

ICAPCD BULLETIN

Fall 2020

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UPDATE

AB 617 PROGRESS

LAWN EXCHANGE
EQUIPMENT
PROGRAM



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www.APCD.imperialcounty.org

www.ICAB617Community.org

Permits & Compliance

As of October 2020

Active Permits: 790

Permitted Facilities: 777

June to August 2020

Applications Received: 11

Complaints: 0

Violation Notices: 20



ADAPTING TO COVID: THE ICAPCD'S "NEW NORMAL"

Since a State of Emergency was declared in March, the ICAPCD has taken measures to ensure the safety of our staff so they can continue to monitor, enforce, and regulate our local air quality.

Everyday, temperatures are taken prior to clocking in and masks are required for everyone in the office. Appointments with APCD officials must be scheduled in advance, but we are still working diligently to serve the public.

Despite some of our limitations, all our staff continues to conduct inspections, investigate complaints, work on various projects, and continue our day-to-day operations.



Pictured: (Top) APCD Engineer, Marco Luigi Perrone, and APCD Inspector, Wilmer Barrios

SALTON SEA UPDATE

FIRST FEDERAL HEARING IN OVER TWO DECADES

On September 24, 2020, the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife subcommittee of the US House of Representatives' Natural Resources Committee met to discuss the Salton Sea for the first time since 1997.

Below is an excerpt from the comment submitted by the County of Imperial and ICAPCD:

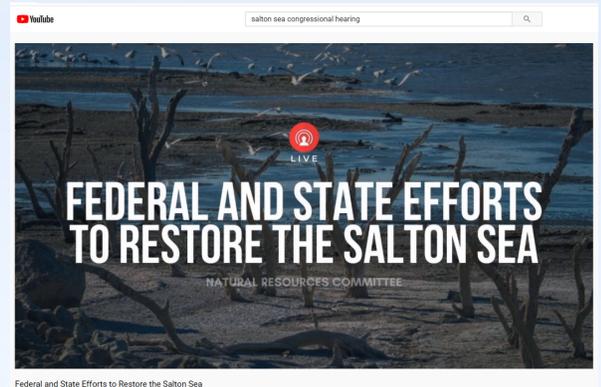
Chairman Huffman and Ranking Member McClintock:

The Imperial County Board of Supervisors is pleased to submit this statement for the record in conjunction with the Subcommittee's September 24, 2020 oversight hearing on efforts to restore the Salton Sea. We're grateful to the Subcommittee for holding this long-overdue but extremely important hearing, and we look forward to working with you to identify, develop and advance federal policies that will contribute to the restoration of this treasured resource.

As the unit of general purpose local government that encompasses the vast majority of the Salton Sea and which is responsible for administering public health services and regulating air quality, Imperial County has an enormous stake in policy considerations affecting the future of the Sea. For decades, the Board of Supervisors has been sounding the alarm regarding the large-scale ecological, environmental, and public health crisis that has been unfolding due to the Salton Sea's rapid decline. After years of insufficient action on the part of the State of California and the Federal government, the Board voted in October of 2019 to declare a local state of emergency due to the proliferation of toxic air pollution stemming from the release of contaminated dust particles from the Sea's increasingly exposed toxic lakebed.

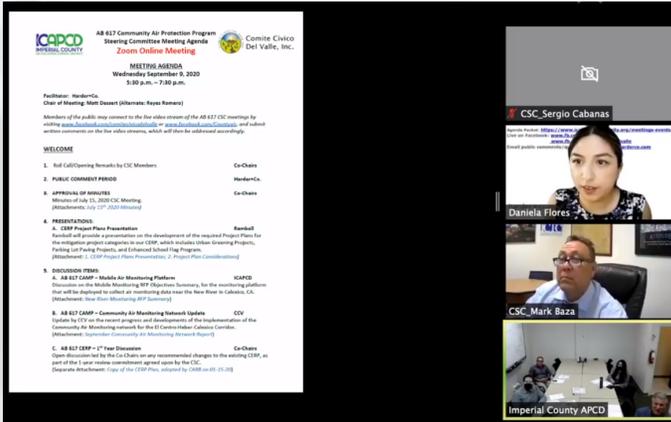
According to a recent study by UC Riverside, dust emissions from the Salton Sea are directly linked to cardiovascular disease and death, as well as respiratory illnesses, including asthma. Due in part to the conditions at the Sea, Imperial County has the highest rate of asthma-related emergency room visits for children in the state of California. Furthermore, the Salton Sea's alarmingly high salinity levels, algal blooms, and the subsequent by-products of decomposition have resulted in repeated ecological disasters, including avian and fish die-offs. These trends must be reversed.

While some recent progress has been made on small-scale mitigation projects at the Sea, major environmental impacts affecting the quality of life in our community will continue to persist until a long-term solution is fully implemented. In order for this to happen, however, both the State of California and the Federal government must take bold action and commit additional resources to Salton Sea restoration efforts. It is our sincere hope that the Subcommittee's hearing will serve as a catalyst for increased collaboration among stakeholders, and, more importantly, the implementation of policies that restore the Salton Sea for the protection, health, and wellbeing of our constituents and generations to come.



The Hearing can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC9cqPlnzBs&t=3574s>

AB 617 WORK CONTINUES VIRTUALLY



Despite being unable to meet in person, the AB 617 Community Steering Committee (CSC) continues to meet to continue their work for the residents of the Calexico-Heber-El Centro corridor. Meetings are held virtually on Zoom and are livestreamed on Facebook in both English and Spanish.

You can access all AB 617 materials and information at www.ICAB617Community.org

AB 617 Annual Report Highlights



Approval of the Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP)
October 2, 2019



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Calexico High School Paving Project, an early emission reduction project approved by the CSC.
October 4, 2019



Adoption of the CERP by the California Air Resources Board (CARB)
January 15, 2020



The AB 617 Website Homepage
www.ICAB617Community.org



Screenshot of our binational media campaign, "Ambientalizate"

Air District Happenings



Celebrating Magnolia Elementary School's Parking Lot Paving Project

The ICAPCD & Magnolia Elementary School in Brawley held a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 7, 2020 to celebrate the paving of their 32,000 sq. ft. parking lot. This project reduces the amount of fugitive dust from this previously unpaved areas and allows students to participate in outdoor activities.

This project has been categorized as an air emissions project and funded through the ICAPCD Rule 310 Program with no impact to the General Fund.

LEEP CONTINUES FOR THE 5th STRAIGHT YEAR

Due to COVID-19, the Lawn Exchange Equipment Program (LEEP) had to be conducted differently this year to ensure the safety and health of our staff and recipients.

Fortunately, staff adapted and went above and beyond to make this year's program a success by delivering all the equipment.

In total, 196 pieces of equipment were sold/exchanged resulting in a reduction of approximately 78 pounds of hydrocarbons and 626 pounds of carbon dioxide.



Thomas Brinkerhoff
Projects Manager



Belen Leon
Projects Manager

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Best Wishes



Norma Amavizca
Best of Luck in Your
New Career Path,
We Will Miss You!



Thomas Brinkerhoff
Congratulations on
Your 15 Year Work
Anniversary!



Curtis Blondell
Congratulations on
Your 5 Year Work
Anniversary!