

Clearing the Air

News, Views, and Announcements

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MESSAGE FROM THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER

Hello and welcome to our first digital newsletter!

Each quarterly issue will include updates and information on the agency and air quality management. For instance, did you know that a significant portion of our overall budget is dedicated to grant programs?

In this issue, we talk about our Zero Emissions School Bus and AB2766 Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Grant programs. In addition to news about grant programs, we will have the latest information on what is being done to protect and maintain our air quality throughout the tri-county region.

We hope that you'll be back for new each edition to see what's happening at the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) and that you will check out our website at www.mbard.org.

If you have any questions about our website, have suggestions on topics you'd like to see in the newsletter, or just want to learn more about MBARD, please call us at (831) 647-9411 or write us at info@mbard.org.

Thanks for stopping by,
Richard A. Stedman, APCO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTS NEW RULE

In July 2017, Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) was signed into law. One of its requirements was for air districts to adopt a schedule to implement best available retrofit control technology (BARCT). The BARCT schedule identifies new rules and rule revisions to require installation of emissions control technology on older equipment by December 31, 2023. MBARD has four industrial sources subject to the BARCT schedule. In February 2020, the Board of Directors adopted the first BARCT Rule 441 which applies to Boilers, Steam Generators, and Process Heaters. The rule will achieve reductions in emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) which is a precursor to ozone formation. The next BARCT rule up for review will address NOx emissions from internal combustion engines.



INSPECTORS CONTINUE WITH REMOTE INSPECTIONS DURING OFFICE CLOSURE

When the shelter-in-place order became official for Monterey County, the Compliance Division transitioned to working remotely. While in-person facility inspections were put on hold, inspectors conducted remote inspections. These inspections are done in coordination with permit holders to receive equipment photographs and other paperwork to demonstrate compliance. Our asbestos team continued to process asbestos notifications and review projects. They completed visual inspections from their vehicles of abatement and demolition projects. Resolving air quality complaints is an important objective of inspectors and we are responding to the public, safely, by primarily handling complaints by phone.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES MOU WITH MONTEREY BAY COMMUNITY POWER FOR ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

On May 20, MBARD's Board of Directors approved an agreement to accept \$1,200,000 in funds from Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) to use in the District's Zero Emission School Bus Program (ZESBP). This program weaves together pass-through grants to distribute funds to school districts throughout the Monterey Bay area for the purchase of all-electric school buses. Through this creative approach, ZESBP covers 100% of the purchase of each school bus and related electric charging infrastructure. MBCP funds will cover \$200,000 toward the cost of each bus, with the remaining amount funded through other grant programs, for a total of six buses. Richard Stedman, MBARD's APCO says that "MBARD is proud to collaborate with Monterey Bay Community Power on our Zero Emission School Bus Program. Funding from this partnership helps transition schools to cleaner transportation thereby improving air quality and the health of our children and the community."



MBARD AB2766 MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM - ADVANCED CLEAN TRANSPORTATION



In California, the transportation sector is the largest source of NO_x emissions at 76%. For next fiscal year, MBARD has created the Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Program to reduce NO_x emissions from transportation sources in our region. This program makes grant funds available for public agency medium to heavy-duty fleets (Class 6 to Class 8) to replace existing internal combustion engine vehicles. All medium to heavy-duty replacement vehicles must be 100% battery electric. Other grant funds outside of the AB 2766 program may be leveraged to offset incremental project costs. The MBARD AB 923 Plug-In Monterey Bay Program may also be used in conjunction with ACT to provide funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Program applications are now being accepted with the application period closing on July 24, 2020. For more information, please visit the MBARD website at:

www.mbard.org/public-agency-grants-ab2766

MBARD PRODUCES AIR QUALITY 101 VIDEO



The Air Monitoring Division in collaboration with the District's Outreach Coordination staff has produced MBARD's first Air Quality 101 video to be used for public education. This valuable resource will be shown during the Salinas Steinbeck Center's virtual summer camp in June. The video can be viewed on MBARD's website and on YouTube. Filming credits go to Bill Chevalier, Supervising Air Monitoring Specialist and Ann O'Rourke, Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator. Bill and Ann agree that, "It's obviously an amateur production, but was fun to do!"



**Monterey Bay Air
Resources District
Channel
now on YouTube!**



MBARD STAFF REMAINED COMMITTED TO EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

MBARD's offices in Monterey and Watsonville closed their doors to the public beginning on March 16, 2020. During this time staff was still working remotely from home and remained available via email or telephone. MBARD staff continued to be committed to customer service and the community in general. MBARD is proud of its staff who went above and beyond to work safely and cooperatively without knowing when they would be back in the office.

REOPENING: STAFF TO RETURN TO OFFICE WITH SAFETY



As of the publication of this newsletter, plans are being made as to when and how MBARD staff will begin returning to work. CDC guidelines will be followed in all areas and extra attention will be given to keeping everyone safe and healthy. PPE and sanitation supplies will be easily accessible to all employees. A copy of the plans and procedures will be made available upon completion. Currently it is not known when the office will be open to the public. Staff will still be available by phone and/or email.

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