

UPDATES

Mow Down Air Pollution 2007

The 11th annual Mow Down Air Pollution mower exchange will take place March 31 at California State University, Sacramento. Participants must register on March 14 between 11 am and 3 pm either at www.smud.org or by calling 888-742-7683. There is a limited number of Neuton rechargeable electric mowers available at the discounted price of \$189.* (a savings of \$230) Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit www.myneuton.com for details on the mower.



Successful registrants will be given a confirmation number and a time slot for their exchange of a gas-powered mower. It's a *drive thru event* so will take place rain or shine with participants never getting out of their car.

The event has reduced more than 86 tons of emissions from our region and recycled nearly 300 tons of metal since its inception in 1996. Electric mowers are considered environmentally friendly because they use 70% less energy than gas, produce no emissions or gas spillage. There is no need to mix or store gas or make trips to the gas station as well as no tune ups or starting problems. The noise level is half of gas mowers. Please join us in this effort to clean up the air. Call (800) 287-3660 for more information.

*Price is based on the exchange of a gas-powered mower.

CALENDAR

January 8, 2007
Clean School Bus Program applications available.

January 10, 2007 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

January 22, 2007
Clean Air Funds applications available.

February 14, 2007 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

March 13 & 14, 2007
Green California Summit
Sacramento Convention Center

March 14, 2006 9:00 AM
YSAQMD Board of Directors
1947 Galileo Ct., #103, Davis

Mow Down Air Pollution
Register on March 14, 11 - 3 pm
at www.smud.org
Exchange mower on March 31



1947 Galileo Court, Suite 103
Davis, CA 95618
(530) 757-3650 (800) 287-3650
Ag Burn Line
(530) 757-3660 (800) 246-3660
www.ysaqmd.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



AIR AWARE

A Publication of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District

Winter 2007

"Thanks to key legislation and improvements in technology, we have more "green or good" days on the air quality index (AQI) than ever before."

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
1947 Galileo Court #103
Davis, CA 95618
530-757-3650
800-287-3650
www.ysaqmd.org

2007: CLEANER AIR

As we begin a new year, it is also a time to look back and reflect on the accomplishments of years past. From the perspective of the air district, we have seen vast improvements in air quality since we were founded 36 years ago. In spite of tremendous population and economic growth and more cars and trucks on the road, air quality has improved not only in this region but throughout the state. Thanks to key legislation and improvements in technology, we have more "green or good" days on the air quality index (AQI) than ever before.

Key legislation began in 1970 with the passage of the Clean Air Act by the federal government. This act forms the basis for the national air pollution control effort. Basic elements of the act include national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants, hazardous air pollutants standards, state attainment plans, motor vehicle emissions standards, stationary source emissions standards and permits, acid rain control measures, stratospheric ozone protection, and enforcement provisions. It was amended in 1990 to create even stricter standards for fuels, vapor recovery systems, consumer products and changes in transportation policies.

California, thanks to the California Air Resources Board (ARB), is a leader in standards that ensure cleaner air for all. Each year, the district staff works with ARB on rules and regulations that decrease emissions from stationary sources. We offer programs and financial assistance such as SECAT and the Carl Moyer Program for reduction of emissions from on and off road equipment.

On the technology side, an important change that occurred in 2006 was the improvement in diesel fuel to ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD). This change made diesel comparable in emission standards to gasoline. ULSD has 97 percent less sulfur and will deliver billions of dollars in environmental and public health benefits nationwide.

With the new focus on particulate matter (PM), we are working on a critical piece to solving the pollution problem. (*see Facts about PM on page 2*) In 2006, the district converted our PM 10 monitors to PM 2.5 and working with the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD, developed a regional PM outreach program similar to the Spare the Air ozone program. Current air quality conditions can be found at www.sparetheair.com.

Due to large reductions in emissions over the past 30 years, the Sacramento region has gone from an average of 19 one-hour ozone exceedences between 1980 to 1985 to less than a 5 day average between 2000 to 2005. The challenge to get to zero exceedences can be met only through the cooperation of all citizens to do their share by driving less, driving cleaner cars and using the cleanest technology around the house, at work and at leisure.

While there is always room to improve, we are closer than ever to our air quality goals. It is important to thank individuals and businesses who have done their part to make this improvement happen. In addition, we must encourage the public to take alternative forms of transportation, use manual or electric yard equipment, reduce emissions from woodsmoke and to adhere to the Spare the Air advisories. As a public health agency, we are dedicated to protecting the health of the residents from the harmful effects of air pollution.

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FACTS ABOUT PM

Particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter are known as “fine” particles or PM 2.5; those ranging from 2.5 microns to 10 microns, are known as “coarse” particles or PM 10. Fine particles are easily inhaled deep into the lungs where they may accumulate, react, be cleared or absorbed. Scientific studies have linked particle pollution with a series of significant health problems, including:

- increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing;
- decreased lung function;
- aggravated asthma;
- development of chronic bronchitis;
- irregular heartbeat;
- nonfatal heart attacks; and
- premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

The average adult breathes 3,000 gallons of air per day. Particle pollution can cause coughing, wheezing, and decreased lung function even in otherwise healthy children and adults. Studies estimate that thousands of elderly people die prematurely each year from exposure to fine particles.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children and infants are among the most susceptible to many air pollutants. Children have increased exposure compared with adults because of higher per minute ventilation and higher levels of physical activity.

Fine particles can remain suspended in the air and travel long distances. For example, a puff of exhaust from a diesel truck in Los Angeles can end up over the Grand Canyon.

Some of the pollutants which form haze have also been linked to serious health problems and environmental damage. Particle pollution settles on soil and water and harms the environment by changing the nutrient and chemical balance.

Particle pollution, unlike ozone, can occur year-round.

People can reduce their exposure to air pollution by checking their daily air quality forecast and adjusting strenuous outdoor activities when an unhealthy AQI is forecast. Visit www.sparetheair.com for real time AQI readings.

INCENTIVE FUNDS

The District’s fiscal year **2007-08 Clean Air Funds Program** application period begins January 22. Approximately \$630,000 is available to fund projects that reduce emissions from mobile sources.

\$350,000 (AB2766) will be for projects sponsored by public and private organizations in Yolo and Solano Counties and \$280,000 (AB8) is available to public agencies in eastern Solano County.

Applications, due in mid March, can be filed in four categories 1) Clean Technologies /Low Emission Vehicles 2) Alternative Transportation 3) Transit Services and 4) Public Information/Education and are selected on a competitive basis. The Yolo and STA Clean Air Funds Committees make funding recommendations to the Board of Directors with the Board taking action at the June 13 board meeting.

WOOD STOVE CHANGE-OUT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Winter months and warming up means that many of us will be using space-heating appliances such as wood stoves and open hearth fireplaces. While these appliances may be effective at heating your home, they can also release pollution into the air in the form of **particulate matter**. Particulate matter can be produced as smoke or soot by the incomplete combustion of fuel when wood burning appliances are operated.

To promote the reduction of particulate matter from wood-burning appliances, the District, working with retailers and industry, developed an incentive program to encourage homeowners to voluntarily replace their old appliances with cleaner burning and more efficient EPA Phase II-certified appliances.

The incentive will reduce the overall purchase cost of the new appliance. The program begins in mid January and runs through early March. If you are considering replacing an older wood burning appliance with a new gas, pellet or wood stove, contact the District.

Applications for the District’s **Clean School Bus Program** will be available January 8. Approximately \$600,000 will be available to school districts for projects that reduce emissions from school buses including:

- Retrofit of existing school buses with ARB verified retrofit devices
- Repower of existing school buses with newer ARB certified lower emission engines
- Replacement of pre-1987 school buses with new lower emission buses

Retrofit of existing school buses with 1993-2005 engines with ARB verified Level 3 (85% PM reduction) retrofit devices are a high priority for the FY 2007-08 application cycle. \$112,000 ARB School Bus Retrofit Funds need to be obligated by June 30, 2007. School districts are not required to provide matching funds for retrofit devices using ARB Retrofit Funds and the selection will be non-competitive. School districts are also encouraged to submit applications to replace pre-1987 school buses with 2007 lower emission buses and to repower existing buses with AB 923 funds. New school buses may require up to \$25,000 in matching funds from school districts. Priority will be to replace the oldest buses first. The application deadline is early March.

In addition, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) approved an allocation of up to \$6 million in Sacramento Emergency Clean Air Transportation (SECAT) funds for school buses. These funds will offset the replacement of pre-1987 school buses with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 33,000 lbs or more with new buses meeting the 2007 clean engine and school bus safety standards. Approximately 50 school buses will be replaced with a maximum SECAT funding contribution of \$120,000 toward the purchase of each bus.

For more information on the District’s incentive programs, contact Jim Antone at 530-757-3653 or at jantone@ysaqmd.org.

HAVE YOU HAD AN “UPSET/BREAKDOWN?”

Have you discovered something has gone wrong at your facility and you are out of compliance with your permit? Not sure what to do or what your options are? The easiest solution may be to shut down immediately, but with production schedules this may not be practical. The District Rules and Regulations have provisions that may provide for some temporary relief. District Rule 5.2, UPSET/BREAKDOWN CONDITIONS: EMERGENCY VARIANCE, defines procedures that allow for temporary relief when an upset/breakdown has occurred.

What qualifies as an “upset/breakdown?”

An upset/breakdown condition is defined as an unforeseeable failure or malfunction of any air pollution control equipment or related operating which causes a violation of any emission limitation or permit condition, so long as the failure is not the result of neglect, is not intentional, is not the result of improper maintenance, is not a recurrent breakdown of the same equipment, and the failure does not create a public nuisance.

What should you do if you have an “upset/breakdown”?

The first thing to do is to notify the District that an upset/breakdown has occurred, as soon as reasonably possible. Verbal notification (530-757-3650) shall occur no later than 1 hour after the detection of the breakdown. The verbal notification shall be followed by a written notification (initial breakdown form available on the District’s webpage at <http://www.ysaqmd.org/permits-forms-apps.php> can be faxed to 530-757-3670) no later than 4 hours after the detection of the breakdown. If the breakdown occurs when the District cannot be contacted, the report shall be made at the commencement of the next regular working day.

What relief can you get?

If the breakdown persists only until the end of the production run or 24 hours

(whichever is sooner), the occurrence constitutes a violation of the applicable requirement, however the District may elect to take no enforcement action, provided that the notification requirements were met and that appropriate corrective measures are undertaken to bring the operation back into compliance in a timely manner.

Within 1 week after an upset/breakdown condition has been corrected, the operator is required to follow up with written notification (breakdown condition reporting form available at <http://www.ysaqmd.org/permits-forms-apps.php>) detailing what the cause of the problem was, what action has been taken to correct the problem, verifying that the condition has been corrected, and providing estimates of the emissions released during the breakdown.

Variance option

If the equipment can not be brought back into compliance before the start of the next production run or within 24 hours (whichever is sooner), in lieu of shutdown the next option available to the facility would be to apply for an emergency variance which can grant relief for up to 15 days, or until an interim or regular variance hearing can be held. An emergency variance hearing can be held in a timely manner. If the owner/operator can present evidence so that the Hearing Board Chair can make certain findings regarding the breakdown, the Hearing Board Chair can grant permission to operate despite being in violation of a district regulation, while steps are taken to bring the source into compliance with the regulation.

Questions

The District wants to work in a cooperative manner with all sources so that the outcome benefits all parties but most importantly, the quality of our air is not compromised. For questions regarding upset/breakdowns, contact Dave Smith or Susan McLaughlin at (530) 757-3650.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a public health agency, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District’s role is to protect human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution.

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Supervisor District 4, Yolo County

Board meetings are held at 9 a.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the YSAQMD office. The public is welcome to attend. For a current agenda go to www.ysaqmd.org or for more information call (530) 757-3650 or (800) 287-3650.

Mat Ehrhardt, P.E.
*Executive Director/
Air Pollution Control Officer*

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STATS
10/01-12/31/06

ATC Applications Received	63	Complaints Investigated	20
ATC Applications Processed	45	Inspections Performed	360
PTO Applications Received	50	Notices of Violation (NOVs)	35
PTO Applications Processed	36	Notices to Comply (NTCs)	11

The Health & Safety Code, section 40801 specifies that a hearing board have:
one member admitted to the practice of law;
one member who is a professional engineer;
one member from the medical profession; and two public members.