

JANUARY 2024

THE ICAPCD BULLETIN

Official Newsletter of Imperial County Air Pollution Control District

WOOD BURNING CURTAILMENTS IN THE WINTER SEASON

Woodsmoke from wood burned for heating and recreational purposes in fireplaces, stoves, inserts, and similar devices, could contribute to poor air quality. In many communities throughout California, woodsmoke from older residential heating devices is a major source of air pollution. Replacing these highly polluting and inefficient wood burning devices with certified wood stoves or non-wood home heating devices can significantly reduce emissions of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), black carbon, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gas emissions for the Imperial County region.

In Imperial County, the Air Pollution Control District will often declare a mandatory wood burning curtailment in specific regions (or the entire County) when forecasts indicate elevated levels of fine particulate air pollution. This curtailment and prohibition of wood burning appliances does not apply to cookstoves and devices which are exclusively gaseous-fueled. When determining the Burn Day Status for Outdoor Open Burning and Agricultural Burning, the Air Pollution Control District takes into account these wood burning curtailments.

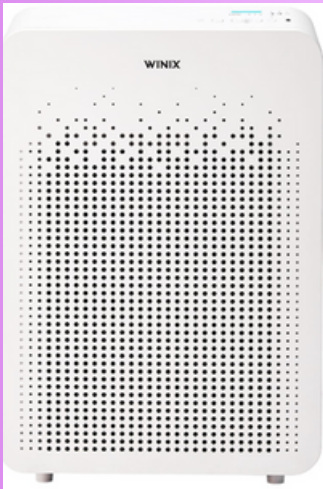


AB 617 CALEXICO – HEBER – EL CENTRO CORRIDOR

PROJECT A.C.E. – AIR COMMUNITY EDUCATION

CTE TEACHER FEATURE

Mrs. Jackie Valadez



SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL



The Air District, in collaboration with Southwest High School's Academy for Careers in Health Sciences, has created Project A.C.E (Air Community Education). Mrs. Jackie Valadez, CTE Teacher, and Belen Leon-Lopez, APCO, created Project A.C.E. to develop students knowledge and skills in environmental health literacy, leadership, and community advocacy. A component of the project will require students to focus on particulate matter, asthma, and air filtration systems. Students will implement practical strategies to minimize exposure in their own homes and communities. In addition, Project A.C.E. will allow students to job shadow Air District staff with duties directly pertaining to air monitoring. In order for students to participate, they must be enrolled in the "Community Health Worker" course within the Health Science and Medical Terminology Industry sector. The Air District will contribute \$30,000 from the Clean Air Fund to support Project A.C.E. with funding applied towards 200 HEPA Air Purifiers, an educational brochure contest, and 30 small grants for those participating in asthma surveys.



AB 617 FUNDING RECOGNITION CEREMONY (OCT. 2023)



ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS FOR CALEXICO-HEBER-EL CENTRO

Permit Inspections: 266

Active Permits: 266

Complaints: 36

Notice of Violations: 60

**Data is for January - December 2023.*

AB 617 NORTH-END COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS SELECTED IN NOVEMBER MEETING



Miguel Hernandez, Primary

Eric M. Reyes, Primary

Luis Olmedo, Primary

Janira Figueroa, Alternate

Juan Gonzalez Cena, Alternate

Christian Torres, Alternate

Mario Lopez, Primary

Sergio A. Valenzuela, Primary

Fernanda Vega, Primary

Yolanda Lopez, Alternate

Daniela Vega, Alternate

Christian Froelich, Primary

Hector Cervantes, Primary

Sergio Cabanas, Primary

Michael Luellen, Alternate

COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING PLAN



The District's staff is reviewing proposals submitted in December, in which qualified contractors were invited to bid on the installation of fifteen (15) community sensors that have the capability of measuring ambient PM10 and PM 2.5 air emissions, and storing/transmitting historical data. In 2024, the North-End Committee will determine exact locations to install these 15 sensors.

The North-End Committee was finalized on October 17, 2023 by the Air Pollution Control Board and held its first established Committee meeting on November 28, 2023. The Committee will hold its next meeting on January 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Westmorland Elementary School.

The public is encouraged to attend these meetings, as the Committee will now focus on creating a Community Air Monitoring Plan and a Community Emission Reduction Program.

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS FOR NORTH-END COMMUNITY

Permit Inspections: 197

Active Permits: 197

Complaints: 24

Notice of Violations: 27

**Data is for January - December 2023.*

Happy Holidays

JANUARY 2024, VOLUME 8



The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District Staff would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and wish you a Happy 2024 New Year!

REPORT AN AIR QUALITY COMPLAINT

The most efficient way to submit a complaint is to call the Air District directly at (442) 265-1800 or file a complaint on our website's home page. The air quality complaint should be reported as soon as detected, so that APCD's staff investigation can begin immediately. During regular business hours APCD will assign the complaint to an Inspector who will initiate the investigation, usually within 24 hours of receipt.

Details such as the following should be provided to help expedite the investigation:

- Your address, telephone number, email address, and name (or report anonymously)*
- The nature of the air quality complaint (smoke, dust, odor, or other)*
- The name & address of the alleged source & the type of operation causing it, if known*
- The time & date the air quality incident occurred & whether it is still continuing*

STAY CONNECTED



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