



# NEWS

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

**Scott Wegenast**

**502-574- 6712 • Cell 718-3541**

## **APCD Joins International Effort to Supply Panama with Air Quality Monitoring Equipment to Protect Public and Environmental Health**

**Louisville, KY (September 10, 2004)** – Louisville Metro’s Air Pollution Control District is donating \$175,800 worth of surplus air quality monitoring equipment to the country of Panama. APCD is working in collaboration with the EPA’s Office of International Affairs, Panamanian officials, the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO).

The multi-year, joint program’s objectives are to increase capacity in Panama (and other developing nations) to better protect public and environmental health, reduce greenhouse emissions and the destruction of the ozone layer, and increase protection of shared ecosystems around the globe. The new data collected will be used to better inform public policy decisions protecting the public and environmental health.

The air monitoring and laboratory equipment will improve the capacity of Panama to monitor levels of ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter to determine air quality in Panama. The EPA, STAPPA/ALAPCO and U.S. state and local agencies successfully coordinated a similar program several years ago to assist Guatemala.

APCD originally purchased the equipment with federal grants awarded under the Clean Air Act. The surplus equipment will first be refurbished and tested at Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District (California), before shipping to Panama. EPA’s International Affairs office and Oslund Associates of Raleigh, NC (an EPA contractor) are coordinating the effort.

Art Williams, Director of APCD stated, “Protecting public health and air quality in today’s world requires increased understanding of the global threats of continued dependence on fossil fuels and establishing new avenues of cooperation to find global solutions to protect environment.” APCD’s surplus equipment will assist in establishing the Panamanian Air Monitoring Project.

APCD also negotiated an agreement with Environmental Systems Corporation-a division of TSI, Inc. in Knoxville, TN to provide air quality telemetry software licensing for their Ambient E-DAS Data Acquisition System. The custom software links instruments at distant monitoring sites to a central office using telephone communications to provide near real time data collection and reporting capacity.

(Note: Photo opportunities of the equipment to be donated may be arranged.)

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