

REQUEST FOR EARLY EFFECTIVE DATE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA REFORMULATED GASOLINE REGULATIONS INCLUDING REFINEMENTS TO THE PROHIBITIONS OF MTBE AND OTHER OXYGENATES

Pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(c), the Air Resources Board (ARB) requests that its most recent amendments to the California Phase 3 Reformulated gasoline (CaRFG3) regulations become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State. Good cause for this request exists.

This rulemaking consists of amendments to sections 2260, 2261, 2262.6, 2263, 2266.5, 2272, 2273, and adoption of section 2273.5, of title 13, California Code of Regulations. The amendments (1) revise the prohibitions of gasoline produced with the use of methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) or other prohibited oxygenates; (2) revise the schedule for implementation of allowable residual MTBE levels in California gasoline; (3) establish allowable residual levels for total weight percent oxygen supplied by oxygenates other than MTBE and ethanol; (4) add provisions for documentation of the presence or absence of ethanol in CaRFG delivered to retail outlets, and make other changes.

The trade association for the affected refiners – the Western States Petroleum Association – have requested that the amendments be effective as soon as possible as they facilitate the ability of refiners to transition to MTBE-free gasoline in 2003. This could help avoid disruptions in gasoline supplies in the state.

The ARB will promptly notify affected refiners and distributors of the effective date as soon as the amendments are filed with the Secretary of State.

Date: March 12, 2003

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