

**State of California  
Environmental Protection Agency  
AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

**NOTICE OF DECISION AND  
RESPONSE TO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Item: Adoption of Regulations for Fuel Sulfur and Other Operational Requirements for Ocean-Going Vessels Within California Waters and 24 Nautical Miles of the California Baseline

Approved By: Resolution 08-35

Adopted by: Executive Order R-09-003

Agenda Item: 08-7-4

Public Hearing Date: July 24, 2008

Issuing Authority: Air Resources Board (ARB)

Comment: The Air Resources Board (Board) received a number of comments asserting that adverse environmental impacts may result from this regulation, especially if a large number of vessel operators respond to the regulation by abandoning use of the Santa Barbara Channel shipping lanes in favor of a route to the southwest to reduce the distance traveled using low-sulfur fuel. ARB has summarized and responded to these comments in the Final Statement of Reasons (attached), which is incorporated by reference.

Resolution 08-35 (attached) and Executive Order R-09-003 (attached) are also incorporated by reference. In the Resolution, the Board made findings pertaining to the potential environmental impacts of the regulation. The Board found the regulation would result in a small increase in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, and further found that although these emission increases would be extremely small, they could nevertheless constitute a significant adverse environmental impact. The Resolution identified considerations including air quality and public health benefits from the regulation that override the significant impact of higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Executive Officer, acting pursuant to delegated authority of the Board, made additional findings in the Executive Order

