

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Summary of Board Meeting
February 24, 2005

Air Resources Board
Byron Sher Auditorium, Second Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hons. Barbara Riordan, Interim Chairman
Dorene D'Adamo
Mark DeSaulnier
Henry Gong Jr., M.D.
Ronald Loveridge
Barbara Patrick
Ron Roberts

AGENDA ITEM #

05-2-1: HEALTH UPDATE – ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EXPOSURE TO TRAFFIC AND HEART DISEASE

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

In previous health updates, staff presented studies showing that the risk of death from heart and lung disease is more strongly associated with persons living close to a major roadway than with those living farther away. Two recently published studies provide additional evidence for the link between exposure to traffic and heart disease. A study of Augsburg, Germany residents found that the risk of non-lethal heart attacks is consistently linked to time spent in vehicles on the roadway and other commute modes. The risk was greatest – a threefold increase – when traffic exposure occurred one hour before the heart attack. The investigators noted that confounding factors such as stress and noise could also contribute to the reported effects. In a study of nine healthy North Carolina State troopers, significant changes in markers of inflammation, blood coagulation, and cardiac rhythm – which are possible indicators for increased risk of heart disease – were associated with in-vehicle PM2.5 levels, especially traffic-related chemical components of PM2.5. These research findings support the need for continued reduction of motor vehicle emissions to achieve health improvements.

Madame Chairman Riordan commented that this information needs to be available to people living near freeways and land-use planners. Executive Officer Witherspoon noted that a draft land-use guidance document recently released by ARB recommends setbacks from freeways and major roadways. Boardmember Gong commented that the North Carolina State trooper results would likely apply to California Highway Patrol officers, that strokes are another expected health endpoint, and that there may be many more cases of angina and less severe effects underlying the heart attack results.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None (Informational Item)

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: No

05-2-2:

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED
MODIFICATIONS TO THE FLEET RULE FOR TRANSIT
AGENCIES AND THE ADDITION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR
TRANSIT FLEET VEHICLES**

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Board approved the proposed amendments to the Fleet Rule For Transit Agencies. The amendments establish new requirements for vehicles owned or operated by transit agencies that had not been included in the Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies, add a new definition for commuter service buses, add requirements for newly formed transit agencies, modify the urban bus PM fleet standard to allow for fleet growth, modify the urban bus engine emission standard for 2004 to 2006 model year diesel HEB engines to clarify the standards, and make structural changes that move the existing Fleet Rule for Transit Agencies from sections devoted to new engine emission standards to a new section set aside for the regulation of in-use diesel emissions.

The new rule requires that transit agencies operating buses and trucks that do not meet the definition of an urban bus begin reducing emissions from these in-use buses and trucks, along with reporting those buses and trucks to ARB annually, as they do with their urban buses. Staff included in this rule non-revenue vehicles,

buses using light and medium heavy-duty engines, and larger coaches that operate on point-to-point commuter routes. There are approximately 4,000 of these buses and trucks being operated by California transit agencies currently.

The Board heard testimony from six witnesses, five of whom indicated support for the amendments and one, Mr. Joshua Shaw, who took a neutral position. Several issues regarding the cost of the rule were raised by some of the witnesses. In the discussion following witness testimony, some Board members raised issues regarding various aspects of the rule and how they affected the cost of implementation. Staff was asked to do additional analysis of the financial hardship extension for transit agencies with fewer than 30 buses and the impact of including the light heavy-duty buses, or cutaways, in the rule. If staff determines that changes are warranted, modifications will be made available for public review and comment for a 15-day period in a Notice of Public Availability of Modified Text.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Mr. Joshua Shaw, California Transit Association
Mr. Gene Walker, Golden Gate Transit, CTA
Mr. Henry Hogo, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mr. Peter Spaulding, California Association for Coordinated Transportation
Mr. Joseph Kubsh, Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association
Ms. Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association of California

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board unanimously approved Resolution 05-15.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Mobile Source Control Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes

05-2-3: PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF NEW GRANTS UNDER THE INNOVATIVE CLEAN AIR TECHNOLOGIES (ICAT) PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The ICAT program was established in fiscal year 1994-95. Any new technology or application that is technically challenging, useful

to ARB programs and goals, and economically beneficial to California can be considered for a grant. This year, the staff also considered air-monitoring technologies that can be inexpensively deployed and easily used to characterize air quality on a fine spatial scale.

In response to the 2005 solicitation of applications, the ARB staff received 76 “pre-proposals”. The staff invited full project proposals from 24 of the applicants and received 14. These proposals were reviewed for the quality of their innovative technologies, their potential for reducing or measuring air pollution and for commercial application in California, their potential economic benefits for California, the quality of the proposed demonstration projects, and their utility to ARB’s programs.

The staff recommended grants for four projects:

- Aerosol Dynamics, Inc.: “A Low-Cost Ultrafine Particle Concentration Monitor” -- \$80,000
- Gas Technology Institute: “Field Demonstration of Prototype Super Boiler” -- \$240,054
- Cleaire Advanced Emission Controls, LLC: “Electric Diesel Particulate Filter Demonstration” -- \$71,400
- Electric Transportation Engineering Corporation: “Innovative Means to Minimize Electric GSE Charging Infrastructure Costs” -- \$120,250

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: The Board adopted resolutions numbers 05-16 through 05-19 by unanimous vote.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: None

05-2-4 & 05-2- 5: UPDATE ON PORT EMISSION REDUCTION ACTIVITIES AND UPDATE ON LOCOMOTIVE EMISSION REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Board elected to combine each of these two items into a single presentation. Staff discussed anticipated growth in emissions from

ports and rail facilities and how the emission standards for locomotives and marine vessels have lagged behind standards for on-road and off-road equipment. Staff discussed the importance of regulatory, non-regulatory, and incentive approaches to achieve emission reductions from marine vessels and locomotives. Staff outlined what actions have been taken over the past several years to reduce emissions from port and rail activities. The main focus of the presentation was to update the Board on staff's current and planned activities for port and rail facilities.

Staff briefly discussed four port-related regulatory measures that they plan to bring to the Board in November 2005 as well as two cooperative agreements that they are working on concerning ocean going vessels and locomotives. Also discussed were three planning documents that staff is developing or participating in the development of. These include the *No Net Increase* report for the Port of Los Angeles, the Cal/EPA and Business, Transportation and Housing joint report on *Goods Movement*, and ARB's *Port and Rail Comprehensive Emission Reduction Plan*. The Board directed staff to continue its efforts and provide updates as needed. Board member DeSaulnier asked that staff provide additional outreach on these activities in the Bay Area.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None (Informational item)

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Stationary Source Division

STAFF REPORT: No