

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Summary of Board Meeting
February 23, 2006

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Robert Sawyer, Ph.D.
 Dorene D'Adamo
 Mark DeSaulnier
 Lydia Kennard
 Mayor Ronald Loveridge
 Barbara Patrick
 Ronald Roberts

Agenda Item #

06-2-1: Health Update: Childhood Asthma and Exposure to Traffic in Los Angeles County

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The ARB staff provides the Board with regular updates on research findings on the health effects of air pollution. This month's health update presented the results of a study completed by the University of Southern California on the associations between traffic and childhood respiratory health in Los Angeles County. The researchers examined the associations between traffic-related pollution and respiratory health, including childhood asthma, in 208 children from 10 southern California communities. The children came from the Children's Health Study cohort. The study found that a lifetime history of doctor-diagnosed asthma was associated with several measures of traffic-related pollution, including outdoor nitrogen dioxide levels at homes, closer residential distance to freeways, and modeled pollution from freeways. The researchers did not find an association with modeled pollution from non-freeways roads and traffic volume within 150 meters from home. This study strengthens an emerging body of evidence that traffic air pollution is associated with childhood asthma and other adverse respiratory health effects. Because of the volume of traffic and related emissions, freeways are a major source of air pollution

within a community. Staff mentioned that they will continue to investigate the impact of traffic pollution on children, one of our sensitive populations. Several ARB-funded studies are currently ongoing to examine this relationship.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None (Informational Item).

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: No

06-2-2: Public Meeting to Consider the 2005-2006 Lower-Emission School Bus Guidelines and Funding Allocation

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

Staff provided a presentation on the proposed revisions to the 2006 Lower-Emission School Bus Program Guidelines and funding allocations for the 2005-06 fiscal year (FY) State budget appropriation to the program. The State Legislature directed that half of the \$25 million State budget appropriation be used to replace pre-1977 model year school buses in California. The other half of the \$25 million appropriation was directed to be used to retrofit in-use diesel school buses with emission controls that reduce particulate matter by at least 85 percent and produce the lowest possible nitrogen dioxide across the device.

The proposed revisions to the Guidelines include funding expenditure requirements specific to the 2005–2006 FY State budget funds as well as modifications generally applicable to all local funds to be spent pursuant to the Guidelines.

Based on direction via a legislative letter from a diverse group of 27 legislators representing a cross section of regional interests, staff proposed that the school bus replacement funds be disbursed to replace the oldest school buses in California first. Staff generated a list of oldest buses in California using a database provided by the California Highway Patrol of all safety certified school buses. This list was verified through a phone survey conducted by staff. The retrofit funding is being disbursed on a per capita basis; this is the same funding methodology used for disbursement of the previous years' retrofit funds.

The Board approved the funding allocations and the revisions to the Guidelines proposed by staff. The Board also directed the staff to: (1) work with the school districts to seek leveraged purchasing by using volume bids for their school bus purchases to maximize the use of State funds; (2) suspend the program goal to spend two-thirds of all State allocated bus replacement funds for alternatively-fueled school buses and one-third for diesel-fueled buses for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to facilitate the replacement of the oldest school buses in California, and to reinstitute this goal for subsequent fiscal year funding; and (3) present a plan to address the replacement of the remaining pre-1987 model year school buses the next time the Lower-Emission School Bus Program returns to the Board. These directions to staff were included in the resolution adopted by the Board.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Kirk Hunter, Southwest Transportation Agency
Gretchen Knudsen, International Truck and Engine Corporation
Roger McCoy, San Joaquin Valley APCD
Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association
Julian Imes, Donaldson Company, Inc.
Martin Lassen, Johnson Matthey Catalysts
John Dunlop, Engine Control Systems
Stephen Rhoads, School Transportation Coalition
Mike Eaves, California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition
Juan Ortellado, Bay Area AQMD

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board adopted Resolution 06-8 by a unanimous vote. The adopted Resolution includes the directions to staff described above.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Mobile Source Control Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes