

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PARTIES

December 10, 1999

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER TECHNICAL REPORTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL FATE AND TRANSPORT AND POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF USING ETHANOL IN CALIFORNIA'S REFORMULATED GASOLINE

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) will convene a public meeting of the California Environmental Policy Council (Council) at the time and place indicated below to consider the results of studies completed for Task 10 of Executive Order D-5-99 issued by Governor Gray Davis on March 25, 1999, and other relevant information. The meeting will constitute the Council's consideration of the environmental assessment of the Phase 3 California reformulated gasoline (CaRFG3) standards proposed by the California Air Resources Board (ARB).

Executive Order D-5-99 calls for the removal of the oxygenate methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) from gasoline by the earliest possible date, but not later than December 31, 2002. It is possible that there will be a continuing federal requirement for oxygenated gasoline in nonattainment areas beyond this date, and oxygenated gasoline will continue to be required in the wintertime in greater Los Angeles. Ethanol is the likely substitute oxygenate that would be chosen by refiners to replace MTBE. Therefore, Task 10 of the Executive Order directed the ARB and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to conduct an environmental fate and transport analysis of ethanol in air, surface water, and groundwater. The Executive Order also directed the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) prepared an analysis of the health risks of ethanol in gasoline, the products of incomplete combustion of ethanol in gasoline, and any resulting secondary transformation products.

At a December 9, 1999 hearing, the ARB will consider adoption of amendments to the CaRFG regulations. These amendments include the establishment of Phase 3 CaRFG standards, a prohibition of the use of MTBE in gasoline starting December 31, 2002, and a Phase 3 Predictive Model. Recent legislation (Stats. 1999 Ch. 813; SB 529, Bowen) enacted Health and Safety Code Sec. 43830.8, which imposes new requirements regarding multimedia environmental assessments of proposed amendments to ARB's motor vehicle fuels specifications. There is a streamlined environmental review mechanism for amendments proposed prior to January 1, 2000 and adopted prior to July 1, 2000.

At the Council's public meeting announced by this Notice, the Council will consider the reports prepared by ARB, SWRCB, and OEHHA in response to the Governor's Executive Order, and hear comments from interested parties. Based on the reports, any other environmental assessment prepared in connection with the ARB's CaRFG3 rulemaking, and public comments, the Council will determine whether there will be no significant adverse impact on public health and the environment – including any impact on the air, water, or soil – that is likely to result from the change in motor vehicle fuel that is expected to be implemented to meet the ARB's proposed CaRFG3 amendments.

As defined in Sec. 71017(b) of the Public Resources Code, the Council consists of the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Director of Pesticide Regulation, the Director of Toxic Substances Control, the Chairperson of the State Air Resources Control Board, the Chairperson of the State Water Resources Control Board, the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the Chairman of the California Integrated Waste Management Board, or their designees. As Chair of the Council, the Secretary for Environmental Protection has asked the Chairman of the California Energy Commission and the Director of the Department of Health Services, or their designees, to participate as ex-officio members of the Council during the course of the meeting. The time and place of the meeting will be:

DATE: January 18, 2000
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
LOCATION: First Floor Auditorium
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California

* the meeting will adjourn after conclusion of public comments and a determination by the Council or 4:00 p.m., whichever occurs first

To have your comments on any of the three reports fully considered, please submit them in writing during the formal comment periods for each report. The reports, formal comment periods, and names of contact persons can be viewed at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/programs/MTBE/EOTasks.htm> under item 10 of the Executive Order. Comments directed to the Council should be received in writing by noon December 31, 1999 by U.S. mail or delivered to:

Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Environmental Policy Council – Ethanol
California Environmental Protection Agency
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 525
Sacramento, CA 95814

The meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accommodation is needed, please contact Johnnie Hayward at (916) 654-0060 by January 14, 2000.

A meeting agenda is attached to this notice. If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Jeanine Townsend of Cal/EPA at (916) 324-7582 or Dr. William Vance of Cal/EPA at bvance@calepa.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COUNCIL

Public Meeting to Consider Staff Reports on the Environmental Fate and Transport and Potential Health Effects of Using Ethanol in California Reformulated Gasoline

First Floor Auditorium
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California
January 18, 2000

AGENDA

1. Introduction of Council members and opening comments
(Secretary Hickox)
2. Presentation of summary and findings of the report of the
Air Resource Board followed by questions from the Council
3. Presentation of summary and findings of the report of the
State Water Resources Control Board followed by questions
from the Council
4. Presentation of summary and findings of the report of the
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment followed
by questions from the Council

Break (15 min.)
5. Public Comments

Lunch (1 hour)
6. Overview of changes in motor vehicle fuel resulting from the
proposed California Reformulated Gasoline Phase 3 (CaRFG3)
Regulations followed by questions from the Council
7. Public Comments
8. Council Deliberations, Recommendations, and Determinations
9. Adjourn