

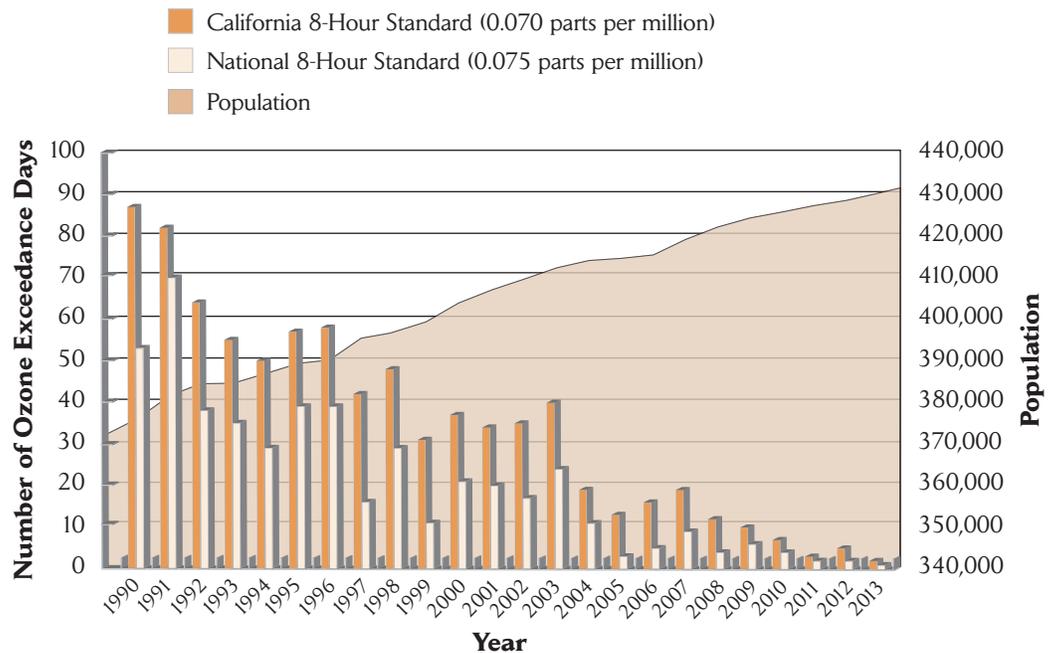
2013 Air Quality in Santa Barbara County

In 2013 Santa Barbara County recorded lower levels of ozone, a principal component of smog, and fewer exceedances of state and federal ozone standards than the previous year. Ozone levels have steadily declined since 1990, even as population has increased, as shown in the chart.

However, preliminary data for 2013 show that 18 exceedances of the state standard for PM10 (particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter) were recorded in 2013, compared with 12 exceedances of this standard in 2012. The District issued several air quality advisories in 2013. Joel Cordes, District Information Technology and Monitoring Supervisor, remarked, "We saw extremely dry conditions this year, with very low soil moisture content, and when we had high wind events, particle levels were high for short-term periods."

The county attains all the other federal and state standards for particulate matter, and attains

Santa Barbara County Ozone Exceedance Days 1990 - 2013



The number of days when Santa Barbara County air exceeded state and federal ozone standards has declined over the years – even as population has continued to grow. However, dry conditions in 2013 resulted in higher particle levels on some days.

the federal eight-hour ozone standard, but does not attain the state eight-hour ozone

standard. Levels of ozone and particles are measured at the District's monitoring stations around Santa Barbara County. In addition, stations measure levels of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide, and provide wind and temperature readings, to assist in understanding trends and pollution transport.

"Our stations are sited in places where we would expect higher levels of pollutants," said Cordes. He added, "They are also located in areas where they can provide us with data from our different sub-regions and microclimates,



Monitoring Specialist Sam Michie checks equipment at one of the District monitoring stations.

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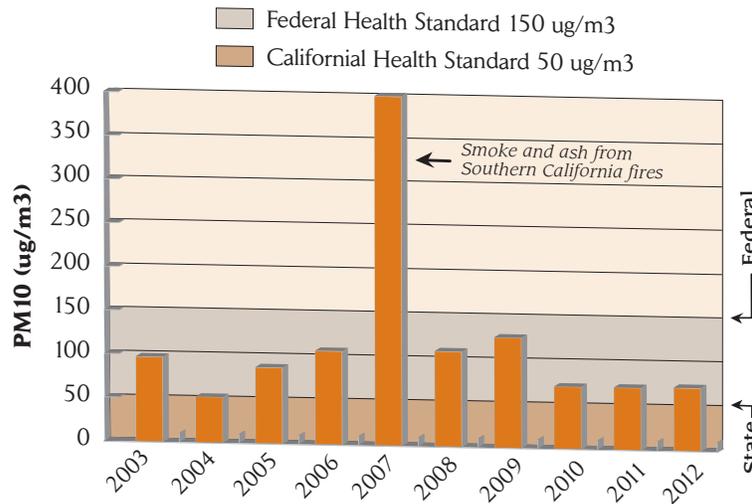
2013 Air Quality (cont'd)

and help us determine concentrations in areas of higher population density.”

Cordes referred to many changes in monitoring technology over the last decade. He said, “We used to measure ozone to the nearest part per million—now we measure to the nearest part per billion. And we have gone from measuring particulate matter every six days to recording hourly values in real time.” He noted, “The air quality standards have changed as new technology has allowed us to measure pollutant levels more precisely, and as studies have provided more evidence of the health impacts of air pollution.”

Santa Barbara County Maximum Daily Particulate Matter Concentrations (PM10)

24-Hr Average micrograms/cubic meter(ug/m3)



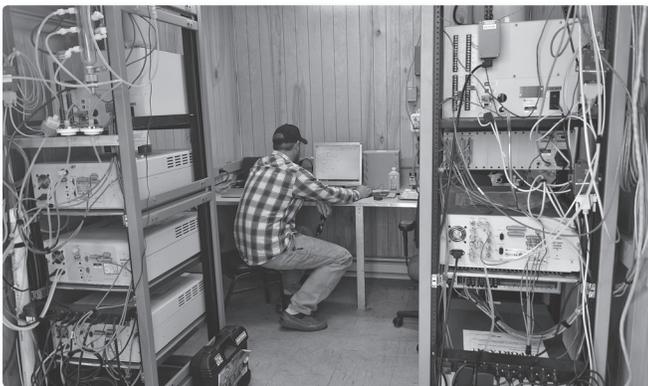
The chart shows the day with the highest 24-average concentration of particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) for each year. In 2013, preliminary data show that county monitoring stations recorded 18 exceedances of the state PM10 standard.

Cordes added, “Monitoring gives us the data we need to help us plan for clean air, so it’s an important tool in our toolbox. But it’s important to remember that monitoring the air does not clean the air; we need our planning, our rules, and our permitting and enforcement programs to accomplish our clean-air goals.”

Air Quality data are available in real time on the District website; see “Today’s Air Quality” at www.ourair.org.



Monitoring Specialist Howard Hamneren adjusts equipment that measures wind speed and direction at a District monitoring station.



Air monitors and analyzers and computer equipment inside one of the District’s monitoring stations.

Learn before you burn

Research estimates that **70%** of smoke from chimneys can actually reenter your home or your neighbor's home

Particles from smoke trigger asthma attacks and impact the lungs and heart

Be a good neighbor...

...notice your smoke

Clean your chimney

Don't burn trash

Convert to a clean-burning gas fireplace

@OurAirSBC

ourair.org



Santa Barbara's First Open Streets Event

District Board Roundup

Highlights of August, October and December meetings in 2013.

Note: the January 2014 meeting was rescheduled.

August

- 🕒 In Closed Session created a committee of Board members Lavagnino, Farr and Richardson to develop an annual evaluation for the Control Officer.
- 🕒 Received summary of grants and notices of violation.
- 🕒 Delegated authority to the Control Officer to amend, enter into, and renew contracts for multiple employee benefit insurance plans, and amended benefits and plans.
- 🕒 Received update on District grant programs and legislation reauthorizing state grant funds.
- 🕒 Adopted a Resolution of Appreciation to Ron Tan on the occasion of his retirement.

October

- 🕒 Received summary of grants and notices of violation.
- 🕒 Approved contract amendment authorizing \$500,000 in additional spending for Black Road Auto & Tow of Santa Maria to assist in the implementation of the Old Car Buy Back program
- 🕒 Approved \$500,000 in additional funding authority for the Off-Road Equipment Replacement Program.
- 🕒 Received report on the District grant process for school bus diesel particulate filter retrofit projects.

December

- 🕒 Received summary of grants and notices of violation.
- 🕒 Heard District Board Chair Item, a presentation by Bob Hinrichs on studies relating to climate change.

In November, Santa Barbara held its first-ever Open Streets event. The event was coordinated by the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation, with support from SBCAC Traffic Solutions and a range of sponsors including Amtrak® and the District. A stretch of Cabrillo Boulevard was closed to traffic and open to people-powered movement and a range of activities on November 2nd.

For more information on the local effort, see www.sbopenstreets.org, and for more information on national and international initiatives, see www.openstreetsproject.org.



District Public Outreach Intern Christopher Hewes greets visitors to the District's table in the middle of Cabrillo Boulevard during the Open Streets event.



Free activities along a 2½-mile stretch of the waterfront included dance classes, martial arts classes, face painting, and live music.



Organizers estimated that some 10,000 people attended the Santa Barbara Open Streets event.



District Board Calendar

Board of Directors

Supervisor Salud Carbajal
First District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Janet Wolf
Second District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Doreen Farr
Third District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Peter Adam
Fourth District
Santa Barbara County

Supervisor Steve Lavagnino
Fifth District
Santa Barbara County

Councilmember Holly Sierra
Vice-Chair
City of Buellton

Councilmember Al Clark
City of Carpinteria

Councilmember John Lizalde
City of Guadalupe

Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Costa
City of Lompoc

Mayor Helene Schneider
City of Santa Barbara

Mayor Alice Patino
City of Santa Maria

Mayor Jim Richardson
Chair
City of Solvang

Mayor Michael Bennett
City of Goleta

All meetings start at 1:00 p.m.
For meeting agendas,
call Sara Hunt, 961-8853, or see:
www.OurAir.org/apcd/agenda.htm.

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

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

May 15
Board of Supervisors'
Hearing Room
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, California 93455

June 19
Board of Supervisors'
Hearing Room
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Community Advisory Council

The District Community Advisory Council meets as needed at the Days Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call Sara Hunt, 961-8853.

Santa Barbara Car Free Announces Discount on Amtrak® for 2014



In January, the Santa Barbara Car Free Project announced a 20% discount on the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner® and San Joaquin services for trips to and from stations in Santa Barbara County in 2014. The discount is available on trains and associated thruway buses at www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org.

Santa Barbara Car Free is an award-winning cooperative project founded and led since 1998 by the District.

Earth Day and CycleMAYnia are Coming!

Earth Day will be celebrated at locations around the county in April, and the Santa Barbara Earth Day celebration is scheduled for April 26 and 27 in Alameda Park. For more information on county celebrations see www.ourair.org/apcd/earthday.htm.

CycleMAYnia is a month-long celebration reaching thousands of cyclists and community members throughout May. Led by SBCAG Traffic Solutions, the month will kick off with the Bicycle Fashion Show in Santa Barbara on May 1.

For more information, see <http://cyclemaynia.ning.com/>.

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(805) 961-8800
Air Quality Advisory Information
(805) 961-8802
World Wide Web
www.OurAir.org



Air Emissions Testing at Facilities

District Air Quality Engineer Brian Kato oversees tests of equipment at permitted facilities to verify that equipment is operating properly, and emissions are within the permitted limits. Asphalt and concrete producers, oil and gas facilities, and a range of other businesses with permitted equipment have requirements for testing on a schedule that can vary from once every year, to once every two or three years. The testing



Brian Kato

is typically conducted by contractors, and can take less than a day or multiple days to complete.

Tests are primarily to determine emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and reactive organic compounds.

The California Air Resources Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have identified test methods to be used for this air emissions testing.

Said Kato, "My main job is to confirm that the conditions are appropriate for the particular test method they are using."

Kato noted, "I've only had to stop a test twice."



(continued on back)

Eric Kett Receives Outstanding Inspector Award



Eric Kett, District Engineering Supervisor, with the award for outstanding performance as an inspector.

In November, Eric Kett, District Engineering Supervisor (recently promoted from Inspection Specialist) received an

award for "exemplary dedication and performance as an inspector in the pursuit of Clean Air" from the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA). The award, termed the Rodney Swartzendruber Award, is given annually to three inspectors in different-sized air districts; Kett was honored in the mid-sized district category.

"I really feel this is a recognition of our District's program overall," said Kett. The Rodney Swartzendruber Award was created in honor of an air quality inspector who gave his life in the line of duty, and Kett remarked, "I feel especially honored to receive this award." *(continued on back)*

Jon Mundt Retires After 23 Years

Jon Mundt retired recently after twenty-three years as a District Inspector.

During his time at the agency, he inspected a range of businesses with District permits—including gas stations, gravel companies, and onshore oil and gas facilities. Mundt remarked: "I liked my job. I got to get out and walk around in a beautiful environment, and to work with great people at the businesses, and at the District. I really enjoyed it."

Mundt is looking forward to having more time in retirement for family and projects. He remarked, "My primary responsibility during my



retirement will be the care of my elderly mother. And I'm going to focus on all of those things that one has a mind to do but has never had the time. I'll probably get the yard back in

(continued on back)

Business Focus

Air Emissions Testing (cont'd)

Once was when the test port was not in the proper location for the test method they were using. Another time I got there and the fuel meters hadn't been calibrated, so they couldn't do the test." He added, "Sometimes early on the monitor readings show emissions levels that may not pass the test. But in that case they still have to finish the test, and we may issue a notice of violation based on the final results."

After observing the test conditions, Kato reviews the test results and documentation back at the office. Kato has a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Southern California, and works on permits in addition to source testing. He remarked, "I spend about two days a week in the field, and the rest of the time in the office. I like the balance. The variety is good."



Eric Kett (cont'd)

Craig Strommen, District Compliance Division Manager, nominated Kett for the award for outstanding performance on several inspections. At one facility, Kett identified and photographed almost 200 engines in use, and after comparing the identification numbers with the numbers on the permit, found several violations ranging from duplicate identification numbers to engines operating without a permit.

Another time, Kett was contacted by a Santa Maria business about a noxious gas odor that was causing employees to become sick while at work and driving customers away. The complainant was encouraged to call Kett directly during an event, in hopes of finding the source. The call came in late one afternoon. Kett arrived at the location, and saw a truck loading waste antifreeze with open hatches at the top of the truck. It turned out that

although the antifreeze had no odor, the truck had previously contained oil with an odor so strong it is known as "skunk oil." When Kett explained that the odor was causing a problem for businesses in the area, the company made sure to make other arrangements, and the problem has not occurred again.

Said Kett, "So many times we will get a recurring complaint, and you go out there and it's just not

happening at that moment. This time they made sure to call us early when they were smelling the odor. It's so important to get the cooperation from the complainant when you're trying to investigate a complaint."

To report an air pollution complaint, see this page on the District website: www.ourair.org/sbc/complaints.htm.

Jon Mundt (cont'd)

shape, and downsize by having a super garage sale. I'll take short trips to nearby cities to wander the downtown areas, visit used bookstores, have lunch; that sort of thing."

He noted, "One of the benefits of working for the District was the chance to visit an amazing number of different business

enterprises. vAnother was the ability to access the beautiful backcountry of Santa Barbara County as part of my job. These things I will miss."

Jon Mundt was featured in a previous issue of this newsletter, available at this link: www.ourair.org/ota/winter12.pdf

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