

REQUEST FOR EARLY EFFECTIVE DATE

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA REFORMULATED GASOLINE REGULATIONS TO POSTPONE IMPOSITION OF THE CaRFG3 STANDARDS AND THE PROHIBITION OF MTBE AND OXYGENATES OTHER THAN ETHANOL IN CALIFORNIA GASOLINE FROM DECEMBER 31, 2002 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003**

Pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(c), the Air Resources Board (ARB) requests that the 2002 amendments to the California Phase 3 Reformulated gasoline (CaRFG3) regulations become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State. Good cause for this request exists.

This rulemaking consists of amendments to sections 2261, 2262, 2262.4, 2262.5, 2262.6, 2262.9, 2265, 2266.5, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, and 2296, title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR). The amendments implement Governor Davis's March 14, 2002 Executive Order D-52-02 by postponing the prohibition of the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and other oxygenates other than ethanol in California gasoline supplied by refiners and importers from December 31, 2002 to December 31, 2003, postponing the schedule for reducing residual levels of MTBE in CaRFG3 by one year, postponing the imposition of the CaRFG3 standards for gasoline properties for one year, and making various other changes.

In reliance on the timely effectiveness of the amendments, some California refiners are committed to continue using MTBE in their gasoline past December 31, 2002. These refiners would not be able to comply with the CaRFG regulations if the ban on MTBE were to become applicable December 31, 2002, which would happen absent an early effective date of the 2002 CaRFG3 amendments.

The ARB will promptly notify affected refiners and distributors of the effective date as soon as the amendments are filed with the Secretary of State.

Date: November \_\_\_\_, 2002

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W. Thomas Jennings  
Senior Staff Counsel