

## **Executive Director updates Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District's Response to COVID-19**

Over the past eight weeks AVAQMD has taken steps to protect the health and safety of our staff and stakeholders. We've limited our lobby access to appointments only, required our staff to telecommute and restricted discretionary inspections and travel. These practices have paid off.

Beginning May 18, District staff will be returning to the office but with numerous measures in place to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. These measures are extensive and include requirements such as wearing face coverings while working, no meetings of more than four people and maintaining six feet of distance from others at all times.

Equally important is how this translates to our interaction with the public and our permit holders. We will continue to keep our lobby doors locked but encourage those who need to do business with us in person to call 661.723.8070 to schedule an appointment. Compliance inspections will resume as normal with inspectors utilizing personal protective equipment and maintaining proper social distancing. We will continue to limit discretionary travel for our staff as well as bar outside organizations from using our facilities for meetings to further limit potential exposure.

The safety and health of our staff and stakeholders remain our top priorities when making these decisions. Our operations will be adjusted as the situation evolves. This message will be updated as necessary to ensure that the community and permit holders know how best to carry out business with the District.

I want to thank our staff, our residents and our businesses for being adaptive and patient as we all navigate these challenges as a community. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to develop and implement rapidly evolving policy enhancements and work practice improvements to ensure that our services continue to be available.

Bret Banks  
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer