

n an effort to provide accessible fueling for alternative-fueled fleets operating in the area, the AQMD has awarded funding for 16 projects that will significantly enhance the natural gas refueling infrastructure in Southern California. "It is important that this agency continue to support the numerous fleets that have made the transition to cleaner vehicles," said Barry Wallerstein, AQMD's Executive Officer. "Today's decision will provide conveniently located, publicly-accessible fueling stations in the Southland and help facilitate the introduction of low-emission, natural gas-fueled vehicles in private and public fleets."

The more than \$2.7 million awarded by the AQMD Governing Board will enhance the natural gas refueling infrastructure in the region with 11 new fueling stations and upgrades to five existing stations. Co-funding will be provided by various public agencies and private entities, including state and local governments, and alternative fuel suppliers.

The new stations will be located in: Beaumont, Canoga Park, La Verne, Long Beach, Malibu, Mission Viejo, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, Temecula, Walnut and Zuma Beach. Upgrades to allow greater accessibility will occur at existing stations in Bellflower, Fountain Valley, Pomona, Riverside and Santa Monica.

The new and upgraded fueling stations will provide public and private fleets access to both compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas. Some stations will be constructed or upgraded to dispense both fuels.

The new stations are expected to be installed and operational within 18 months and existing stations will be upgraded immediately. This increases the number of publicly-accessible natural gas fueling stations in the AQMD's four-county jurisdiction to 75.

For more information, contact Dean Saito at (909) 396-2647.



AQMD Holds Conference on Hydrogen as the Fuel of the Future

Cleaning the air that we breathe...



Volume 11 Number 5 September 2004 A QMD hosted a successful conference on "Hydrogen - Fueling the Clean Air Future" August 15-17 at the Marriott Desert Springs Resort in Palm Desert.

The conference provided an opportunity for more than 50 speakers to discuss the benefits, challenges, and future role of hydrogen as a fuel for vehicles and stationary equipment.

More than 500 attendees heard government policy-makers, business leaders, researchers and technology experts participate in lively and informative discussions on the benefits, challenges, and future role of hydrogen as a vehicle fuel and energy source. The event focused on the transition to a hydrogen economy through deployment and commercialization of the latest technologies.

Keynote speakers included Terry Tamminen, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency; David Garman, Acting Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy; and Dan Bonowitz, Vice President of Auto Corporate Planning and Logistics, Honda.

Attendees also toured the

nearby SunLine Transit Agency hydrogen fueling facility, home to the first public hydrogen fueling station in the world. At SunLine, visitors saw equipment generating hydrogen using renewable solar and wind power, as well as equipment reforming hydrogen from natural gas.

Attendees also had the opportunity to ride in or drive new hydrogen-powered fuel cell and internal-combustion engine vehicles, and view more than 30 exhibits showcasing the latest hydrogen technologies. For more information, contact Larry Kolczak at (909) 396-3215.

Environmental Justice Workplan for 2004–2005 Released



he public is invited to submit comments on the Proposed Environmental Justice Workplan for 2004-2005, which include:

- School Site Guidance Developing a guidance document that will serve as a "general framework" that identifies overall environmental concerns, including environmental justice awareness, air quality and asbestos exposure.
- Environmental Justice Advisory Group - Reinstating an environmental justice advisory group comprised of representatives of the environmental justice and business communities to review the current EJ workplan and provide input on the development of the next year's plan.
- Environmental Justice Electronic "Action Alert" - Developing an electronic system to provide timely information on a regular basis to Clean Air Congress members and other interested persons.
- Web-based Air Quality Classes -Providing web-based classes to community members on specific industry operations.
- Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES III) - Holding community meetings throughout the region to provide residents with information on sampling that will be conducted locally as well as explaining the monitoring results.

During July and August, staff conducted a series of public consultation meetings throughout the agency's four-county region to solicit community feedback concerning the proposed workplan. Staff also reviewed the proposed workplan with environmental, community and business groups, trade associations and several AQMD Board committees and advisory groups. Revisions to the workplan were based on input received from all of these sources. Staff then further refined the proposed enhancements and finalized its recommendations for consideration at the October Governing Board meeting.

The original Environmental Justice Workplan was adopted in October 1997 and further enhanced in 1999, 2002, and September 2003, at which time the Board directed staff to report back at annual intervals.

To view the workplan, visit the Environmental Justice page on the AQMD Web site at www.aqmd.gov. For more information contact Pom Pom Ganguli at (909) 396-3185.

AQMD Receives Excellence in Financial Reporting Award Second Year in a Row

or the second consecutive year, the South Coast Air Quality Management District has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

"We're very pleased to have our work recognized with this award. Staff works extremely hard to ensure the accuracy and ease of use of our data." said AQMD's CFO Rick Pearce.

Copies of the report are available for public viewing on AQMD's Web site at www.aqmd.gov, click on "Inside AQMD" then "About AQMD," then "Finance & Budgets." For more information, contact Lisa Virgo at (909) 396-2793.



AQMD Delivers Training to Taiwan Agency Staff

n June 2004, AQMD technical and management staff delivered a 7-day integrated training session to 15 staff members from the Environmental Protection Administration of Taiwan.

Air pollution is a serious environmental problem in Taiwan, in part due to the high concentration of industrial plants on the island — an average of four factories per square kilometer.

Like the inhabitants of the greater Los Angeles region, Taiwan residents suffer health impacts from high levels of ozone and fine particulates.

The training was delivered under contract and included lectures on a wide range of air quality topics, with supportive language-interpreting services provided by AQMD staff who are fluent in Mandarin Chinese.

Trainees were also able to see control technologies in operation, through site visits to permit-holding facilities ranging from manufacturers to fueling stations. In recent years, AQMD has collaborated in trainings, briefings, and exchanges of scientific expertise with public- and private-sector personnel from a number of countries, including: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, and Ukraine.

For more information, contact Roberta Rigg at (909)396-2659.

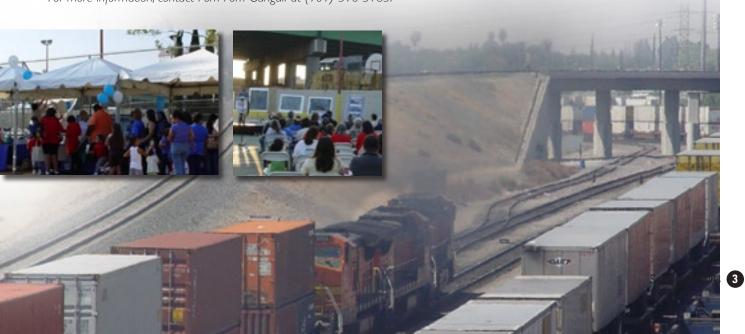
Community Meeting on Locomotive Emissions and Air Quality

In Saturday, July 31, with the occasional sound of locomotives in the background, 200 community and business members gathered in a park in the City of Commerce to hear first-hand about the impacts of diesel emissions on health. AQMD cohosted the Community Meeting on Locomotive Emissions and Air Quality with the Modesta Avila Coalition and the City of Commerce. The meeting served as a forum for attendees to ask questions and voice their concerns about air quality issues.

The meeting speakers included Assembly Member Cindy Montanez, 39th Assembly District & Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Environmental Justice; Mayor Rosalina Lopez, City of Commerce; a representative from the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company and AQMD Governing Board Members Beatrice LaPisto-Kirtley, Dennis Yates and Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta. Community speakers included Angelo Logan and Marisela Knott.

Members of the community-based organizations East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice participated in the event. A recurring theme heard during the meeting was the need to bring cleaner locomotive control options to this region. Current technologies include hybrid technologies, low-sulfur fuels and idling controls on switcher locomotives.

Program highlights included a Clean Air Fair which included popcorn, snow cones, activities for children, a clean-fueled vehicle display and information on AQMD's Environmental Justice program. For more information, contact Pom Pom Ganguli at (909) 396-3185.



AQMD's Fire Response Activities

rom grass fires to chemical plant fires, AQMD conducts a range of activities to assist first response agencies in protecting public health. During the recent wildfires, AQMD's inspectors distributed literature to residents of affected communities on what steps to take to protect themselves from adverse health effects of breathing smoke. Flyers were distributed at sensitive receptor locations such as senior centers, hospitals, and fire department checkpoints.

In cases of fires in buildings, refineries, industrial plants or other such facilities where toxic emissions are suspected, AQMD's role can expand greatly. When an incident commander, typically the local fire department, suspects toxic or hazardous emissions, they may call on AQMD's Emergency Response Team for assistance in identifying whether emissions pose a danger to the public, which can aid in the incident commander's decision whether evacuation may be necessary.

Depending on the nature of the fire, AQMD's Emergency Response Team staff deployed could include sector inspectors, toxics inspectors, meteorologists, air monitoring technicians, and laboratory staff. In instances where asbestos may be present, staff is available for consultation on proper removal before demolition and clean up.

When the Emergency Response Team is requested, they quickly mobilize to provide support to the agencies responding to the fire. Technicians conduct air sampling then rush the samples back to AQMD's laboratory for analyses.

Initial results are relayed to the incident commander, and in some cases to local departments of Environmental Health. All air sampling results become public information once the final laboratory report is issued.



"Blow the Whistle on Asthma" Walkathon to be held October 3, 2004

he American Lung Association of the Inland Counties will be holding a walkathon on Sunday, October 3rd from 9 a.m. to

11 a.m. on the Cal State San Bernardino campus to draw attention to the fight against asthma and other respiratory problems. The event will include booths from sponsors and games to get walkers prepared for the 3-mile walk. Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the walk.

Last year a team of 24 AQMD employees, their family members, friends and partners participated, including one family who pushed their infant in a stroller to the finish line. This year, AQMD will again form a team of walkers. Each team member is responsible for raising and collecting their own donations for the Walkathon.

This year the AQMD sponsored a kickoff breakfast in late August to generate enthusiasm for team leaders. As a sponsor, AQMD is encouraging others to join the fight against asthma and other respiratory problems by sponsoring of a team.

For more information visit the American Lung Association's Web site dedicated to the event at <u>www.asthmawalk.com</u>.

During fires when there is a large toxic plume, AQMD's Special Monitoring group may be asked to monitor wind speed and direction and provide meteorologists for consultation. Through computer modeling, the team makes predictions on how pollutants will disperse in a community.

AQMD's fire response programs serve to further the agency's mission to protect the health of the residents from air pollution. To view tips on protection from smoke, visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/news1/</u> <u>2003/smoketipspr.html</u>. For more information contact Katsumi Keeler at (909) 396-2851.

Cruisin' Southern Cal in Fuel Cell Vehicles

he start for the California Fuel Cell Vehicle Partnership's (CaFCP) 2004 "Cruisin' Southern Cal" Road Rally, featuring stateof-the-art fuel cell cars from eight leading car companies, will be 12:30 pm, Thursday, September 16, in the AQMD parking lot in Diamond Bar. One of the highlights will be AQMD's brand new hydrogen fuel station, part of the emerging California Hydrogen Highway Network.

The caravan of zero-emission, hydrogenpowered fuel cell cars from the CaFCP's automotive members will embark on an extended weekend rally drive through Los Angeles and Orange County, and will finish in San Diego on September 19. CaFCP's energy members will oversee hydrogen refueling, and other members will lend support through education, technical displays and volunteer services along the way.

Formed in 1999, the CAFCP (www.cafcp.org) is a voluntary cooperative effort that includes automakers, energy producers, technology partners and government agencies including the AQMD.

In tandem with launching the "Cruisin' Southern Cal" rally in Diamond Bar, CaFCP and National Hydrogen Association will also conduct a daylong Community Workshop on Hydrogen and Fuel Cells for Southern California at AQMD's Diamond Bar headquarters on September 16.

For more information contact Lisa Mirisola at (909) 396-2638.



Association asks **AOMD**Advisor EPA to strengthen air

A ccording to a news release issued by the American Heart Association, Dr. Richard Leupker, a representative for the association, detailed the link between cardiovascular disease and air pollution and urged the strengthening of current standards regarding particulate matter (PM) at the July 2004 meeting of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

American Heart

standards

"Under current standards for acceptable levels of ambient PM, we saw a range of adverse health occurrences, including abnormal heart rate rhythms and heart attacks," said Dr. Luepker. "As with secondhand smoke, another air pollutant, PM, taxes our cardiovascular system and does great harm."

According to the news release, Dr. Luepker emphasized that the EPA should set more stringent standards for PM₂₅. "Particulate matter, whether from vehicle emissions, power generation or even windblown soil poses a real threat to our hearts and circulatory systems.

For more information, contact the American Heart Association at 1-800-242-8721 or visit their Web site at www.americanheart.org.



survey of Californians and the environment, conducted by the Public Policy Institute in collaboration with the Hewlett, Irvine and Packard Foundations found that a majority of voters want the state to continue funding environmental programs at current levels.

Released in July, the survey found that air pollution tops the list of most important environmental issues facing the state, surpassing the next most important issue, pollution in general. Fifty nine percent of the respondents stated that air pollution is at least somewhat a threat to health, with 29 percent expressing little optimism that the state will have better air quality 20 years from now.

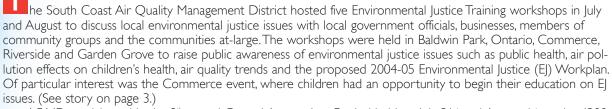
Nearly three-fourths of the respondents stated that automakers should be required to greatly improve fuel efficiency in new vehicles sold in the U.S., even if it raises costs to consumers. Eighty one percent responded that they would back a state law requiring lawmakers to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from new cars by 2009.

Residents appeared to be willing to pay higher taxes and fees to support cleaner air, with 66% of those polled supporting an increase in the vehicle license fee to pay for a program to put cleaner engines in older diesel buses, trucks and equipment.

Among other key findings, 90 percent of respondents stated that trucks delivering goods, including trucks from Mexico, should meet federal air pollution standards.

For more information on the survey, contact the Public Policy Institute of California at (415) 291-4400 or visit their Web site at www.ppic.org.

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AOMD participated in the 9th annual Central Avenue Jazz Festival held on July 31st and August 1st on the 4200 block of Central Avenue in Los Angeles. Some 25,000 Southern Californians congregated for free family fun and live jazz performances. Affordable air-friendly vehicles, along with a working zero-emissions Honda fuel cell vehicle, representing the future of Clean Air Choice cars, were displayed at the AQMD booth. Staff addressed the concerns of the local community and provided information designed to empower consumers in the fight for cleaner air.

AQMD also provided outreach to dry cleaning professionals at the California Cleaners Association's Fabricare Convention and Trade Show at the Long Beach Convention Center on August 27-29, 2004. Approximately 3,500 professional cleaners from six countries and across the U.S. attended to review issues, participate in industry roundtables, and network with other professional cleaners.

For more information, contact Lourdes Martinez at (909) 396-3214.

RULEUPDATE

The following proposed and amended rules and regulations are tentatively scheduled for hearing at upcoming Governing Board meetings. To verify whether scheduling changes have occurred, visit the AQMD website at www.aqmd.gov/hb/gb_cal95.html and check the Rule and Control Measure item on the Governing Board meeting agenda or call the Clerk of the Board's Office at (909) 396-2500.

Copies of AQMD rules and regulations can be downloaded from the website at www.aqmd.gov/rules/index.html or provided by AQMD's Public Information Center, (909) 396-2039.

October 2004



Rule 1122 Solvent Degreasing

This rule requires the AQMD to perform a technology assessment to determine the necessity of continuing exemptions for certain cleaning processes.

For more information, contact Lee Lockie at llockie@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-2390.



Rule 1198-Intermodal Equipment

This proposed rule will address emissions from intermodal equipment (i.e., yard hostlers). For more information, contact Zorik Pirveysian at zpirveysian@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3133.

November 2004



Rule 1157-PM₁₀ Emission Reductions from Aggregate **Operations**

This proposed rule is aimed at achieving further PM_{10} reductions from cement manufacturing plants and processes. *For more information, contact Lee Lockie at llockie@aqmd.gov or* (909) 396-3162.



Rule 1469.1-Control of Emissions from Spray Operations Using Chromium

This proposed rule will address chromium emissions from spray operations.

For more information, contact Jill Whynot at jwhynot@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3104.



Clean Air

Awart

RECLAIM Regional Clean Air Incentives Market

Proposed amendments will implement BARCT and add clarifications to the rules and protocols.

For more information, contact Jill Whynot at jwhynot@aqmd.gov or (909) 396-3104.

Last Chance to Register for the 16th **Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon!**

The Clean Air Awards will be held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles on October 13, 2004 at 11:30 a.m.

> Tickets are \$35 each. For more information or to register, contact Geri Bowen at (909) 396-2778 or via e-mail at gbowen@agmd.gov.

Child Care Center Open to the Public

hen AQMD opened its doors in Diamond Bar, an on-site child care center also opened. The center, which serves AQMD employees and the community, is now under new management, with Towne and Country Preschool & Infant Center offering a strong academic program in a supportive, stress-free and fun environment. Open to the public from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., the center accepts infants through preschoolers, ages 6 weeks to kindergarten, at very competitive rates.

AQMD parents—especially new parents find it handy and re-assuring to have child care so close to work. For local businesses, the center enhances recruitment potential by offering their employees convenient, high-quality, affordable child care. Easy freeway access makes the center ideal for many families in the area

The summer months at Towne and Country offer special activities, such as science projects, arts and crafts, cooking, sports, field trips, dress-up days, guest artists, and professional swimming lessons in a safe, above-ground pool.

The recent "Community Helpers Week," part of the center's theme-week program, introduced the children to such people as police officers, bus drivers, and doctors. The program is an ideal way for children to learn, in a relaxed and fun way.

Parents find the staff dedicated to providing a natural extension of the loving, supportive home environment. According to Ana Troccoli, who currently has three children enrolled in the center, "the teachers are very caring and the new owners have really made the center awesome for the kids." Lisa Krebs, who has an infant in the program, noted, "I am so impressed with the cleanliness of the facility, and my daughter is eager to go to school each morning.'

For more information on Towne and County and to take a visual tour of the facility, visit their Web site through the link provided in the banner at the bottom of AQMD's home page at www.agmd.gov or call (909) 861-9025.



6 September 2004



W ith the looming deadlines for this region to meet federal clean air standards and an aggressive Air Quality Management Plan forged to meet those goals, it was evident that AQMD's work with local governments, community groups, business organizations, and state and federal lawmaker's offices needed to be coordinated and focused on this formidable task.

The AQMD didn't have far to look to find the necessary leadership, he was already here directing the work of the government affairs department. Oscar Abarca, with his graduate degree in public policy, years of volunteering in community action and leadership development programs and a decade of work at the Southern California Association of Governments, accepted the challenge of becoming the Assistant Deputy Executive Officer for the Office of Public Affairs in 2000. His first priority was to shift the department's paradigm from simply

Oscar Abarca

processing tasks to achieving results with an emphasis on tangible accomplishments. "But, teamwork is critical," he says.

"Whatever the immediate goal, if you can get all of your stakeholders to the table and generally agree on what needs to be done, work as a team, and commit to stay on course, then half the battle is won - the rest is simply hard work, staying focused, being prepared, and being flexible to changing circumstances when necessary." This philosophy has set the stage for a series of victories that range from resolving longstanding community issues through environmental justice neighborhood task forces and rallying local governments to support unique mobile source reduction programs, to securing millions of dollars per year in funding for new clean-air technology advancement and heavy-duty vehicle emissions reductions.

Oscar's clean air work is much more

than just a job. "Cleaning our air is personal. I watch my grandkids suffer from asthma and allergies and it is a constant reminder for me to work even harder to ensure that their kids won't have to face that kind of life." This underscores his belief that residents have a right to understand the impacts and sources of air pollution. "Educational outreach to ethnic and faith-based communities, especially those who are disproportionately impacted because they can't afford to live in areas that are away from local pollution sources, is a key to them being empowered to make informed decisions regarding their health and the health of their loved ones." This, he says, is the foundation

of environmental justice. Oscar and his wife live in Whittier and have two sons, three daughters, and three grandchildren.

Norma Martinez began her career in June 1986 as an intermediate clerk typist at AQMD's Long Beach satellite office, and now serves as principal office assistant in records management, where she supervises a staff of four. Born in the small copper mining town of Superior, Arizona, Norma grew up in Covina and attended Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, where she received a certificate in aviation science.

"Then airline deregulation happened and my plans changed," she says. "But

I still had fun flying around Southern California." During her more than 18 years at the AQMD, Norma has seen document management evolve from very early manual-entry databases to today's sophisticated electronic imaging systems.

"My position here in records management means I get to know everyone, because everyone needs a record, eventually," she says. "My time here has been a gigantic, wonderful learning experience," she says. "Over the years, we've been encouraged to expand our abilities as individuals, and that in turn lets us offer better recordkeeping assistance to more people."

Norma's family activities keep her busy after work, too. Daughter Natalie, 10, is into tournament softball and Girl Scouts (mom serves as a leader), and son Michael, 14, puts time into competitive swimming and martial arts. Norma's husband Azor is a petrochemical process designer, and a Cuban native who emigrated during the "freedom flights" of 1962.



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arian Coleman came to the AQMD in February 1986, working first as a compliance inspector for vaporcontrol equipment at gasoline stations, then moving to industrial inspections. She is currently a Supervising Air Quality Inspector for Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Raised in Arcadia, Marian holds a bachelor's degree in health science from CSU San Bernardino. Prior to joining AQMD, she was employed as a safety officer at a manufacturing facility.

When the Governing Board initiated a Recordkeeping Task Force, Marian was selected to serve as a representative for Engineering and Compliance, alongside stakeholders from various industry sectors as well as CARB and U.S. EPA. Her work was a key component to the success of the effort, as recognized by then-Chairman of the AQMD Governing Board Norma Glover, who headed the task force.

Marian takes pride in the accomplishments of her three grown children. In his second year of college, her son Gregory majors in English and made a national dean's list; her highschool-senior daughter Whitney made the Adidas All-American girls' basketball ranking and is building skills to become a music producer; and her older daughter Kim graduated from Cal State L.A. as a business major and now owns her own clothing line. Her husband Greg is a program manager for an information technology & engineering firm that contracts with NASA.

"Because I have kids who are asthmatic, I've felt fortunate to be able to specialize in working on health and air quality. I feel

good knowing I have a purpose."



September 2004 7





South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178

Forwarding Service Requested



RULE COMPLIANCE PROMOTION CLASSES Upcoming compliance classes will be held as follows:

Rule 1403-Asbestos Demolition/

- Renovation ActivitiesOctober 13
- October 13
 November 17

The classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at AQMD Headquarters. There is a \$30 class fee. *Registration can be arranged by calling (909) 396-2381 or by sending e-mail to jmoore@aqmd.gov.*

Rule 2202-Employee Transportation Coordinator Training

October 6 or 7, Anaheim
October 27 or 28, Diamond Bar

Classes are held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$54.37 per person. Enrollment is limited to 25 students and classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. *To reserve a space, call Paulette Henson (909)* 396-3374.

Rule 403-Fugitive Dust November 17

Classes will be held on the above dates at AQMD headquarters starting at 8:30 a.m. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. *To reserve a space, call* (909) 396-2183.

Rule 461-Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing

Pre-registration is required for the following three classes. All classes are held at AQMD's headquarters. *To register, call* (909) 396-3058

Annual Periodic Inspection

• November 18 & 19 This two-day class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the first day and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the second day. There is a \$150 registration fee, with pre-registration required. The class will be held at AQMD's Diamond Bar headquarters. *To register, call (909) 396-3058.*

Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Tester Orientation Training November 10

The class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is a \$100 class fee.

Daily Self-Inspection Class for Service Station Owners/ Operators

• November 4 The classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a \$50 class fee.

AQMDAdvisor

This bimonthly news publication is produced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Public Affairs Office. AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange county and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. AQMD does not endorse or warrant any products, services or companies mentioned in this publication.

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