

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Summary of Board Meeting
September 25, 2008

California Air Resources Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District Office
Auditorium
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara Riordan, Acting Chair
Dr. John Balmes
Ms. Sandra Berg
Ms. Dorene D'Adamo
Supervisor Jerry Hill
Ms. Lydia Kennard
Mayor Ronald Loveridge
Supervisor Ron Roberts
Professor Daniel Sperling
Dr. John Telles

Agenda Item #

08-8-1: Indoor Chemicals Linked to Respiratory and Allergic Effects in Children

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) staff provides regular updates to the Board on the health effects of air pollution. This month staff presented a literature review of research that examined the potential link between chemical contaminants commonly found in indoor air and asthma, allergies, and other respiratory effects observed in children.

Links have already been established between exposure to certain indoor airborne pollutants—such as animal dander, house dust mites, and combustion byproducts—and the development and exacerbation of asthma and allergies. However, there is an emerging body of scientific research that suggests certain chemical air contaminants commonly found in homes may also pose similar health risks. Staff presented the findings of a literature review that examined 21 studies that identified possible relationships between exposure to these chemicals and asthma and allergies in children. In each study, researchers either

- 1) measured the indoor concentrations of volatile organic compounds, such as benzene and formaldehyde, and semi-volatile organic compounds, such as phthalates; or

- 2) recorded the presence of indoor furnishings and materials that emit these chemicals.

Each study then analyzed the relationship between exposure to these chemical pollutants or their sources, and respiratory and allergic effects observed in children. Collectively, the studies suggest that compounds within the stated classes of chemicals are risk factors for asthma and allergies in children. These findings lend further support to the Board's efforts to reduce exposures to these chemical contaminants. They also underscore the need for continued research on the health effects of chemicals typically found inside California homes, in order to better understand and address the growing problem of asthma in California.

Dr. Balmes commented on the need for more studies and asked staff if ARB is currently planning to fund studies of phthalates and other semi-volatile organic compounds. Staff responded that researchers at the University of California, Berkeley have submitted a proposal for ARB's consideration that would measure concentrations of these chemical contaminants in early childhood education facilities, such as daycare centers. Staff also commented that in order to study the health effects of exposure to semi-volatile organic compounds, ARB would need to collaborate with a larger study, such as the National Children's Study. Staff said they will look into this possibility.

Dr. Telles asked staff if volatile organic compounds could be seen in higher concentrations in areas such as the San Joaquin Valley, where homes can reach higher temperatures than in other parts of California. Staff responded that this could be a concern, because higher temperatures can cause materials to emit volatile organic compounds faster than at cooler temperatures.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None (Informational Item)

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: No

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

08-8-3: Public Hearing to Consider Regulations for Portable Outboard Marine Tanks and Components

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

Staff presented the proposed regulation to the Board with the accompanying resolution. The resolution included some 15 day changes to the test procedures and certification procedure that was originally noticed on August 8, 2008.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

John McKnight, National Marine Manufacturers Association
Mark R. Riechers, Mercury Marine

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: The Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 08-33.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Monitoring and Laboratory Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes

08-8-4: Presentation on the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Climate Change Programs

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

Mr. Goldstene presented an update to the Board on the development of the AB 32 Scoping Plan, as well as recent developments on the Western Climate Initiative and recommendations by the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission on the AB 32 Scoping Plan.

Dr. Barry R. Wallerstein, Executive Officer, of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (District) reported on the District's climate change programs which include the appointment of a Climate Change Committee, the SoCal Climate Solutions Exchange, a greenhouse gas reduction program, local government assistance, various climate change policies, and the modification of the annual emissions reporting software to accommodate greenhouse gases.

Dr. Wallerstein also reported that the District's California Environmental Quality Act Greenhouse Gas Threshold Group is creating an interim emissions threshold for projects that would trigger an environmental review. This interim threshold can be used by other local agencies within a few months until statewide thresholds are recommended. Dr. Wallerstein stated that the District's emissions programs and compliance

efforts would be complemented by the mandatory reporting, voluntary early reductions, and the proposed cap-and-trade system in the Scoping Plan. The District leads a voluntary program, consistent with the Scoping Plan, to verify and track emission reductions throughout the Air Basin. The District also makes a consistent effort to track carbon-offset market funds to ensure the funds are spent where the greatest benefits can be realized, with first priority going to projects in environmental justice communities.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Michael Wan, Western States Petroleum Association

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None (Informational Item)

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Office of Climate Change

STAFF REPORT: No

08-8-5: Public Meeting to Consider the Adoption of Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Project Protocols for Local Government Operations, Urban Forestry, and Livestock Manure Digesters

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

AB 32 directs ARB to reduce statewide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) levels to 1990 levels by 2020. Voluntary efforts are an important element in the State's overall plan to reduce GHG emissions. Quantification and reporting of GHG emissions and the development of GHG reduction projects will contribute to reducing GHG emissions and move the State towards the 2020 target. Protocols provide the technically sound quantification methods and process to accurately report emissions and project emission reductions.

The Local Government Operations Protocol provides methods and techniques needed by local governments to determine their GHG emissions, a key first step in evaluating potential reductions. This protocol includes calculation methodologies for sources including buildings and other facilities, streetlights and traffic signals, water delivery facilities, port facilities, airport facilities, vehicle fleet, transit fleet, power generation facilities, solid waste facilities, wastewater facilities and other process and fugitive emissions.

Project protocols are used for assessing the GHG reductions from specific projects. The Urban Forestry Project Protocol and the Livestock Manure Digester Protocol each provide an accurate, transparent, and credible GHG accounting standard for determining the reductions associated with

urban forest projects and livestock manure projects. Each of these protocols was developed by CCAR with participation by ARB staff in a larger technical advisory group.

The Urban Forest Project Protocol provides GHG calculation methodologies for urban forestry GHG emission reduction projects undertaken by local governments, agencies, utilities, and educational campuses. It includes calculation methodologies for carbon sequestration by urban tree growth, as well as GHG emissions from tree losses and tree planting and maintenance activities.

The Livestock Project Protocol provides GHG calculation methodologies for projects to reduce methane emissions from the use of manure digesters. Calculation methodologies include emissions and emission reductions from manure production, treatment, storage and disposal, including transportation of waste.

Five individuals testified, all in support of adopting the protocols.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Gary Gero, California Climate Action Registry
Greg McPherson, US Forest Service
Gretchen Hardison, City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs
Tom Larson, DUDEK & Associates
Jill Whynot, South Coast AQMD

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 08-37 and the Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Project Protocols for Local Government Operations, Urban Forestry, and Livestock Manure Digesters.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning and Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes

08-8-7: Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of Proposed Assembly Bill 118 Air Quality Guidelines for the Air Quality Improvement Program and the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle and Technology Program

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Board considered the adoption of proposed Assembly Bill 118 (AB 118), Statutes of 2007, Chapter 750 Air Quality Guidelines, also known as the “Anti-Backsliding Regulations,” for the Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) and the Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program.

AB 118 creates three new incentive programs with a total of about \$200 million annually through 2015 to fund air quality and greenhouse gas improvement projects and develop and deploy technology and alternative renewable fuels. During this hearing, staff presented an overview of the “Anti-Backsliding Regulations” which was statutorily required for two programs. The AQIP which is currently being developed by ARB to fund air quality projects will be presented to the Board during the spring of 2009. The Alternative and Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Technology Program that will provide funding for projects that assist California in meeting its climate change goals, is currently being developed by the California Energy Commission (CEC or “the Commission”) and is tentatively scheduled to go before the Commission in early 2009.

The proposed Air Quality Guidelines outline procedures that both ARB and CEC will incorporate into its respective funding programs to ensure that no dis-benefits will result from either program.

ARB and CEC are required to evaluate the air quality impacts of each project by comparing the proposed technology with the “baseline” technology. Projects must utilize the procedures set forth in the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), which is currently under development and scheduled to be considered by the Board in early 2009. In the event that the LCFS is not adopted in time for both funding agencies to evaluate and select projects for funding, additional requirements have been included as a backstop for evaluating full fuel cycle emissions.

Both programs must incorporate evaluation criteria, such as emission comparisons to conventional fuel/vehicle baselines, verifying compliance with all applicable environmental review requirements, and a full fuel cycle analysis for each project. The proposed Air Quality Guidelines also include some flexibility for emerging technologies, whereas some projects that result in minor pollutant increases relative to the baseline technology

may still be funded if other projects in the air basin achieve greater reductions.

In response to several comments received during the 45-day public comment period, staff presented the Board with proposed 15-day changes to the Air Quality Guidelines. These changes include an increase from 10 days to 30 days in the public review period for the full fuel cycle supplemental evaluation and the report on localized health impacts. An additional modification requires the CEC to consult with ARB when conducting full fuel evaluations.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Michael Wang, Western States Petroleum Association
Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association
Joe Blackburn
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Henry Hogo, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Anthony Fournier, Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Aleecia Macias, California Energy Commission

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board passed resolution 08-40 by an 8-2 vote.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Mobile Source Control Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes