

**State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

**Summary of Board Meeting
May 22, 2008**

California Air Resources Board
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Office
1990 E. Gettysburg
Fresno, California

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Nichols, Chairman
Dr. John Balmes
Ms. Sandra Berg
Supervisor Jerry Hill
Ms. Dorene D'Adamo
Mayor Ronald Loveridge
Professor Daniel Sperling

Agenda Item #

08-5-1: Presentation by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District on Healthy Air Living Initiative

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

In the summer of 2008, the San Joaquin Valley Air District (Valley Air District) will implement a Healthy Air Living Week, July 7-13, to showcase the different steps individuals and business can take to reduce emissions in the San Joaquin Valley (Valley). Healthy Air Living is a key component of the Valley Air District's "fast-track" to air quality attainment. Healthy Air Living will provide individuals and businesses with tools and strategies to produce real and tangible emissions reductions throughout the Valley. The goal of Healthy Air Living is to make air quality a priority consideration in all business and personal decisions. Valley Air District staff provided a presentation about this event.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: Informational Item.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning & Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: No

08-5-4: Public Meeting to Consider a Research Proposal

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

Staff presented for the Board's approval the research proposal "Systemic Platelet Activation in Mice Exposed to Fine Particulate Matter." The staff presentation described the objectives and expected results of the project, which will be performed by Dr. Fern Tablin and colleagues at the University of California, Davis. The total cost of the two-year project will be \$300,000.

Although many research studies associate adverse health effects, including hospitalizations for exacerbation of heart and lung disease and premature death, with particulate matter exposure, little is known about how particulate matter causes these effects. This project will help to elucidate the biological pathways through which particulate matter affects health, thereby providing critical information that will help to ensure that ambient air quality standards for particulate matter are adequately protective of public health.

Board member Balmes expressed strong support for the study, and Chairman Nichols indicated that the project addressed a key data gap in how particulate matter is related to adverse health effects.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board approved Resolution 08-29 by unanimous vote. Professor Sperling recued himself from the vote.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: No

08-5-5: Report to the Board on a Draft Report on New Estimates of Premature Deaths Associated With Long-Term Exposure to PM2.5 in California

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

ARB staff released a draft report on a new methodology for estimating premature deaths associated with long-term exposures to fine airborne particulate matter in California.

Staff presented a new risk factor for premature death from long-term exposures to PM2.5, which was based on its review of the latest scientific findings and on the interpretation of the findings by a panel of experts recently convened by the U.S. EPA. Staff applied the new methodology to a variety of settings including exposures to ambient PM2.5 and diesel PM. Premature deaths were also estimated at PM2.5 levels below the annual State ambient air quality standard for PM2.5. The revised results show higher impacts associated with fine PM exposure than previously estimated. The report underwent peer review by a panel appointed by the University of California at Berkeley. Comments on the proposed methodology are being accepted until July 11, 2008, and the draft report is expected to be finalized in August 2008.

Chairman Nichols thanked staff for the report. Dr. Balmes agreed with staff's recognition of the importance of acknowledging scientific uncertainty. Board member D'Adamo asked whether existing studies might resolve one key assumption in the calculation: the lowest level at which the risk for premature death can be estimated. Staff answered that several ongoing studies will address this question for California with the results expected within two to three years. Board member D'Adamo also asked how the report would be used. Staff replied that it will be included in the next review of the State ambient air quality standards for PM.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: Informational Item.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes

08-5-2:

Public Meeting to Consider the Approval of the San Joaquin Valley 2008 PM2.5 State Implementation Plan and Provide an Update on the Valley's Ozone Plan Progress

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Board considered adoption of the San Joaquin Valley 2008 PM2.5 Attainment Plan (2008 PM2.5 Plan) as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan for submittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). In addition, in response to a request at the November 2007 Board hearing, ARB staff provided an update on the progress made by the San Joaquin

Unified Valley Air Pollution Control District's (District) in fulfilling its rulemaking commitments in the 2007 Ozone Plan. The District is on or ahead of schedule and the set of rules adopted to date has achieved more emission reductions than anticipated in the Plan.

The District adopted the 2008 PM2.5 Plan on April 30, 2008. ARB staff evaluated the 2008 PM2.5 Plan and determined that it provides for attainment of the PM2.5 standards throughout the valley by the 2015 deadline and meets all applicable federal requirements.

The 2008 PM2.5 Plan's emission reduction strategy includes existing and new control measures to reduce directly emitted PM2.5 by over 20 tons per day (tpd) and PM2.5 precursor emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by almost 300 tpd and sulfur oxides (SOx) by almost 3 tpd between 2005 and the 2015 attainment date. Two thirds of the NOx and SOx reductions and one half of the PM2.5 reductions come from already adopted measures. The State Strategy commitment was adopted in September 2007 and provides 5 tpd of PM2.5 and 76 tpd of NOx reductions by 2014. The District commitment provides 6.7 tpd of direct PM2.5 reductions, 9 tpd of NOx reductions, and almost 1 tpd of SOx reductions in 2014. Beyond the measures in the 2007 Ozone Plan, the District has also targeted a number of sources of PM2.5 for additional emission reductions, including residential wood burning and commercial cooking.

The Board heard testimony from 25 witnesses. Community and environmental groups urged the Board to reject the 2008 PM2.5 Plan as inadequate. Specifically, they stated that the 2008 PM2.5 Plan did not provide for: adequate contingency measures, reasonable further progress, and reasonably available control measures for significant sources.

Representatives from the agricultural industry expressed their support of the 2008 PM2.5 Plan. They stated the California Regional Particulate Matter Study provided a solid scientific basis for the Plan.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Kim Thompson, Fresno-Madera Medical Society
Grant Melocik, McNeil Enterprises
Liza Bolanos, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
Daniela Simunovic, Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment
Brent Newell, Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment

Tim Carmichael, Coalition for Clean Air
Sarah Jackson, Earthjustice
Catherine Garoupa, Madera Coalition for Community Justice
Laura Fultz, Coalition for Clean Air
Ingrid Carmean, Public
Jim Quan, Public
Melissa Kelly-Ortega, Merced-Mariposa County Asthma Coalition
Mary-Michael Rawling, Merced-Mariposa County Asthma Coalition
Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association of California
Nichole Davis, International Sustainable Systems Research Center
Linda Mackay, Tri County Watchdog
Arthur Unger, Sierra Club
John L. Digges, Kern County Medical Society
Alvin Valeriano, International Sustainable Systems Research
Center and Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
Roger Isom, California Cotton Growers Association
Manuel Cunha Jr., Nisei Farmers League
Nidia Bautista, Coalition for Clean Air
Carolina Simunovic, Fresno Metro Ministry
Evan Shipp, Public

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board approved Resolution 08-28 by a unanimous vote. In Resolution 08-28, the Board adopted the 2008 PM2.5 Plan as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan, and directed the Executive Officer to submit it to U.S. EPA. In the resolution, the Board also directed the District to adopt two rules—one for boilers and one for internal combustion engines—that were not included in the attainment demonstration and to include a contingency provision in their Residential Wood Smoke rule that would further restrict wood burning, should attainment not be achieved by 2014.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning & Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes

**08-5-3: Public Hearing to Consider Approval of Proposition 1B:
Grants for FY 2007/08 Funds to Reduce Emissions From
Goods Movement**

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

ARB staff presented an overview of the Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program (Program), a summary of the local agency

application process, and staff's proposal for funding local agency projects in the FY2007-08 funding cycle.

Following the Board's adoption of Program Guidelines in February 2008, staff released a Notice of Funding Availability for \$221 million and received project proposals totaling over \$730 million. Staff recommended dividing the \$221 million among the four trade corridors according to the Board's regional funding targets.

Staff then proposed that the Board fund projects in each corridor following the priorities identified in the Guidelines. Truck retrofit projects and port truck replacement top this priority list. Staff recommended awarding: \$198.4 million to upgrade over 8,200 trucks with cleaner equipment and engines; \$16.5 million for 18 new locomotives; \$2.5 million to provide shore-based electrical power for cargo ships docking at the Port of San Diego; and just under \$4.3 million for 17 freight-related harbor craft.

In total, the projects will reduce over 26,900 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx), and 1,800 tons of diesel particulate matter (PM). This mix of projects will also leverage over \$340 million in match funding from the seaports, equipment owners, and air districts, providing more than 1.5 match dollars for every one State dollar invested.

The Board heard oral testimony from six witnesses representing environmental organizations, local air districts, the freight industry, and others. The witnesses representing the environmental organizations, air districts, and ports supported the proposed awards for FY2007-08 funds.

A representative from the South Coast Air Quality Management District also requested that the District be included as joint administrator of the \$98 million port truck project with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. A representative from the California Trucking Association expressed his organization's readiness to assist ARB with outreach to truckers to take full advantage of the available funds. He also raised a concern about the restriction on Program eligibility to Class 8 trucks. Staff explained the basis for this requirement and agreed to evaluate the issue as part of the first update to the Program Guidelines.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association
Robert Kanter, Port of Long Beach

Chung Liu, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Loutzenheiser, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
Management District
Colby Morrow, Southern California Gas Company
Matthew Schrap, CA Trucking Association, Bakersfield

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 08-06, which specifies adoption of the final list of local agency projects to receive FY2007-08 funding under the Program, as well as the provisions for backup projects. The Board also directed staff to seek media opportunities to showcase completed projects that demonstrate the taxpayer's bond dollars at work.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning & Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes

08-5-6: Report to the Board on AB 32 Implementation: Update on Land Use, Transportation, and Vehicle Travel

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

ARB staff provided an update on the vehicle travel element to transportation and climate change, following up the February 2008 staff update on vehicle and fuel technology.

While vehicle and fuel technology strategies will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles, emissions must be reduced even further if passenger vehicle emissions are to get down to 1990 levels by 2020. Emission reductions must also be achieved by slowing the growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

A large body of research points to the broad integrated actions needed to reduce VMT. A combination of land use strategies, enhanced transit and alternate mode choices, pricing signals, and transportation conservation measures all work together to reduce VMT, with land use strategies being the most important for long-term benefits.

In April, the Air Resources Board hosted a land use, transportation, and climate change symposium for major policy makers and stakeholders, which resulted in an action framework for the land

use and transportation portion of the AB 32 Scoping Plan. The framework includes three major components:

- *Establish Performance-Based Targets.* Through a joint State, regional and local government effort, quantitative regional greenhouse gas targets would be established to meet California's 2020 and 2050 climate change goals.
- *Use the Blueprint Framework to Create Regional Visions to Reach Targets.* The regional blueprint planning and implementation process would be the primary mechanism to help reach emissions targets at the regional level. State and regional agencies would incentivize the development of general plans and local Climate Action Plans that are consistent with and link back to the regional blueprints.
- *Assist Local Actions and Ensure Accountability.* A supporting foundation of policies, programs, incentives, and guidance would be created to assist local actions and to ensure local accountability to help meet regional targets. This supporting foundation would include applying the environmental review process to greenhouse gas emissions, securing new funding and using current funding wisely, promoting large-scale project demonstrations, rethinking zoning requirements, adopting proven measures, improving measurement tools, exerting State leadership, and conducting public outreach.

ORAL TESTIMONY:

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association of California

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: None

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning & Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: No