

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Summary of Board Meeting
May 22, 2003

California Air Resources Board
Central Valley Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California

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

AGENDA ITEM #

03-4-1 Public Meeting to Consider a Health Update

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM: The ARB staff summarized five recent studies on the effect of improving air quality on illness and death rates due to lung and heart diseases. These studies come from Europe and Asia as well as the United States. A study from Dublin, Ireland, is particularly noteworthy in that a two-thirds decrease in fine particulate matter levels led to a 16% and 10% reduction in death rates due to lung and heart diseases, respectively. These reductions equated to over 300 fewer deaths per year in Dublin. Another study, performed in Utah Valley, showed reduced particulate matter levels were associated with an estimated two-thirds decrease in hospital admissions for respiratory causes among children. Other studies showed that reduced levels of ozone and sulfur dioxide also led to health benefits. Currently, ARB is sponsoring a pilot study to quantify the health benefits from incremental improvements in air quality in the South Coast Air Basin. The study is being conducted by UC Berkeley, and the results are expected in 2005. The Board expressed an interest in this research and requested periodic updates during the course of this study.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None (informational Item).

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: RD

STAFF REPORT: No

03-4-2 Public Meeting to Consider an Appointment to the Research Screening Committee

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM: The staff recommended an appointment to the Board's Research Screening Committee to fill a current vacancy.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: Approved the staff recommendation for appointment to the Research Screening Committee by a unanimous vote.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: None

03-4-3 Public Meeting to Consider a Research Proposal

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM: Staff recommended approval of the following contract:

Proposal No. 2528-229, entitled "Environmental Health Conditions in Portable Classrooms," submitted by the Research Triangle Institute, for a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTIONS: The Board approved resolution 03-10 by a unanimous vote.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: None

03-4-4 Public Meeting to Consider Proposed Grants for Developing New Air Monitoring Instruments

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM: The staff recommended grants for two projects:

- University of Southern California; “A Simple, Low-Cost Beta Attenuation Monitor (BAM) for Continuous Measurement of PM10, PM2.5 or Ultrafine Particle Concentrations”; \$144,000
- Berkeley Sensor and Actuator Center (UCB with LBNL); “Development of a Low-Cost Particulate Matter Monitor”; \$291,000

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: Adopted resolutions 03-11 and 03-12 by unanimous vote.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research

STAFF REPORT: None

03-4-5 Pubic Hearing to Consider Amendments to the Transport Mitigation Regulations

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM: In response Board direction in 2001, staff evaluated several strategies to strengthen the ozone transport mitigation regulations. These were presented at the May 22, 2003 meeting with additional modifications as needed to clarify the original rule and to respond to comments. The staff proposed two basic new requirements. First, that upwind districts adopt all feasible measures for all sources of ozone-forming pollutants as expeditiously as possible. Second, that upwind districts have equally stringent stationary source permitting programs as the downwind districts affected by transported pollution. The Board approved the proposed amendments to the ozone transport mitigation regulations. The modifications presented at the hearing will be made available for a 15 day period in a Notice of Public Availability of Modified Text. The Executive Officer will consider any comments received during this period before adopting the amendments.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Doug Quetin, California Air Pollution Control Officers Association.

Tom Addison, Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Larry Greene, Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District.

Brigette Tollstrup, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Cindy Tuck, California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance.

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 03-9 and asked that the staff report back next year on implementation of the transport mitigation regulations.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning and Technical Support

STAFF REPORT: Yes

03-4-6 Public Meeting to Provide the Board with a Report on Environmental Justice Related Data Needs

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM: Staff presented a status report on the development of technical information to support the Board's Environmental Justice Program.

The Policies and Actions for Environmental Justice, approved by the Board in December 2001, contained a commitment to collect information and develop technical tools to address environmental justice issues. These efforts build upon ongoing ARB programs and focus on the assessment of cumulative risk, exposure, emissions and health impacts in communities. In particular, more detailed local emission data and community scale models are needed to understand the cumulative impacts of air pollution.

Staff is working with CAPCOA to develop updated emissions data and new technical tools. These tools will graphically display the distribution of emission sources and provide decision-makers with more information for assessing local air pollution impacts. This work will also increase our understanding of unique exposures to air pollution that may result from higher levels of air pollutants in some communities. Identifying unique exposures is part of the expanded concept of vulnerability that is being investigated as part of the Vulnerable Populations Research Program. In addition, staff will also work with the EJ Stakeholders group as the Board develops and refine these tools.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning and Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: No

03-4-7 Public Meeting to Consider Findings on AB 2637 Vehicle Exemptions from the Basic Smog Check Program

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM: AB 2637, Cardoza (Statutes of 2002, Chapter 1001) extends the current Smog Check exemption for new vehicles from four to six years, statewide, unless the Board finds that exempting additional vehicles would prohibit the State from meeting air quality planning requirements in the federal Clean Air Act. In April 2003,

the Board determined that vehicles in Enhanced Smog Check areas could not be excluded without jeopardizing State Implementation Plan (SIP) commitments. The Board directed the Executive Officer to investigate and report back on whether providing the six-year exemption to Basic Smog Check areas would also interfere with the State's SIP commitments.

Staff reported that California has not achieved all the emission reductions attributed to the Smog Check Program in the 1994 SIP for ozone. Specifically, deficiencies exist in the South Coast, Sacramento Metropolitan area, San Joaquin Valley, Venturam and the Mojave Desert portion of the Southeast Desert nonattainment area. Additionally, staff reported there are rural areas subject to the Basic Smog Check program within each of these nonattainment areas. Staff recommended that the Board find that providing either a five- or six-year exemption to new motor vehicles subject to the Basic Smog Check program in these areas would prohibit the State from meeting its commitments with respect to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The staff did not recommend that the Board make this finding with respect to Basic Smog Check areas in San Diego County or in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Testimony provided at the hearing did not address the proposed findings, but focused on concerns with implementation of the Enhanced Smog Check Program.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Mr. Larry Armstrong, Quality Tune-Ups
Mr. Richard Seid, AAAC Test-Only Smog Station

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 03-13, made the findings recommended by staff, and directed the staff to convey the findings to the Bureau of Automotive Repair and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning and Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes