

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Summary Of Board Meeting
June 20, 2002

California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
Auditorium
9530 Telstar Avenue
El Monte, California

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hons. Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D., Chairman
Doreen D'Adamo
Mark DeSaulnier
William Friedman, M.D.
Barbara Riordan
Joseph Calhoun, P.E.
C. Hugh Friedman
Matthew McKinnon

AGENDA ITEM #

02-5-1 Public Hearing to Consider Amendments to the Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and Sulfates

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

Staff presented proposed recommendations for revising and updating the Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and Sulfates. The health-based standards evaluation was a requirement of The Children's Environmental Health Protection Act (Senate Bill 25, Escutia, 1999). In December 2000, the Board approved a staff report on the adequacy of California ambient air quality standards, which found that adverse health effects may occur in infants and children and other susceptible subpopulations exposed to several pollutants at or near levels corresponding to current standards. The Board also concurred with the report's finding that the standards with the highest priority for review were those for particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM10), including sulfates.

On May 3, 2002, staff released a report to the public containing the proposed amendments to the particulate matter (PM) and sulfates standards. Staff recommended that the Board adopt amendments

to lower the level of the annual standard for PM10 from 30 to 20 micrograms per cubic meter and establish a new annual standard for PM2.5 (particulate matter 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller) of 12 micrograms per cubic meter. The recommendations were largely based on results from epidemiological studies in many cities that indicate strong associations between exposures to PM and adverse health effects. Staff also recommended updates in the monitoring methods for the PM10, PM2.5, and sulfates standards.

In the May 3, 2002 staff report, staff also recommended establishing a new 24-hour standard for PM2.5 and retaining the current 24-hour standard for PM10. However, in late May 2002, the Health Effects Institute (HEI) notified the scientific community of the discovery of a misapplication of statistical software (S-plus) used in several key studies that serve as the basis for the short-term 24-hour standard recommendations. After reviewing material from HEI and United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regarding the impacts of the software problem, staff concluded that the recommendations for the annual average standards for PM2.5 and PM10 were unaffected. However, staff also decided to withdraw the recommendations for the short-term 24-hour standards until the key studies can be reanalyzed. The scientific studies currently available do not suggest that the existing 24-hour standard for PM10 needs to be revised; however, this decision should be reassessed once results on the impacts of the statistical software misapplication are available.

At the Board meeting, staff reported on the potential health impacts from exposure to PM air pollution, including premature mortality, increased hospital admissions for cardiopulmonary causes, and exacerbation of bronchitis, asthma, and respiratory symptoms, as have been reported primarily in infants, children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing cardiopulmonary disease.

Staff also discussed that attaining the proposed standards would lead to substantial reductions in death and disease. Staff estimated that attainment of the proposed annual PM2.5 and PM10 standard would result in about 6,500 fewer cases of premature mortality per year, and about 400,000 fewer days of lower respiratory symptoms per year among children ages seven to fourteen.

The monitoring methods recommended should eliminate the ambiguities that currently exists between the state and federal programs, and respond to the need for continuous samplers for air pollution advisories.

Some members of the public commented that California businesses would be at a competitive disadvantage if the U.S. EPA adopts significantly less stringent national ambient air quality standards. The Board directed staff to actively participate in the U.S. EPA's review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM, including working with their Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), in order to achieve a health-protective outcome in the federal standard-setting process. The Board requested staff to report in a public meeting the results of the CASAC proceedings and promulgation of any new PM standards by the U.S. EPA.

The Board also directed the staff to review the key corrected research studies regarding the short-term PM standards when they become available, to report the results of the review to the Board, and recommend appropriate revisions to the standards.

The Board unanimously approved the staff recommendations. Since staff presented changes to their proposed recommendations at the Board meeting, a publicly noticed 15-day period of additional public comment on the modified text will be required.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Larry F. Greene	Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
Chung Lui	South Coast Air Quality Management District
Jean Ospital	South Coast Air Quality Management District
Casimer Andary	Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
John Heuss	Air Improvement Resources, Inc.
Cynthia Cory	California Farm Bureau
Joe Suchecki	Engine Manufacturers Association
Stephanie Williams	California Trucking Association
Joseph Stuart	Construction Industry Air Quality Coalition
Lisa Ohlund	Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Plants
Todd Campbell	Coalition for Clean Air
Vandana Bali	Coalition for Clean Air
Renee Sharp	Environmental Working Group
Bonnie Holms-Gen	American Lung Association
John S. Billheimer	Enviro Realty
Ellen Garvey	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Gretchen Hardison	City of Los Angeles

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board approved Resolution No. 02- 24 by a unanimous vote.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes (Report and Appendices)

02-5-2 Status Report on the Implementation of Environmental Justice Policies and Actions

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

On June 20, 2002, the Board received a status report on the implementation of the Air Resource Board's (ARB) Environmental Justice Policies and Actions that were approved by the Board at its December 13, 2001 meeting. This was an informational item requested by the Board at the December 2001 meeting of the Board.

The staff reported that over the last six months, the ARB has moved forward with the implementation of the policies. Some of the highlights of the last six months are: (1) creation of an Environmental Justice Section within the ARB; (2) development of a detailed work plan to implement the Environmental Justice Policies; (3) initiation of environmental justice training for ARB staff; (4) meetings with the Environmental Justice Stakeholders Committee to discuss implementation of policies, work plan, and work products; (5) the identification of an environmental justice contact person in the Chairman's office; and (6) field studies to develop methodologies for cumulative emission, exposure, and risk assessment.

ARB staff has also been heavily involved with a broad spectrum of public agencies and community groups to assess the health risk due to hexavalent chromium air pollution in the Barrio Logan area of San Diego. This effort was prompted by the detection of unexpectedly high levels of hexavalent chromium at residences near two chrome platers in Barrio Logan.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Joe Lyou	California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
Todd Campbell	Coalition for Clean Air

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

None -- Informational Item Only

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning and Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: No

02-5-3 Status Report on Implementation of the San Francisco Bay Area's 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

On June 20, 2002, the Board received a status report on the implementation of the *San Francisco Bay Area 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan for the 1-Hour National Ozone Standard* (2001 Plan) adopted by the Board as a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) on November 1, 2001. This was an informational item requested by the Board at the adoption meeting.

Staff reported that ARB has worked with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (District) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to establish three stakeholder roundtable groups to address issues raised during the Board's approval process for the Bay Area's Ozone Plan.

One roundtable group is looking at the further study measures for refineries and other potential strategies to achieve additional emission reductions. A second group is evaluating potential transportation related strategies. A third group has met to discuss issues related to including the Bay Area in California's Enhanced Smog Check Program.

Staff also reported on the status of the stationary source measure commitments in the Ozone Plan and the progress of further study measure evaluations. The District is on track with development of new Plan measures and many of the further study measures are showing promise.

ORAL TESTIMONY: Yes

Ellen Garvey Bay Area Air Quality Management District

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

None, Informational Item Only

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning and Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: No