

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 01-56

December 13, 2001

Agenda Item No.: 01-10-4

WHEREAS, in section 39000 of the Health and Safety Code, the Legislature declares that the people of the State of California have a primary interest in the quality of the environment in consideration of their health, safety, welfare, and sense of well-being;

WHEREAS, in section 39001 of the Health and Safety Code, the Legislature has declared that air pollution knows no political boundaries and has called for an intensive, coordinated effort to protect and enhance California's ambient air quality;

WHEREAS, section 39600 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of its powers and duties;

WHEREAS, sections 39500, 39602, and 39605, of the Health and Safety Code designate the ARB as the air pollution control agency for all purposes set forth in federal law; authorize the ARB to provide assistance to the air pollution control and air quality management districts (local air districts); and require the ARB to coordinate, encourage, and review the efforts of all levels of government as they affect air quality;

WHEREAS, section 65040.12 (c) of the Government Code (added by SB 115, Solis, Stats. 99, ch.690) defines "environmental justice" as "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies";

WHEREAS, over the last several years, the ARB has initiated a Community Health Program to identify, assess, and reduce the public health risks of air pollution at the community level, which includes a Neighborhood Assessment Program to research the total mix of air toxics and other pollutants from all sources and their effects on neighborhood exposure;

WHEREAS, in partnership with the local air districts, community and environmental groups, industry associations, and other government agencies, the staff of the ARB has conducted numerous meetings to develop policies and associated actions to establish a framework for incorporating environmental justice into the ARB's programs consistent with the directives of State law;

WHEREAS, the ARB finds that some communities experience higher exposure than others as a result of the cumulative impacts of air pollution from multiple mobile and industrial sources;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the policies titled “Policies and Actions for Environmental Justice,” will supplement and inform other ARB efforts to reduce community health risks, including monitoring focused on children’s exposure to pollutants under SB 25; toxic air contaminant monitoring at neighborhood sites; reduction of diesel particulate matter; clean school bus and Carl Moyer grant programs; cumulative impacts assessment and technical tool development; compliance assistance for local businesses; public education and empowerment at the community level; and the development of guidance to cities, counties, and air districts on reducing cumulative exposure to toxic air contaminants;

WHEREAS, the following policies are set forth in the proposed Policies and Actions for Environmental Justice:

1. It shall be the ARB’s policy to integrate environmental justice into all of our programs, policies, and regulations.
2. It shall be the ARB’s policy to strengthen outreach and education efforts in all communities, especially low-income and minority communities, so that all Californians can fully participate in our public processes and share in the air quality benefits of our programs.
3. It shall be the ARB’s policy to work with local air districts to meet health-based air quality standards and reduce health risks from toxic air pollutants in all communities, especially low-income and minority communities, through the adoption of control measures and the promotion of pollution prevention programs.
4. It shall be the ARB’s policy to work with the local air districts in our respective regulatory jurisdictions to strengthen enforcement activities at the community level across the State.
5. It shall be the ARB’s policy to assess, consider, and reduce cumulative emissions, exposure, and health risks when developing and implementing our programs.
6. It shall be the ARB’s policy to work with local land-use agencies, transportation agencies, and air districts to develop ways to assess, consider, and reduce cumulative health risks through general plans, permitting, and other local activities.
7. It shall be the ARB’s policy to support research and data collection needed to reduce cumulative emissions, exposure, and health risks in all communities, especially low-income and minority communities.

WHEREAS, the Board finds that each policy is supported by specific actions that ARB will implement, and that many of these activities are currently underway;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the Policies animate the ARB goal of ensuring everyone in California will live, work, learn, and play in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that a robust environmental justice program at the ARB will help to focus and consummate the substantial progress made over the past twenty years to achieve health-based air quality standards and reduce cumulative exposure to toxic air contaminants in all California communities to acceptable levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the Policies set forth in Attachment A, "Policies and Actions for Environmental Justice," and directs the Executive Officer to integrate each policy into every aspect of the ARB's activities and to execute each specific action mindfully and deliberately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to distribute the Policies to community groups, businesses, local air districts, land-use agencies, and all other stakeholders to inform them of the ARB's Environmental Justice goals and objectives, and to encourage their input and assistance in providing healthy communities for all Californians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages the Executive Officer to implement the action items identified in Attachment A and to work closely with the local air districts in developing a prioritized work plan that takes into consideration the resources needed to implement an effective program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Executive Officer to bring before it the following related matters by the dates specified, and to report to the Board on the status of the staff's implementation of the Policies and associated actions in relation to ongoing programs by December 2002:

1. Environmental Justice Workplan – January 2002
2. Complaint Resolution Guidance – by December 2002
3. Land Use Planning Guidance – by March 2003
4. Guidance Document on Cumulative Emissions: Exposure, Impact Assessment, and Reduction – By December 2003

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appreciates the efforts by all of the stakeholders and participants who helped develop the "Policies and Actions for Environmental Justice."

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 01-56, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Stacey Dorais, Clerk of the Board