



Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District

# On the Air

## Schools Save Energy and Cut Traffic and Pollution Care for our Earth Grants to 22 Teachers in 9 School Districts

In February the Santa Barbara County Education Office awarded Care for our Earth grants to twenty-two teachers from nine county school districts as part of an initiative sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District and the Southern California Gas Company. Mini-grants of \$200 each were awarded to 4th-12th grade teachers for projects with their students to save energy or reduce traffic and pollution at the school.



Chris Scott (top right, and below) with his students at Santa Ynez School.



Petti Pfau, Director of Teacher Programs at the Santa Barbara County Education Office, expressed appreciation for the success of the Care for Our Earth grants program, now in its second year: "I am excited to see the program grow, and so inspired by the teachers' innovative projects."

Other grant recipients and projects are described below.

*Teachers at Maple High School in Lompoc designed a cross-curricular project. Students will learn about energy, and then travel to the Carrizo National Monument to the site of a proposed solar farm to investigate tradeoffs between protecting the natural environment and meeting the need for clean energy. Students in Matt Makowetski's English Language Arts class will measure and write about energy use at the school. Doug English's Social Studies students will analyze policies on energy use, modernization,*

*(continued on page two)*

Chris Scott at Santa Ynez School received a grant to work with his seventh graders to document school traffic patterns and use the Google SketchUp 3-D modeling program to redesign the parking lot. He explained, "The lot is always crowded at pick-up and drop-off times. There's only one path

through, and so there's always a long line of cars."

Scott said the grant opportunity sparked the idea: "Grants are a good excuse to try something different. I'm a history teacher. I thought about the parking lot traffic and decided I could use this project to get the students thinking about design and working with SketchUp. In the future we might use it to do something like recreate the Coliseum, or Machu Picchu." He added, "You can design anything with this—you can design a city and

use Google Earth to bring in images of buildings so you can see what the city might look like."

He remarked, "Students ask if the design will be built, and I tell them, designing this doesn't mean we're going to get to build it. But that's what design is all about. You can do 100 designs and only a few might get built." He added, "What's great is that this project isn't about getting a grade, they are doing this because they enjoy it."

He noted, "A lot of what these kids are doing in class these days is large group projects. With the Google SketchUp designs, they can see their handiwork so much quicker than with a large group project. It gives them a chance to create and design on their own."



## Inside...

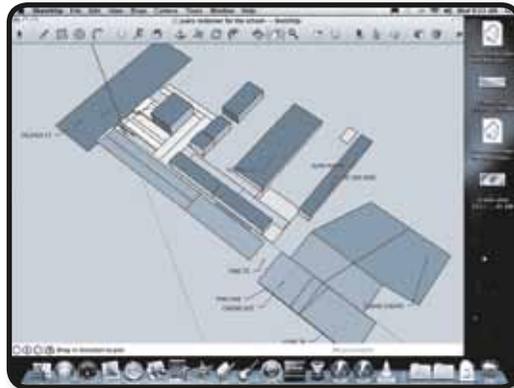
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## Care for our Earth Grants (cont'd)

and government regulations. Teresa Redden's Earth Science students will study renewable and nonrenewable resources, and identify advantages and disadvantages of solar energy. Students in Zakery Claycamp's and Kristin Anderson's Leadership classes will monitor school energy use for one month, implement a conservation program for another month, compare the results, and design a school energy-conservation program.

Krista Finlay's students at Dos Pueblos High School in Goleta will conduct a school campaign to save energy by encouraging everyone to turn lights off, unplug cords, and use energy-efficient products.

Glenn Goldin will work with Career and Technical Education students at Santa Maria High School to help them learn about and use public transportation.



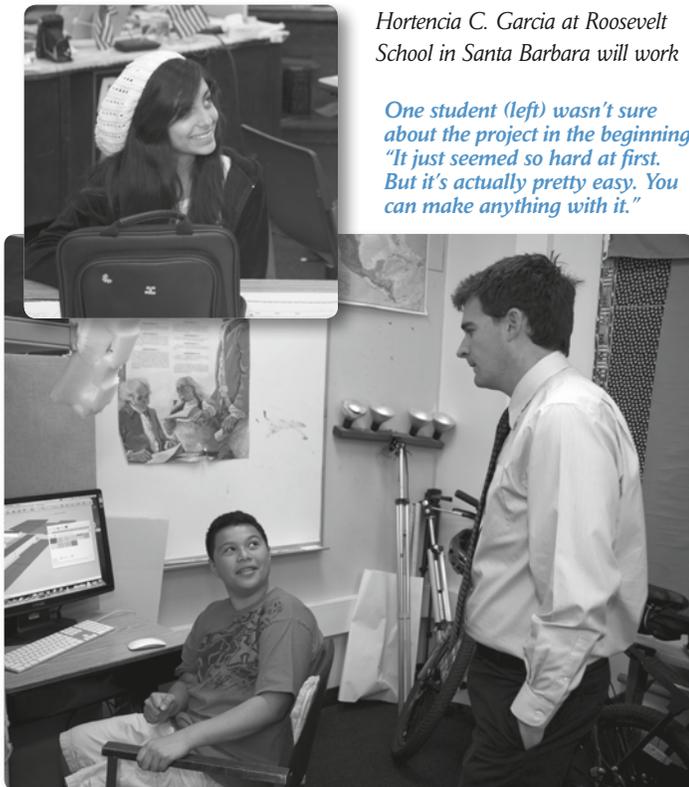
A screenshot from a student's work.

Mary Lou Furrer's students at Washington Elementary School in Santa Barbara will analyze the school's energy use and make recommendations; they will also look at ways to increase carpooling, biking and walking to school.

Students in Emma Rodriguez' Business class at Delta High School in Santa Maria will practice energy-saving techniques in the computer lab, charting energy and cost savings.

Hortencia C. Garcia at Roosevelt School in Santa Barbara will work

*One student (left) wasn't sure about the project in the beginning: "It just seemed so hard at first. But it's actually pretty easy. You can make anything with it."*



Chris Scott helps students working with the program.

with students to recycle plastic bottles and learn about the benefits of reusable stainless steel water bottles.

Tracy Akins' Special Education students at Cabrillo High School in Lompoc will

participate in a school recycling program, practicing communication, work, and social interaction skills.

Students in Kelly VanAllen's class at Pine Grove School in Orcutt will conduct "Power Down Patrols" of classrooms, awarding a prize to the classroom with the best energy-saving record.

Riccardo Magni's Environmental Science students at Pioneer Valley High School in Santa Maria will conduct a series of CSI-style labs checking levels of particulate pollution, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and other pollutants on campus.

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

Students of Lise Pawley (below, left) and Lisa Savaso at Joe Nightingale School in Orcutt will become "Energy Eagle Computer Monitors," checking classrooms to make sure that computers and lights are turned off.



Lori Collins' students at Carpinteria Family School will learn from Bici Centro and the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition how to ride safely and legally in traffic.

Students in Laura Branch's class at Righetti High School in Santa Maria will produce articles, songs and other materials on the subject of pollution and global warming.



Kevin Reed at Rincon High School in Carpinteria is offering an afterschool bicycle repair class to promote bike ridership. Students completing the course receive a tire pump and bike repair kit.

Lee A. Knodel's students at Santa Barbara High School will encourage their peers to walk, carpool, or bike to school through a "Walk and Roll" campaign.



Michael Muscio will work with 200 students at elementary schools in Santa Maria to germinate and grow acorn seeds, then travel to the Las Flores Nature Preserve to plant the oak seedlings.

Students of Valerie Trenev (right) and Michelle Boyd will hold a bike safety fair at Alice Shaw Elementary School in Orcutt.



## New Faces at the District

### APCD Board Roundup

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

#### December 2010

- Reappointed David Schmarje to the District Hearing Board.
- Authorized District participation in the Special District Risk Management Authority medical benefits program.
- Adopted and presented Resolutions of Appreciation to Board Members Joe Centeno, Ed Skytt and Victoria Pointer.
- Continued item to receive and file an update on the new federal eight-hour standard for ground-level ozone.
- Received a briefing and provided comments on the Draft 2010 Clean Air Plan and Associated Draft Environmental Impact Report.

#### January 2011

- Elected Kathleen Reddington Chair, and Steve Lavagnino Vice-Chair for 2011.
- Received summary of the renewal rates for employee insurance plans and programs for 2011.
- Appointed Reddington, Steve Lavagnino and Farr to the 2011 Executive Committee; appointed Reddington, Farr, Martner, Larry Lavagnino and Aceves to the 2011 Hearing Board Nominating Committee; appointed Aceves as the representative to the South Central Coast Basinwide Control Council.
- Held a public hearing and adopted new Rule 810 (Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration) for large federal sources of pollution, and associated amended rules.
- Received and filed a report from the Air Pollution Control Officer on the status of county air quality and District programs, and issues for the coming year.



Recently the District hired several new people to fill positions in the Engineering and Compliance Division that were vacant. From left: Rob Matchett, Inspection Specialist; Stefanie Boehme, Air Quality Engineer; Mike McKay, Inspection Specialist; Xueying He, Air Quality Engineer; and Matt Niro, Inspection Specialist.

## Retirements



### Paula Gregoire-Jones

District Information Technology Specialist Paula Gregoire-Jones retired in December after twelve years with the agency. She provided computer and software assistance and technical support to more than sixty people at both the District and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. She remarked,

"I really liked the variety of my job at the District. There was always something new. And there was a good mix of working with computers and working with people." She added, "I also liked being proactive, trying to catch something before it broke. I'd do an analysis and say, 'hey this looks suspicious, we need to take a closer look.'"

Gregoire-Jones, a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara, worked in Information Technology for Mentor Corporation, a medical device manufacturer, and Advanced Computer Communications, a networking company, before joining the District in December of 1998.

We will miss her computer shortcuts, tips and creative fixes, and we will miss the amazing home-baked treats she would bring to District events.

Said Bob Van Beveren, Gregoire-Jones' supervisor at the District, "Her organizational skills, attention to detail, and her frank, honest and straight forward recommendations and opinions are just some of the things I will miss. She is a team player and I very much appreciated that!"

She is looking forward to having more time to take classes, travel, and do craft projects. She remarked, "I may not miss the computers, but I am really going to miss the people."



### Sharon Krummerich

District Office Technician Sharon Krummerich retired in March after almost eleven years with the agency. A native Californian,

she lived in Los Angeles for thirty years before moving to Lompoc in 1997. She did office work for printers in Los Angeles, and enjoyed learning about the craft of printing.

At the District, Krummerich made sure permits for regulated facilities were out on time and processed properly, and did notifications to schools as required when nearby projects had the potential to impact air quality. She will be moving to San Antonio, Texas to be near

her grandchildren, and looks forward to having more time for needlework, scrap booking, and other craft projects.

A dedicated Clean Air Express bus commuter from Lompoc, who earned many points for the District's Commuter Challenge teams over the years, Krummerich will not miss getting up at 4:30 AM to catch the bus. "But after 11 years, I have made some really good friends here, and I will really miss them," she remarked.



# 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 Joni Gray  
*Fourth District  
Santa Barbara County*
- Supervisor Steve Lavagnino  
*Vice Chair  
Fifth District  
Santa Barbara County*
- Mayor Pro Tem Holly Sierra  
*City of Buellton*
- Councilmember Kathleen Reddington, Chair  
*City of Carpinteria*
- Mayor Lupe Alvarez  
*City of Guadalupe*
- Councilmember Cecilia Martner  
*City of Lompoc*
- Mayor Helene Schneider  
*City of Santa Barbara*
- Mayor Larry Lavagnino  
*City of Santa Maria*
- Mayor Jim Richardson  
*City of Solvang*
- Councilmember Roger Aceves  
*City of Goleta*

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

**May 19**  
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
511 East Lakeside Parkway  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

**June 20**  
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

**August 18**  
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

**October 20**  
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

## 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.



## Earth Day and Green Shorts

Earth Day is celebrated nationally on April 22 every year; local celebrations are held on different dates and at different locations around the county.

This year the South Coast Earth Day Festival, organized by the Community Environmental Council, will be Saturday April 16 and Sunday April 17 at Alameda Park in Santa Barbara.

Anyone coming to the Festival car free (arriving by bus or shuttle, on foot, or by bike, train, or other car free means) can stop by the

District/Santa Barbara Car Free booth in Bike World, and enter to win prizes. Prizes include a one-night stay at Hotel Santa Barbara, pairs of passes to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, a certificate from Santa Barbara Sailing Center for a family coastal, sunset or whale watching cruise, pairs of tickets on the Amtrak California Pacific Surfliner®, and a Grand Prize of round-trip tickets for two (roomette accommodations, meals included) from Santa Barbara to Portland or Seattle on the Amtrak Coast Starlight®.

The Green Shorts Film Festival is back for 2011 as well. Films shorter than two minutes on the Earth Day theme "Powered by the People" are entered for prizes; winners will be featured at a special screening at the Lobero Theatre on Thursday, April 14.

For more information and links see [www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org).



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**Air Quality Advisory Information**  
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**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.



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## Green Businesses Reap Multiple Benefits

**B**usiness owners and leaders featured at a Green Business Program event in February struck a common theme: there are many advantages to greening your business that are over and above the environmental benefit.

"People think it's more work and that means more money, as labor is one of our biggest costs. But I can tell you that that it's been cash-positive, customer-positive, and experience-positive for us," said Mike Hendrick, General Manager of the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott, the first hotel in the county to be certified as a green business in 2010. In a case study posted on the program website, Hendrick estimates the hotel will save \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year



*Paul Navratil of Solvang Gardens Lodge.*

through reductions in water use, energy use, waste generation, and use of a variety of resources and materials.

The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County has certified twenty-eight county businesses to date. Supported by the District and more than twenty-five agencies, organizations and utilities, the program recognizes businesses that go above and beyond required measures to serve as models of sustainability.

Paul Navratil, Innkeeper at Solvang Gardens Lodge, which received green business certification recently, said he lets guests know about the green steps the hotel is taking. "Every room has a

guest book in it with a page on our green features, and we have stickers around that say 'Turn me off when you're not here.' Guests are impressed."

He noted that one summer during a hot period some guests left the air conditioning on when they went out, and returned to find that it had been turned off. "When they came to me, I explained that it is our process to turn it off to conserve energy. I said of course if they preferred, we would make a note to leave their air conditioning on. But they didn't want that after all. I think people sometimes just don't think it through, and when you explain what you are doing, they understand—and they really appreciate it."

*(continued on back)*

## Electric Vehicles Workshop



*Frank Wong (left) of Aerovironment, which manufactures an EV charger, with Arjun Sarkar of the University of California at Santa Barbara.*

**I**n February, the District participated in a workshop on electric vehicles (EVs) that detailed how to qualify for state rebates when purchasing EVs, and how to set up home charging. The workshop, held at Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, was coordinated by the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project of the California Center for Sustainable Energy, working with the Community Environmental Council and the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition. More than 60 people attended. The workshop also featured the opportunity to check out the all-electric Tesla Roadster and the Toyota plug-in hybrid Prius.

The District is working with partners to help establish public EV-charging stations at locations around the county. See more info on the "Clean-Air Cars" page on the District website at [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org).

*The California Center for Sustainable Energy led the workshop, and brought a Toyota plug-in hybrid Prius for display. The plug-in Prius can be driven in all-electric mode, or used as a gas-electric hybrid. It is expected to be available in 2012.*



*From left: David Almeida of the California Center for Sustainable Energy; Gordon Jenkins, Nissan Leaf specialist at Santa Barbara Nissan; and Michael Chiacos of the Community Environmental Council, at the workshop.*

## Green Business (cont'd)

Mark Heintz, Director of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability at Deckers Outdoor Corporation, was the keynote speaker at the February event. Sustainability is important for everyone, from the company's individual customers to its large business partners, he said. "People buy products based on price and quality. But the environment is on the radar screen—and often serves as the tie-breaker in a choice." He added that Deckers' large customers—companies such as REI and Nordstrom's—want to be associated with business partners with strong corporate responsibility and sustainability programs.

Heintz listed other advantages to implementing these programs,



Frances Gilliland, Green Business Program Coordinator (left) and Ruth Loomer of MedBridge Development, a medical facility development and management company that received green business certification for its corporate office in Santa Barbara.

including cost savings through increased efficiencies, an enhanced reputation for the company and the brand, and the ability to attract good people who want to work for ethical companies.

Frances Gilliland, Green Business Program Coordinator, summed up: "The word is spreading throughout Santa Barbara County that green is good for business. The overwhelming response to our luncheon event is more evidence that our local businesses see the value to the community and to their bottom lines. These businesses are working hard

to become both environmentally and economically sustainable—and understand that the two go hand in hand."

For more information, and to view the Marriott case study, see [www.greenbizsbc.org](http://www.greenbizsbc.org).



## Off-Road Equipment Replacement Program

In February, the District launched an Off-Road Equipment Replacement Program, offering funds to replace agricultural and construction equipment, such as tractors or backhoes, with newer, less-polluting equipment. The program is funded through the Carl Moyer program, a state initiative designed to achieve early or extra pollution reductions from heavy-duty diesel engines. The District also has available funding for replacement of diesel engines in a variety of equipment types.

For more information on District engine and equipment replacement programs, see [www.OurAir.org/funding](http://www.OurAir.org/funding). Contact Al Ronyecz at (805) 961-8877 or [RonyeczA@sbcapcd.org](mailto:RonyeczA@sbcapcd.org) with any questions. Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis and funds are limited.

## CEQA Threshold for Greenhouse Gases

In February, the District held a public workshop and met with businesses to discuss development of a greenhouse gas (GHG) threshold for application to large new industrial projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

CEQA is the state law that requires state and local agencies to identify and reduce, if feasible, the significant, negative environmental impacts of land use decisions. When a new project is expected to result in emissions of air pollutants that are over established thresholds of significance, these emissions are required to be reduced or mitigated in some way.

State regulations now require agencies to consider GHG emissions in CEQA reviews; however, the state has not established a GHG threshold of significance, so agencies around the state are working to establish these thresholds. District staff is in the process of developing GHG thresholds that will apply to new stationary sources of air pollution when the District acts as the lead CEQA agency for these sources. The District will also recommend that the thresholds be applied by other CEQA lead agencies in Santa Barbara County.

As part of the process of developing the threshold, District staff is looking at the

GHG thresholds that other agencies have adopted, and what types of projects might have significant impacts if these thresholds were applied in Santa Barbara County.

Staff will be considering input from the public workshop and doing additional research before proposing stationary source GHG thresholds to the District Board.

To view the presentation from the February workshop, see the "Land Use and CEQA" page on the District website at [www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org). For more information, contact Molly Pearson at (805) 961-8838 or [PearsonM@sbcapcd.org](mailto:PearsonM@sbcapcd.org).