

State of California  
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 93-24

April 8, 1993

Agenda Item No.: 93-6-4

WHEREAS, sections 39600 and 39601 of the Health and Safety Code authorize the Air Resources Board (the "Board") to adopt standards, rules and regulations and to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the Board by law;

WHEREAS, the Board has been directed to carry out an effective research program in conjunction with its efforts to combat air pollution, pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 39700 through 39705;

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code section 39606(b) requires the Board to adopt standards of ambient air quality in consideration of the public health, safety and welfare, including but not limited to health, illness, irritation to the senses, aesthetic value, interference with visibility, and effects on the economy;

WHEREAS, the existing Lake Tahoe Air Basin ambient air quality standard for carbon monoxide (CO), which was established in 1976, is six parts per million (ppm) averaged over eight hours and is based upon evidence of aggravation of angina and other aspects of coronary heart disease at carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) levels of 2.0 percent or greater which may be produced by breathing CO at levels slightly higher than this standard while at altitudes approximately equal to that of the Lake Tahoe Air Basin (about 6,300 feet);

WHEREAS, the Board has sponsored research to determine combined effects of altitude and exposure to CO in subjects with angina;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that:

The results from the most recent research on the combined effects of altitude and exposure to CO indicate that the angina-aggravating effects of altitude and of CO are additive, thus providing a qualitative basis for a more protective CO standard for areas above sea-level;

Knowledgeable staff of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) have reviewed this study and find it to be credible evidence of an additive effect of altitude and CO on aggravation of angina;

Further studies with a larger number of subjects would be needed to enable the Board to quantitatively determine the precise level of a CO standard for the Lake Tahoe Air Basin that would provide the same degree of protection afforded by the statewide CO standard at sea-level;

The current Lake Tahoe Air Basin CO standard does provide more protection to sensitive members of the public unacclimated to the altitude of the Basin than is provided by the statewide CO standard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby affirms that recently completed studies add to the basis for a Lake Tahoe Air Basin carbon monoxide ambient air quality standard more protective than the current statewide carbon monoxide ambient air quality standard of 9.0 parts per million averaged over eight hours.

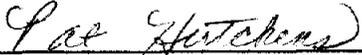
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to undertake the steps necessary to secure the additional research necessary to quantitatively determine the precise level of a CO standard for the Lake Tahoe Air Basin that would provide the same degree of protection afforded by the statewide CO standard at sea-level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, until the results of the research to quantitatively determine level of such a standard for the Lake Tahoe Air Basin are available, the Board hereby affirms that the existing Lake Tahoe Air Basin ambient air quality standard for carbon monoxide is adequate to protect the public health, and regulatory action is not necessary to revise the standard at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to continue to monitor research efforts and regulatory issues relevant to this standard and to inform the Board of any significant developments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board also directs the Executive Officer to review this standard again in five years, or sooner if new information indicates the existing standard may no longer be appropriate.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 93-24, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

  
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Pat Hutchens, Board Secretary