAir.org/teachers.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/teachers.htm)



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**Complaints/Public Information**  
(805) 961-8800

**Air Quality Advisory Information**  
(805) 961-8802

**World Wide Web**  
[www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org)

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**On the Air** is a quarterly  
newsletter written by Mary Byrd,  
published by the Community  
Programs Section of the Santa  
Barbara County Air Pollution  
Control District.



Printed using soy-based ink on  
100% recycled, chlorine-free paper  
that is manufactured using 100%  
wind-generated power.

## Favorable State Audit of District's Carl Moyer Funding Program

In late May, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) issued a report on an audit of the District's Carl Moyer Funding Program, stating that "Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District is implementing an effective and efficient Carl Moyer Program that achieves the expected emission reductions and meets State requirements."

The Carl Moyer Program is a state voluntary grant program that reduces air pollution from diesel engines by funding the extra capital cost of vehicles and equipment that are cleaner than required by regulations. The District distributes state funds for county projects such as heavy-duty engine repowers, equipment replacements, and exhaust emission control retrofits. The



*District Air Quality Engineer Al Ronyecz, who coordinates the District's Carl Moyer Program, with a water truck; Moyer funds were used to replace the 1993 uncontrolled 650 brake horsepower (bhp) engine with a much cleaner 2004 689 bhp engine.*

District's Carl Moyer Program has reduced approximately 1,200 tons of nitrogen oxides, reactive organic gas and particulate matter emissions from heavy-duty diesel engines in the county.

As part of its statewide program oversight responsibilities, the ARB conducted the audit between October 2009 and February 2010. The ARB audit team reviewed the District's

implementation of the state guidelines and the District's own Moyer Program policies and procedures, conducted a grant project file review, visited several grant sources in the field, and audited the fiscal records. The audit made two findings and one recommendation; the District addressed these by adjusting accounting and documentation practices. The next prescribed audit of the District's Carl Moyer Program by the ARB is scheduled to take place in six years.

"It was a good process, and we are pleased with the positive outcome," remarked District Planning and Technology Supervisor Ron Tan.

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## New Manager of Technology and Environmental Assessment Division

Brian Shafritz was recently promoted to the position of Manager of the District's



Technology and Environmental Assessment (TEA) Division, replacing Tom Murphy who retired in late July (see article page three). Shafritz, who has twenty-five years experience at the District, was most recently an Air Quality Engineering Supervisor in the District's Engineering and Compliance Division.

He brings a wealth of experience from that division to his new assignment. He noted, "All the new developments in air toxics, greenhouse gas regulations for federal sources, environmental

review policies, and air quality standards will require good coordination across these two divisions. My experience will help me coordinate planning, rules and environmental review efforts in the TEA Division with the engineering and permitting side of the house."

Shafritz, who has a Masters in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, referred to a lifelong fascination with meteorology. He said, "I had an avid interest as a kid in weather events and physical sciences. I had

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## New Face at the Front Desk



*Cyndi Vestal (pictured) recently joined the District as the Front Desk Receptionist.*

# Business Focus

## Fred White Retires after 18 Years

**D**istrict Inspector Fred White retired in late July after 18 years with the agency. He was the inspector for Vandenberg Air Force Base, and an asbestos specialist, working to make sure county building departments and contractors are informed on asbestos regulations. He also helped out at the District's table at community events, and assisted with educational initiatives including the "Don't Top Off" program that explains the importance of not topping off the gasoline tank when filling up at the station.

Before joining the District, White served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force doing tours of duty in Taiwan, Germany, and several locations in the U.S. "Back when I was in the military they moved you all over the place – today I think people stay in one place longer," he said. One assignment in the Air Force involved working with the German Meteorological Office in an underground bunker, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) facility designed to be safe in the event of a nuclear war, with five stories underground.

For his last three years in the Air Force he served at Vandenberg Air Force Base as a meteorologist, doing weather support for space launches. After he retired from the Air Force he worked briefly for a company downloading meteorological data from weather balloons to evaluate conditions prior to space launches, and then joined the District in January of 1992.

White remarked, "I won't miss getting up and going to work every day. But I'll

miss the camaraderie, and the satisfaction I get knowing that my efforts have helped clean the air in Santa Barbara County."



## New Manager (cont'd)

an automated weather station in the back yard with rain gauges and an anemometer – you might say I was a nerdy science kid."

After receiving his degree Shafritz worked as an environmental consultant in Los Angeles, then joined the District in 1985 when several oil and gas companies

### Audit (cont'd)

"The Carl Moyer Program is an integral part of California's strategy to convert old engines to cleaner and more efficient diesel and alternative fuel technology," said ARB Branch Chief Scott Rowland. "Successful distribution of funds to qualifying projects, as Santa Barbara has done, serves the state's economy and the public health."

*For more information on the state's program, see [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov). For more information on District programs, see [www.ourair.org/itg/itg.htm](http://www.ourair.org/itg/itg.htm).*

were initiating projects in the county; he supervised air quality impact modeling for permits for these projects and provided air quality expertise to lead agencies. He investigated ozone trends, performed pollutant modeling studies, and provided meteorological assistance to the county's emergency response team.

He moved to managing source testing, and permitting of major sources of air pollution in the county. This was at a time when new federal rules required the District to enforce federal permits for these sources as part of the Title V program. "We had to realign our permit process to implement the federal program, and there was a lot of ground work to do to get procedures in place. Our main goal was to streamline the process so it wouldn't be too cumbersome for industry, and it worked. We were able to get costs under control by

making it a more efficient process," he remarked.

Under the federal permitting programs, major pollution sources have to meet several requirements, including one described as "Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (PSD), which sets a threshold for regulated pollutants known as criteria pollutants. If a new permit or a modification to an existing permit for a major source of air pollution will involve emissions of pollutants at levels over the threshold, the pollution source is required to meet additional requirements. Starting in 2011, greenhouse gases will become a regulated pollutant under this program. The threshold set for criteria pollutants is not feasible for greenhouse gases, which are emitted in much higher quantities. As a result, the EPA issued a final "tailoring" rule in May that identified higher thresholds for greenhouse gases. The District is assessing potential

rulemaking changes to ensure that the new greenhouse gas permit requirements can be properly enforced.

The District will also be reviewing its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines to incorporate a requirement to address greenhouse gas thresholds in CEQA reviews. Noted Shafritz, "I understand the CEQA process from the permitting side, and I have some insights on how to optimize the engineering and environmental planning sides. For example, I think it's important to build in energy efficiency and other emission-reducing strategies at the beginning of a project."

In addition, the advent of a new federal standard for ozone will increase District planning activities. Shafritz summed up: "What's attractive to me is the dynamic nature of the program I am coming fresh into. I look forward to the challenge."