

SUMMARY OF BOARD ITEM

ITEM # 03-2-1: Public Meeting to Consider a Health Update

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Informational Item

DISCUSSION: The Air Resources Board (ARB) staff provides the Board with regular updates on recent research findings on the health effects of air pollution. This month staff will review a study conducted in the Netherlands assessing the relation between traffic-related air pollution and mortality in an elderly population group.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS: Long term exposure to traffic-related air pollutants was estimated for the study and the results show that living near a major road was more strongly associated with cardiopulmonary mortality than ambient background levels. These findings are important in the context of California's long term ambient air quality standards for particulate matter. In order to ensure that the State's ambient air quality standards are protective of all Californians, potentially susceptible populations, such as the elderly, must be thoroughly evaluated. The ARB, through the Vulnerable Populations Research Program, has committed to understanding and attempting to quantify the adverse health effects of air pollution in California's vulnerable populations.

