



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The RTC and Clark County's Department of Air Quality & Environmental Management Partner to Help Reduce Ground-Level Ozone

As temperatures rise, the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and the Clark County Department of Air Quality & Environmental Management (DAQEM) are partnering to get the word out that ground-level ozone season is under way in the valley from May until the end of September. Both agencies are encouraging residents to help reduce ground-based ozone pollution by participating in the RTC's Club Ride Commuter Services program.

Ground-level ozone is a colorless gas created by a chemical reaction between nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which is created from burning fuels like gasoline and wood and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that form from the vapors of gasoline, paints and car emissions. Unlike the good ozone in the upper atmosphere, when these two components come together and combine with high temperatures, like the heat of our summer days, ground-level ozone is formed.

By joining the RTC's Club Ride Commuter Services program, area residents can reduce the number of cars on our roadways and thereby help reduce the production of ground-level ozone. Club Ride is an employer-based program that encourages the use of alternative commute modes including, carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking and taking transit. Club Ride works with employees directly to find custom commute solutions that are usually more economical, and that will improve air quality and reduce congestion on our roadways. If our entire community participated in this program at least one day each month we would remove nearly 200 tons of pollution from our air, take almost a million car trips off of our roads and remove nearly 44 tons of dust from our air annually. For more information on the RTC and its Club Ride program visit www.rtcnv.com.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Mobile Sources, "The personal automobile is the single greatest polluter, as emissions from millions of vehicles on the road add up. Driving a private car is probably a typical citizen's most 'polluting' daily activity." Emissions from cars produce the precursors to the build-up of ground-level ozone. When ground-level ozone levels are elevated, everyone should limit strenuous outdoor activity, but especially children, older adults and people with cardiac and/or respiratory conditions.

For more information about air quality and to receive air quality advisories via e-mail through the county's EnviroFlash air quality notification system, go to www.accessclarkcounty.com.

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About the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada

The RTC is the transit authority, transportation planning agency and regional traffic management agency for Southern Nevada. The RTC's vision is to provide a safe, convenient and effective regional transportation system that enhances mobility and air quality for citizens and visitors. The RTC encourages residents and visitors to use alternate commute modes to help reduce traffic congestion, clean the air and improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada.

About the Department of Air Quality & Environmental Management

DAQEM has been delegated the authority, under the provisions of Nevada Revised Statute 445B.500 and by direction of the Clark County Board of County Commissioners, to implement and enforce an air pollution control program in Clark County, Nevada. DAQEM applies and enforces the Air Quality Regulations, which establish requirements for sources that emit or release air contaminants into the atmosphere. Through the Clean Air Act and the under the auspices of EPA guidelines, the department monitors, regulates, educates, and conducts long-term planning for air quality in the Valley.

About Clark County

Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 15th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 44 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development. In 2009, Clark County celebrates a "century of service."

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