VAPHHER History

In 2005, we hosted the inaugural Valley Air Pollution Health Effects Research (VAPHHER) Symposium at the Montecito Lodge in Sequoia National Park. The VAPHHER Symposium sought to bring researchers, public health officials, air regulators and policymakers together in an informal setting to facilitate discussion on the impacts of air pollution on the health of San Joaquin Valley Residents (see 2005 VAPHHER Agenda on pages 20-23).

Fourteen years later, we will come together at the gateway to Yosemite National Park for VAPHHER II, to learn about new linkages between air pollution and public health, as well as explore the challenges and opportunities to continue improving air quality and health in the San Joaquin Valley.

Central California Asthma Collaborative

The Central California Asthma Collaborative’s mission is to reduce the burden of asthma and other chronic conditions through education, intervention, policy analysis and advocacy, improving care, and reducing air and climate pollution in the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley. CCAC utilizes a primary prevention strategy to address health and environmental inequities. CCAC has identified critical environmental factors, like air pollution, which negatively affect asthma and other health outcomes in our region.

Major sources of air (and water) pollution have been historically concentrated in low-income and communities of color, putting these communities at an economic disadvantage and substantially increased risk of asthma, especially among children. Combined with poor access to health care, this condition has escalated over time, creating a cycle of health and economic inequity.

CCAC’s work focuses at this problem through the lens of health and climate equity while at the same time creating and supporting community-based disease management approaches, like the Asthma Impact Model (AIM) program.
Wednesday, November 6

10:00-3:00  Registration
12:00-1:00  Hosted Lunch Buffet
1:00-2:45  Panel A: Health Effects of Outdoor Air Pollution
  Effects of ambient PM$_{2.5}$, ozone and NO$_2$ on respiratory, cardio-
  vascular & other diseases in children & adults

  Health Effects of Traffic-Related Air Pollution in Children Living in
  the San Joaquin Valley
  John Balmes MD, UC Berkeley

  Health Effects of Long-Term Exposure to Ultrafine Particulate
  Matter
  Michael Kleeman PhD, UC Davis

  Recent Evidence on the Health Effects of Ambient Ozone
  Michael Jerrett PhD, UCLA

  Ozone and Asthma ER Visits in the Central Valley
  Ricardo Cisneros PhD, UC Merced

2:45-3:00  Break
3:00-4:45  Panel B: Intersection Between Air Pollution and Climate
  Sources and species of air pollution impacting Valley air quality,
  health and the climate

  The Intersection between Air Pollution and Climate in California
  Michael FitzGibbon PE, CARB

  Measuring and Mitigating Methane Emissions in the Southern
  San Joaquin Valley
  Sebastien Biraud PhD, LBNL

  Temperature and Adverse Birth Outcomes in California: Compiling
  the Evidence
  Rupa Basu PhD/MPH, OEHHA

  The Role of Population Vulnerability on Climate Health Effects
  Paul English PhD/MPH, Tracking California

6:00-7:00  Hosted Reception
7:00-9:00  Hosted Dinner

Thursday, November 7

7:00-8:00  Hosted Breakfast Buffet
8:00-9:45  Panel C: Sources of Air Pollution
  Area, mobile and stationary sources of primary criteria and toxic
  air pollutants, and precursors of secondary pollutants, in the SJV

  SJV Emissions Inventories and Community-Level Area Source
  Emissions
  Dave Edwards, CARB

  Source Contributions to Primary and Secondary PM$_{2.5}$ in the
  San Joaquin Valley
  Michael Kleeman PhD, UC Davis

  Characterizing On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Truck Emissions
  Chelsea Preble PhD, UC Berkeley / LBNL

  Impact of Wildland Fires on Particulate Matter (PM$_{2.5}$) in Central
  California
  Ricardo Cisneros PhD, UC Merced

10:00-11:15  GUIDED NATURE HIKE (1.5 miles)
  Walk with a Tenaya guide through the Sierra National Forest.
  Learn about the plants and animals of the area and open your
  senses to nature

11:45-12:45  Hosted Lunch Buffet
12:15  KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Alex Sherriffs, UCSF
1:00-2:45  Panel D: Challenges to Cleaning the Air
  Obstacles regulators and industries face in reducing air pollution
  to health-protective levels over the next decade

  Kurt Karperos MS, Deputy Executive Officer, CARB
  Meredith Kurpius PhD, Assoc. Director, Reg IX Air Div, US EPA
  Sheraz Gill MS, Deputy Director SJVAPCD
  Cathy Reheis-Boyd, President, WSPA
  Roger Isom, President and CEO, CCGGA
  Tim Carmichael, Government Relations Manager, Sempra
  Bill Magavern JD, Policy Director, CCA
  Genevieve Gale, Executive Director, CVAQ
  John Balmes MD, UC Berkeley
Conference Schedule

Thursday, November 7

2:45-3:00  Break

3:00-5:00  Panel E: Opportunities in Air Quality Policy
Opportunities to reduce the health impacts of air pollution in the SJV today

Kurt Karperos MS, Deputy Executive Officer, CARB
Meredith Kurpius PhD, Assoc. Director, Reg IX Air Div, US EPA
Sheraz Gill MS, Deputy Director SJVAPCD
Cathy Reheis-Boyd, President, WSPA
Roger Isom, President and CEO, CCGGA
Tim Carmichael, Government Relations Manager, Sempra
Bill Magavern JD, Policy Director, CCA
Alex Sherriffs MD, Clinical Professor of Health Sciences, UCSF
Genevieve Gale, Executive Director, CVAQ
John Balmes MD, UC Berkeley*
*Facilitator

6:00-9:00  Hosted Wine and Cheese Reception

Friday, November 8

7:00-8:30  Hosted Breakfast Buffet

8:30-10:15  Panel F: AB617... A Year in Retrospect
Successes, setbacks and lessons learned in the first year of AB617 implementation in the San Joaquin Valley

Perspective of CARB Office of Community Air Protection
Karen Magliano MS, CARB
Perspective of CARB EJ Team
Veronica Eady JD, CARB
Perspective of SJV Air District
Jonathan Klassen MA, SJVAPCD
Perspective of Fresno Steering Committee Member
Nayamin Martinez MPH, CCEJN
Perspective of Shafter Steering Committee Member
Gustavo Aguirre, CCEJN

10:15-10:30  Break

10:30-12:15  Panel G: AB617... Air Monitoring, Pollution Mitigation and Health Outcomes
Tools for neighborhood-level air monitoring, display, data clearinghouses, indoor air mitigation and health integration

Community Air Monitoring in Shafter and South Fresno
Jessica Olsen MS, SJVAPCD
A Community Network of 100 Black Carbon Sensors
Chelsea Preble PhD, UC Berkeley / LBNL
Emerging Technologies for Community Air Monitoring
Walter Ham PhD, CARB
AQview and Community Air Quality Visualization
Mena Shah, CARB
Community Assessment Tools
Vernon Hughes, CARB
The Indoor Perspective on EJ: Disparities and Mitigation Strategies
Patrick Wong PhD, CARB
Tracking Health Improvements Related to AB 617
Paul English PhD/MPH, Tracking California

12:15-1:15  Hosted Lunch Buffet
Speaker Profiles

John Balmes MD
Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, UC Berkeley

John Balmes is Professor of Medicine at UCSF and Professor of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley. He is an Attending Physician in the UCSF Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. At UC Berkeley, he is the Director of the Northern California Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program. He is also one of the Principal Investigators of the Children’s Health and Air Pollution Study (CHAPS) in Fresno. Dr. Balmes has been studying the effects of occupational and environmental agents on respiratory, cardiovascular, and metabolic health for over 39 years. He was appointed Physician Member of the California Air Resources Board in 2008.

Michael Kleeman PhD
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Davis

Michael Kleeman is a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Davis. Professor Kleeman has more than 20 years of experience studying air pollution problems in California’s most polluted air basins: the San Joaquin Valley and the South Coast Air Basin. Professor Kleeman employs a wide range of measurement techniques and model calculations to identify the sources and mechanisms of pollution formation. His work supports efforts to meet air quality standards designed to protect public health across California.

Michael Jerrett PhD
Professor and Chair of Environmental Health Sciences, UCLA

Michael Jerrett is an internationally recognized expert in Geographic Information Science for Exposure Assessment and Spatial Epidemiology. Dr. Jerrett is a full professor and the chair of the Department of Environmental Health Science, and Director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, Fielding School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Jerrett earned his PhD in Geography from the University of Toronto. Over the past 23 years, Dr. Jerrett has researched how to characterize population exposures to air pollution and built environmental variables, the social distribution of these exposures among different groups (e.g., poor vs. wealthy), and how to assess the health effects from environmental exposures. In 2009, the United States National Academy of Science appointed Dr. Jerrett to the Committee on “Future of Human and Environmental Exposure Science in the 21st Century.” Dr. Jerrett was appointed to the National Academy of Science Standing Committee on Geographical Sciences from 2016 to 2019.

Ricardo Cisneros PhD
Assistant Professor of Environmental Public Health, UC Merced

Ricardo Cisneros is an Associate Professor in the Public Health Department at University of California Merced and member of the Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI). His work is focused on effects of air quality on health, and forest fires impacts on air quality. He holds a B.S. in Health Sciences, MPH with emphasis in Environmental Health and Ph.D. in Environmental Systems. As an environmental scientist with specialization in environmental health and exposure science, he conducts research that recognizes the interdependence of ecological and human health with special interests in Air Pollution Research and exposure assessment.

Speaker Profiles

Michael FitzGibbon PE
Branch Chief, Atmospheric Science and Climate Strategies, CARB

Mike FitzGibbon is a Branch Chief in the Research Division of the California Air Resources Board with more than 30 years of experience. He is a liaison with the agricultural community on research-related topics and served as Co-Chair for the Dairy Working Group Subgroup 3 on Research that developed a comprehensive dairy research program to support meeting California’s emission reduction targets from SB 1383 and the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Plan. He also oversees CARB’s HFC reduction program for refrigerants that are used in air conditioning and commercial refrigeration systems. Mike is a registered Professional Chemical Engineer, with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California at Davis and an M.B.A. from the Claremont Graduate School.

Sebastien Biraud PhD
Climate Science Department Head, LBNL

Sebastien Biraud is a Staff Research Scientist who has been at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory since 2003, and currently leads its Climate Sciences Department. Sebastien received his PhD from University Denis Diderot in France in 2000, working on greenhouse gases emissions in Europe using a tracer method that has been widely used since then. His current research focuses on integrating and applying high-precision atmospheric trace gases observations from ground and airborne platforms for research on the atmospheric carbon cycle, and greenhouse gases source attribution. His work has become a focal point for a multi federal agency effort (NOAA, NASA, DOE) to evaluate new remote sensing instruments on ground, airborne, and satellite platforms to determine column integrated greenhouse gas mixing ratios. Sebastien is currently the PI of the Department of energy funded Atmospheric Radiation Measurements Carbon Project and California Energy Commission supported SUMMATION project, and also co-lead of the AmeriFlux Management Project.

Rupa Basu PhD/MPH
Air and Climate Epidemiology Section, OEHHA

Rupa Basu has extensive experience relating to the associations between temperature and air pollution on health outcomes, including mortality, morbidity, and adverse birth outcomes, with a focus on identifying vulnerable subgroups. Dr. Basu is currently the Chief of the Air and Climate Epidemiology Section at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency and also teaches a course on climate change and public health at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She serves on several statewide and national climate change committees and has been an invited guest speaker on many occasions, recently by former Governor Schwarzenegger at USC. She was featured in the Emmy award-winning climate change documentary, Years of Living Dangerously, “Mercury Rising” episode with Matt Damon. Dr. Basu’s work is widely cited, and she has served as a referee for many health journals and has reviewed or edited several grant proposals and reports for federal and state governmental agencies.
Climate Planning” project to develop the tools and strategies needed to meet California’s multiple air quality requirements by federal law to meet air quality standards for all areas of the State. Mr. Karperos’s responsibilities include managing CARB’s scientific, technical, and planning teams as they develop the State Implementation Plans (SIPs) required by federal law to meet air quality standards for all areas of the State that exceed federal health-based air quality standards. He also oversees CARB’s research program that includes a broad portfolio of basic and applied scientific research in the health impacts of air pollution; actions to mitigate exposure to mobile source emissions in the built environment; motor vehicle emissions; field studies to identify sources of methane, a strong climate-forcing pollutant; and environmental justice. His regulatory responsibilities include California’s program to reduce emissions of refrigerant gases that, like methane, have a large impact on climate and consumer products.

Mr. Karperos conceived and spearheaded CARB’s “Vision for Clean Air: A Framework for Air Quality and Climate Planning” project to develop the tools and strategies needed to meet California’s multiple air quality and climate goals in an integrated fashion. Mr. Karperos has a Bachelor of Science in applied mechanics from the University of San Diego and a Master of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dave Edwards PhD
Branch Chief, Greenhouse Gas and Toxic Emissions Inventory, CARB

David Edwards, Ph.D. currently works at the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the Assistant Division Chief for the Air Quality Planning and Science Division. As Assistant Division Chief, David is responsible for implementing programs that range from emissions inventory to consumer products. Prior to this position, Dr. Edwards was Chief and Greenhouse Gas and Toxics Emissions Inventory Branch at CARB and Supervisor of the Consumer Products Implementation Section. He also developed greenhouse gas emission reduction factors for composting and recycling. Before working at CARB, Dr. Edwards was an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. Dr. Edwards received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University and his B.S. in Chemistry from St. Mary’s College of California. He also received a certificate in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy while at Princeton.

Kurt Karperos MS
Deputy Executive Officer, CARB

Kurt Karperos was appointed Deputy Executive Officer for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in November 2014. In this capacity, Mr. Karperos directs the efforts of CARB’s scientists and engineers in the Air Quality Planning and Science Division and the Research Division. Mr. Karperos has 27 years of experience at CARB in air quality planning and program development and implementation. Mr. Karperos’s responsibilities include managing CARB’s scientific, technical, and planning teams as they develop the State Implementation Plans (SIPs) required by federal law to meet air quality standards for all areas of the State that exceed federal health-based air quality standards. He also oversees CARB’s research program that includes a broad portfolio of basic and applied scientific research in the health impacts of air pollution; actions to mitigate exposure to mobile source emissions in the built environment; motor vehicle emissions; field studies to identify sources of methane, a strong climate-forcing pollutant; and environmental justice. His regulatory responsibilities include California’s program to reduce emissions of refrigerant gases that, like methane, have a large impact on climate and consumer products.

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Meredith Kurpius PhD
Associate Director, Region IX Air Division, US EPA

Meredith Kurpius is an Assistant Director in the Air Division at US EPA’s San Francisco office. Meredith has a B.S. from Cornell University in Natural Resources and a Ph.D from UC Berkeley in Atmospheric Science, where she was both a Berkeley Fellow and a National Science Foundation Fellow. She has been working on air pollution issues for over 25 years, first as a researcher on trace gas exchange, and then at EPA where she has worked on myriad technical and policy issues. Among her current duties, Meredith leads the US EPA’s San Joaquin Valley air team.

Sheraz Gill MS
Deputy Director SJVAPCD

Sheraz Gill is the Deputy Air Pollution Control Office at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). Sheraz has over 18 years of air quality experience working with a wide variety of stakeholders both within the San Joaquin Valley and around the state. He has worked directly on a variety of high-profile air pollution issues including developing State Implementation Plans, transportation growth challenges, the inclusion of agricultural into air quality permitting and wildland fire mitigation efforts. Within SJVAPCD, he currently oversees the planning efforts required by the federal and state governments, rule development, technology advancement, air quality analysis, air quality modeling, air monitoring, incentives and grants programs and administrative functions. He has been at the forefront of providing the public with the most up-to-date air quality information and in developing the most stringent regulations. He graduated with a BS in mechanical engineering at California State University Fresno.

Bill Magavern JD
Policy Director, CCA

Bill Magavern joined CCA in 2012 and serves as Policy Director, based in Sacramento. He has authored numerous reports and articles on energy and environmental issues, and testifies frequently before the State Legislature, Air Resources Board, and other agencies. An environmental advocate since 1988, Mr. Magavern worked as Staff Attorney for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Director of Public Citizen’s Critical Mass Energy Project, Sacramento Director of the Committee to Bridge the Gap, and Director of Sierra Club CA. Mr. Magavern received his JD from SUNY-Buffalo Law School and his bachelor’s degree in American Civilization from Brown University.

Genevieve Gale
Executive Director, CVAQ

Genevieve’s work focuses on strengthening local and state air quality policy for the benefit of public health in the San Joaquin Valley. Genevieve brings extensive policy and research experience, as well as a passion, to the position. Prior to working with CVAQ, she worked as the San Joaquin Valley Representative for the Coalition for Clean Air, as a Research Associate with the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy, a national policy center, and as a Policy Assistant with Conservation Strategy Group, an environmental policy consulting firm in Sacramento, CA. Genevieve received her Bachelor of Arts degree, with highest honors in Sociology, from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Genevieve is originally from the Metro Detroit area.
Roger Isom  
President and CEO, CCGGA  
Roger is the President/CEO of the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA) which represents tree nut hullers and processors of almonds, pecans, pistachios and walnuts. WAPA addresses regulatory and legislative issues for the tree nut industry on critical matters including, environmental, safety, food safety, water, water quality, labor, tax and transportation issues. WAPA also provides key consulting services to its members and clients in these same areas. Roger is also the President/CEO of the California Cotton Ginning and Growers Associations, which is a voluntary dues-based trade association representing 100% of the cotton growers and cotton gins in the State of California addressing regulatory and legislative issues. Roger is also President of the Ag Energy Consumers Association (AECA) representing the agricultural industry on ag energy issues, including critical general rate cases with the utilities. He is also Chairman of the Agricultural President’s Council, a coalition of over 30 agricultural organizations that have come together to work on political and legislative matters. Roger is a graduate of California State University, Fresno with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Tim Carmichael  
Government Relations Manager, Sempra  
Tim Carmichael is the State Agency Relations Manager for SDG&E and SoCalGas, also known as Sempra Energy Utilities. Mr. Carmichael is the primary liaison with the California Air Resources Board, California Energy Commission, CalRecycle, and CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture. He also works on legislative issues related to climate change, renewable fuels, and clean vehicle incentives. Prior to joining Sempra, Mr. Carmichael served as President of the California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition, a membership-based advocacy group supporting the natural gas vehicle industry. Before that he served as Executive Director of the Coalition for Clean Air, a California environmental non-profit organization focused on improving air quality. Mr. Carmichael is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles with a degree in Economics and History. He is married with two kids, lives in Fair Oaks, and works out of the Sacramento office.

Cathy Reheis-Boyd  
President, WSPA  
Catherine Reheis-Boyd has served as President of the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) since January 1, 2010. She oversees the trade organization’s operations and advocacy in five Western states – California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, and Oregon. As part of her 36 years of experience in the oil industry, Ms. Reheis-Boyd worked for an environmental consulting firm on various projects before joining Getty Oil and Texaco, working on environmental compliance at the Kern River Field in Bakersfield, CA. In 2016, Ms. Reheis-Boyd was named Distinguished Woman and Petroleum Advocate of the Year by the California Latino Leadership Institute. She currently manages a broad range of Association activities, including legislative and regulatory issues associated with transportation fuels policy, air and water quality, climate change, renewable fuels and alternative energy issues, crude oil and natural gas production and many other issues in WSPA’s five states, and beyond those borders into Canada and abroad. Ms. Reheis-Boyd received her Bachelors of Science degree in Natural Resource Management from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo and pursued postgraduate studies in environmental engineering at the University of Southern California.

Alex Sherriffs MD  
Clinical Professor of Health Sciences, UCSF  
Alexander Sherriffs received his BA degree from Yale University, graduated from the University of California, Davis Medical School, and the University of California, San Francisco, Fresno, Family Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Sherriffs volunteered two years with the Indian Health Service in Northern Michigan, operated a half-time rural private practice for 34 years and is the past president and past chair of the Public Health Committee of the Fresno-Madera Medical Society. He oversees the geriatric and nursing home experiences of our residents, provides training in vasectomy procedures, and coordinates interns’ community medicine month.

Karen Magliano MS  
Division Chief, OCAP, CARB  
Karen Magliano is the Director of the Office of Community Air Protection (OCAP) at the California Air Resources Board (CARB). OCAP was established to implement Assembly Bill (AB) 617 enacted by the Legislature and the Governor in August 2017. AB 617 provides important new tools to prioritize actions to reduce air pollution in communities with the greatest burdens. This first of its kind effort involves CARB working with local residents, air districts, and other stakeholders to identify problems, develop solutions, and track progress together.

Veronica Eady JD  
Assistant Executive Officer for EJ, CARB  
Veronica Eady, Executive Assistant for Environmental Justice, serves as the primary contact for the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on environmental justice issues and concerns and is responsible for providing policy consultation and recommendations to CARB staff as well as the development and implementation of all major CARB programs to ensure that environmental justice and tribal concerns are considered. Ms. Eady was formerly the Vice President and Director of Conservation Law Foundation Massachusetts and was the Associate General Counsel and Director of Environmental Justice at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, a non-profit civil rights law firm in New York City. She has also served as Director of the Environmental Justice and Brownfields Programs for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, where she was the principal author of Massachusetts Environmental Justice Policy. Additionally, she was the Executive Director of Alternatives for Community and Environment, an environmental justice advocacy organization, and is the former chair of U.S. EPA’s federal advisory committee for environmental justice, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Ms. Eady has held appointments on several faculties, including Europe-Viadurana University in Germany, Tufts University, in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Fordham Law School, and the Stanford Law School. She received her B.A. in journalism from the University of Southern California, and her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.
Jonathan Klassen MA
Director of Air Quality Science and Planning, SJVAPCD

Jonathan Klassen is the Director of Air Quality Science and Planning at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, where he directs various teams focused on operating and maintaining both regulatory and community-based air monitoring networks, conducting air quality data analysis, forecasting, research, and modeling, and developing and implementing plans and regulations to attain the various federal air quality standards, and developing local community emissions reduction programs for Valley communities selected under AB 617. Jonathan holds a Minor in Physics, a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, and a Master of Arts in Mathematics from California State University, Fresno.

Gustavo Aguirre Jr
Kern County Coordinator, CCEJN

Gustavo Aguirre Jr is a California native whose parents were farmworkers and traveled from the coast to the desert following the seasonal crops. Prior to joining CCEJN, Gus has coordinated the IVAN Reporting Network in Kern County and has conducted environmental literacy workshops, as well as community science data gathering projects. Gustavo has participated in various state panels including California Air Resources Board - AB 617 Consultation group and Department of Conservations SB 83- Underground Injection Control review panel representing environmental justice communities in the Central Valley.

Nayamin Martinez MPH
Executive Director, CCEJN

Ms. Martinez is the director of the Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN). Prior to joining CCEJN, Ms. Martinez worked for the Madera County Public Health Department as a Health Education Coordinator and for ten years was the Health Projects Coordinator for the Binational Center for the Development of the Oaxacan Indigenous Communities. Ms. Martinez has vast experience working with immigrants and residents of disadvantaged communities across the San Joaquin Valley managing public health programs; conducting participatory research and launching leadership and civic engagement programs. Ms. Martinez serves in various advisory groups including the Environmental Justice Advisory Group for the Valley Air District; the Community Stakeholders Advisory Committee for the UCD Environmental Health Science Core Center. Ms. Martinez holds a master’s degree in both Public Health and Sociology.

Jessica Olsen MS
Program Manager in Science and Planning, SJVAPCD

Jessica Olsen has been with the Valley Air District’s Air Quality Science and Planning Department for a total of 5 years. In 2018, Jessica spent one year at Eglin Air Force Base as an Air Force Research Lab contractor before returning to the District as the Program Manager overseeing air quality modeling, monitoring, research and analysis. In her current role, Jessica oversees daily air quality forecasting and analysis, agricultural and prescribed burning decisions, planning modeling, community and regional air monitoring, and air quality research. Jessica received her BS in Bioengineering from UCLA in 2011 and her MS in Biomedical Engineering from UC Irvine in 2014.

Chelsea Preble PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley/LBNL

Chelsea Preble is a postdoctoral researcher at UC Berkeley and Berkeley Lab. She earned her PhD in Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley in 2017. Her research interests include: characterizing in-use pollutant emissions from the transportation of people and freight, including the performance and durability of emission control systems; developing community-based air quality sensor networks to better understand spatiotemporal trends in pollution; and quantifying the air quality and climate impacts of the anaerobic digestion and composting of organic municipal solid waste.

Walter Ham PhD
Manager, Advanced Monitoring Techniques Section, MLD, CARB

Walter Ham is the manager of the Advanced Monitoring Techniques Section in the Monitoring and Laboratory Division of the California Air Resources Board. Dr. Ham’s work utilizes both traditional and emerging monitoring methods such as mobile platforms, remote sensing, and air sensors to characterize air quality in communities. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Engineering from the University of Georgia and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Davis.

Mena Shah
Manager, Air Quality and Statistical Studies Section, CARB

Mena Shah is the manager of the Air Quality and Statistical Studies Section at the California Air Resources Board (CARB). In her current role, Mena is responsible for overseeing the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of CARB’s real-time and regulatory air quality databases (including toxics); managing CARB’s air quality and data analysis programs, providing technical support for State Implementation Plan development, and providing technical support for air quality analyses with an emphasis on meteorology and regional air quality trends and interpretation. With a growing need for higher spatial-resolution monitoring and improved public data access to community-based networks, most recently, Mena and her team have been managing the design and development of CARB’s new, comprehensive statewide web portal known as “AQview” in support of AB 617.

Vernon Hughes
Manager, Community Assessment Branch, CARB

Vernon Hughes leads the Community Assessment Branch in CARB’s Office of Community Air Protection, which was established in 2017 in response to AB 617. The Community Air Protection Program’s focus is to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. More details on the Program can be found at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/community-air-protection-program . Mr. Hughes’ prior experience at CARB includes overseeing emissions inventory development and air quality modeling in support of SIPs, regulatory programs, and special studies.
Speaker Profiles

Patrick Wong PhD
Manager, Indoor Exposure Assessment Section, CARB

Pat Wong is the manager of Indoor Exposure Assessment Section in the Research Division of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Previously at CARB, he was an Air Pollution Specialist focusing on the toxicity and health effects of air pollution including air toxics as well as criteria pollutants such as particulate matter and ozone. He obtained his PhD in Pharmacology from UCLA and is a board-certified toxicologist. Before coming to CARB, Pat was postdoctoral researcher and Assistant Project Scientist at UC Davis with appointments at the Center for Comparative Respiratory Biology and Medicine and the Center for Health and the Environment.

Tim Tyner MS
Chief Science and Research Officer, CCAC

Tim Tyner co-founded the Central California Asthma Collaborative in 2011 and served as the interim CEO for three years. He also served as Board Chairman from 2011-2016. Mr. Tyner joined the CCAC staff as Chief Science and Research Officer in 2018. He spent the previous 16 years overseeing and conducting research at UCSF Fresno, serving as Director of the Clinical Research Center from 2013-2018. During his time at UCSF.

Mr. Tyner has collaborated with researchers from several institutions to study Valley air pollution and its associations with inflammatory diseases, like asthma. He oversaw subject recruitment and data collection for the Children’s Health and Air Pollution Study, an eight-year NEIHS/NIH-funded collaboration with colleagues at UC Berkeley and Stanford University. He was the PI and senior author of an Air District-sponsored study that demonstrated a strong correlation between ambient air pollution (PM2.5) and pediatric asthma ER visits in Bakersfield, Fresno and Modesto. Mr. Tyner was also the PI and senior co-author of a study that established a synergy between ambient PM2.5 levels and rhinovirus infection on airway dysfunction in asthmatic patients in Fresno.

Mr. Tyner also worked closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to develop and implement the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) and the corresponding Real-time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) guidelines. Mr. Tyner also directed CCAC’s outreach work for the Air District’s Healthy Air Living Schools program, educating schools across the Valley about the newly implemented RAAN/ROAR program and advocating for its adoption.

Mr. Tyner received a bachelor's degree in Biology from CSU Fresno in 1990 and a master's degree in Molecular Biology from UC Santa Barbara in 1992.

Kevin D. Hamilton RRT
CEO, CCAC

Kevin Hamilton is CEO of the Central California Asthma Collaborative. Kevin is focused on reducing the burden of chronic respiratory disease and environmental health impacts Valley-wide. He has served as developer, coordinator, administrator and director for multiple programs in both hospital and community-based settings serving poor and underserved communities in the San Joaquin Valley. Kevin serves on numerous boards and committees associated with grassroots community capacity building and local, state and regional policy development. His education includes an AS in Respiratory Care, BS in Geology, extended course work in social work, mathematics, business and management training. He has worked extensively on different aspects of health care access and redesign around primary care, disease management, childhood and adult immunizations and behavior health for over 35 years and is a well-known advocate for social and environmental justice.

Dining Menu

All food will be served in the Forest View Room

Wednesday, November 6
12:00 – 1:00
Hosted Lunch Buffet

- Wonton Soup
- Sliced Ripe Market Fruit and Berries
- Asian Sesame Slaw
- Chicken with Peanut Sauce
- Salmon Sake Glaze
- Fried Rice, Stir Fry Vegetables
- Assorted Dessert Bars & Mini Cookies
- Freshly Brewed Coffee, Assorted Hot Teas and Iced Tea

7:00-9:00
Hosted Reception

- Open Bar (2 complimentary drinks per person)

7:00-9:00
Hosted Dinner

- Tenaya Salad Fresh Field Greens, Shaved Apples, Bleu Cheese, Walnuts, Balsamic Vinaigrette
- Warm Rolls & Butter

[1] Cedar Plank Salmon Wild Caught with Wasabi Mashed Potatoes, Pomegranate Glaze;


- Creme Brulee Cheesecake
- Freshly Brewed Coffee Regular & Decaf Assorted Hot Teas & Iced Tea

Thursday, November 7
7:00-8:00
Hosted Breakfast Buffet

- Assorted Juices, Sliced Seasonal Fruit
- California Granola, Assorted Cereals
- Low Fat Fruit Yogurts
- Scrambled Eggs
- Country Potatoes
- Applewood Smoked Bacon
- Chicken Apple Sausage
- Cinnamon Raisin French Toast, Butter & Maple Syrup
- Fresh Brewed Coffee (Regular, Decaffeinated), Hot Tea
Dining Menu
All food will be served in the Forest View Room

Thursday, November 7 (cont.)

11:45-12:45  Hosted Lunch Buffet
Tomato Basil Soup
Fruit, Berry Yogurt Salad
Caprese Salad, Caesar Salad
Pasta Del Giorno
Chicken Parmesan
Grilled Sandwiches, Vegetarian Sandwiches
Assorted Dessert Bars & Mini Cookies
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Assorted Hot Teas & Iced Tea

6:00-9:00  Hosted Wine and Cheese Reception
Exotic Fruit & Grapes
Brie, St. Andre Double Cream Danish, Bleu, Gouda,
Cheddar, Aged Sonoma Jack Cheeses
Baguettes & Hawaiian Lahvosh
Open Bar (2 complimentary drinks per person)

Friday, November 8

7:00-8:00  Hosted Breakfast Buffet
Same as Thursday Breakfast Menu

12:15-1:15  Hosted Lunch Buffet
Mexican Cabbage Salad with Spicy Cilantro Vinagrette
Make Your Own Taco Bar:
  Picadillo Style Beef
  Mahi Mahi
  Flour Tortillas, Shredded Lettuce
  Cheddar Cheese, Monterey Jack Cheese
Enchiladas
Roasted Chicken, Grilled Scallions, Achiote Spice
Spicy Rice and Refried Beans
Chips, Salsa, Guacamole & Sour Cream
Chocolate Dipped Churros

12:45  FINAL RAFFLE
Grand Prize
VAPHER attendees are automatically included in raffle
Must be present to win

VAPHER I (2005)

VAPHER Symposium – April 12-15th, 2005
Monterey Sequoia Lodge, Kings Canyon National Park, Fresno County

Tuesday 4/12
3:00 pm  Arrival and Welcome – Meet and Greet

Wednesday 4/13
9 – 10 pm  Introductions – MAHA, the VAPHER Institute and UCSF-Fresno Goals and Agenda, Attendee Biographies, Acknowledgements
  David Pepper MD/MS, UCSF Fresno

We’re Here to Help
Shankar Prasad MBBS, CalEPA

Health Impacts of Air Pollution: Need for Cross-Disciplinary Research
  Scott Burchiel PhD, NIEHS-UNM

10 – 12pm  Pesticides –
1) What impacts might pesticides have on Valley health and which pesticides should we be concerned about? How can we best track/monitor them? Who is linking them to health effects – acutely and long-term?
2) What populations are most vulnerable (geodemographically)?
3) Is it only VOCs? Can we use components like copper or zinc as a “chemical footprint”?
4) What is known about drift and exposure from recent events?
5) What about long-term effects: cancer, infertility and other diseases? What do (or don’t) we know about potential exposures and health impacts of “inert” ingredients?
6) What types of GIS mapping are being utilized for pesticides use?
7) Can we estimate pesticide exposures with PUR and GIS-based modeling?

Introduction and Overview
  Tim Tyner MS, UCSF Fresno (moderator)

Pesticides 101: Use, Monitoring, Exposure, Toxicology
  Susan Kegley PhD, PANN

Pesticide Monitoring in the SJV – Past, Present and Future
  Randy Segawa MS, CDPR

Evaluating the Health Impacts of Pesticide Exposure
  Tobi Jones PhD, CDPR

Comments Panel
  Danielle Lobdell PhD, EPA, Sam Traina PhD, UCM, Tom Cahill PhD, UCD, Helene Margolis PhD, EHiB
Wednesday 4/13 (cont)

12 – 3pm  Lunch Break

3 – 6pm  Diesel –
1) What are the particulate, gaseous and any other emission components of diesel exhaust?
2) What is known about the dispersion characteristics of these various components?
3) What is known about the toxicology?
4) What are the health effects of diesel exhaust?
5) What are the really bad actors? Are there other major sources of these toxic airborne contaminants?
6) Why is there no standard for aggregate PAH exposure? How do we map/model diesel exposure estimates?
7) Can we link long term risk with short term problems?
8) What is known about Highway 99 and exposures?

Introduction and Overview
Tim Tyner MS, UCSF Fresno (moderator)

Health Impacts of Diesel and Particulate Exposure
Kent Pinkerton PhD, UCD

VFPs, Elemental Signatures, Adsorbing Organics (PAH), LP-TOF/MS, Dispersion Modeling and Transport
Tom Cahill PhD, UCD

Toxicology of DEP, PAH and Oxy-Derivatives (Quinones)
Scott Burchiel PhD, NIEHS-UNM

Ambient Levels of PAH and PAH-Quinones in Fresno
Alam Hasson PhD, CSUF

Appropriate Health Indicators, Monitoring and Risk Assessment
Winona Victory PhD, EPA

Health Impacts of Freeway Proximity and Traffic Exposure
Barbara Weller PhD, CARB

Comments Panel
John Balbus MD, ED, Henry Forman PhD, UCM, Danelle Lobdell PhD, EPA, Eric Roberts MD, PhD EHIB

6 – 8pm  Dinner Break

8:00 pm  Roundtable Discussion: Ammonium Nitrate and Dairy Emissions –
What are the health associations? How does ammonium nitrate contribute to the particulate load in different regions of the San Joaquin Valley? What do we know about source-transport-fate of ammonium nitrate in the Valley? What epidemiological studies have been done to address this issue?

Thursday 4/14

9 – 12pm  Populations and Pollutants –
1) How do we best correlate health indicators with environmental exposures?
2) How do we best determine asthma prevalence – diagnoses (CHIS), hospitalizations (DHS), PFT screening (CHS) – and is asthma the best marker for air pollution-associated health impacts (chronic or acute)?
3) What about cardiovascular morbidities?
4) What can we learn from population-based research?
5) Do social, economic, and demographic variables and indicators of stress confound or modify the relationship between air pollution and the incidence of asthma?
6) At what individual or spatial levels (home, neighborhood, school, or community) do these confounders and effect modifiers operate?
7) What about indoor pollution?
8) Can we utilize GIS to better identify vulnerable populations (asthma) and potential environmental (social and air pollution) associations?

Introduction and Overview
David Pepper MD, UCSF Fresno (moderator)

Asthma Prevalence in Fresno County: Schools, Community Medical Center and California Health Interview Survey
Tim Tyner MS, UCSF Fresno

Alameda Asthma Study; GIS Modeling of Health and Exposures
Eric Roberts MD/PhD, EHIB

GIS Mapping of Respiratory Claims in Fresno County: Correlations with Environmental Exposures?
Rose Calhoun RN, BCC

Developing a Strategic Plan for Asthma in California
David Nunez MD, DHS

FACES and CHS: What Have We Learned?
Helene Margolis PhD, EHIB

Kaiser Study: Spatial-Temporal Correlations Between Monitored Air Pollutants and Health in the Central Valley
Barbara Weller PhD, CARB

Comments Panel
Bill Vance PhD, CalEPA, Danelle Lobdell PhD, EPA, Michael Byrne OSHPD, Kevin Hamilton RRT, AEMP-CMC

12 – 3pm  Lunch Break
Thursday 4/14 (cont)

3 – 6pm  
Purchasers, Policy and Politics –
1) What can we learn from population-based geo-referenced health research and what are the implications for public policy?
2) Can it help us assess the efficacy of our pollution reduction efforts through associated health outcomes?
3) How might a better understanding of the health impacts and costs associated with poor air quality affect health policies and influence environmental standards?
4) What kind of data and analyses are needed to influence health policy?
5) What is the role of the 3rd party payer network and how are data best shared?
6) How do we use this information to improve the quality, accessibility and cost of pollution-related health care?
7) What impact would this have on the regulatory process?
8) How does this approach fit into the larger concept of sustainable regional development?

Introduction and Overview
David Lighthall PhD, RCI (moderator)

A Provider's Look at Air Pollution: How are They Impacted?
Andrew Robertson MD, CMC

Environmental Influences on Health: Using Research to Frame Policy Responses
John Capitman PhD, CSUF (CVHPI)

Quality Improvement: Who's Responsible and How Will it Help?
John Zweifler, MD/MPH, Office of Patient Advocate, State of CA

Implications for the Community: Opportunities and Benefits
Kevin Hamilton RRT, AEMP-CMC

Public Policy Implications Regarding Health Impacts of Air Pollution
Richard Bode, CARB

The States Role and Regulatory Efforts from the Top Down
Sen. Dean Florez, CA Senate

Comments Panel
Asm. Juan Arambula, CA Assembly, Dave Crow, SJVUAPCD APCO, Joan Yonis MD, UCSF Fresno, Bonnie Holmes-Gen, ALA, Ed Moreno MD, Fresno Co. Public Health Officer

6 – 8pm  
Dinner Break

8:00 pm  
Reception
VAPHER II Conference Map

Tenaya Lodge Map

Contact Information

VAPHER II Conference questions:
Yanni Gonzalez, CCAC
(559) 471-0126 or (707) 362-9144

Tenaya Lodge
Check-in: 4pm / Check-out: 11am
Other questions: (559) 683-6555

This event is being hosted by the Central California Asthma Collaborative through a Supplemental Environmental Project grant from the California Air Resources Board

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