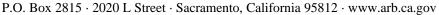


Air Resources Board

John D. Dunlap, III, Chairman





June 12, 1998

Dear Sir or Madam:

The staffs of the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) have been evaluating diesel exhaust since 1989 under California's air toxics program, for potential identification as a toxic air contaminant (TAC). A draft report was first released in June 1994, for public review and comment. A revised draft report was released in May 1997. A third report was released for public review in February 1998. The February 1998 report was formally reviewed and approved by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) at its April 22, 1998, meeting. The final report and a staff report are now being provided to you for a 45-day public comment period before the Board hearing on the proposed identification of diesel exhaust as a TAC on July 30-31, 1998, (see Hearing Notice in the front of the Staff Report).

Enclosed is the Initial Statement of Reasons for Rulemaking for the Proposed Identification of Diesel Exhaust as a TAC, and consists of:

- the ARB Staff Report, which summarizes the scientific basis for the proposed regulation and includes a discussion of the environmental and economic impacts of the proposal;
- 2) Appendix I (the Proposed Regulation Order);
- 3) Appendix II (the Findings of the SRP); and
- 4) Appendix III (the SRP-approved version of the Executive Summary and the three-part report that contains the analysis of the exposure and health assessments of diesel exhaust, Parts A, B, and C, as approved on April 22, 1998).

Part A, prepared by the ARB staff, is an evaluation of emissions of, and exposure to, diesel exhaust. Part B, prepared by the OEHHA staff, assesses the health effects of diesel exhaust. Part C consists of copies of the public comments received on the June 1994, May 1997, and February 1998 draft reports, and the ARB/OEHHA staff responses. The final report is available on the Internet via ARB's home page (http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/diesel/dieselex.htm).

Sir or Madam

If you have questions about the diesel exhaust identification project, please call Janette Brooks, Manager, Substance Evaluation Section, Air Quality Measures Branch, Stationary Source Division, at (916) 322-8278.

Ms.

Sincerely,

/s/

Genevieve A. Shiroma, Chief Air Quality Measures Branch

Enclosures

cc: Joan E. Denton, Ph.D., Director Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 301 Capitol Mall Sacramento, California 95814

> Janette Brooks, Manager Substance Evaluation Section Air Quality Measures Branch Stationary Source Division

Scientific Review Panel Members