

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MODIFIED TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY BUDGETS CONTAINED IN THE 2007 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATTAINING THE FEDERAL 8-HOUR OZONE AND PM2.5 STANDARDS IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN

The California Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) will conduct a public hearing to consider approval of modifications to the transportation conformity budgets contained in the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for attaining the federal 8-hour ozone and PM2.5 ambient air quality standards in the South Coast Air Basin. The plans were approved by the Board on September 27, 2007; the conformity budgets were approved by the Board on November 15, 2007. If adopted, ARB will submit these modified elements to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for approval as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

DATE: April 24, 2008

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
1st Floor, Auditorium
Oakland, California 94612

This item will be considered at a one-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m. April 24, 2008. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before April 24, 2008, to determine the order in which the items will be considered.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, audiocassette or computer disk. Please contact ARB's Disability Coordinator by voice at (916) 323-4916, or through the California Relay Services at 711, to place your request for disability services. If you are a person with limited English and would like to request interpreter services, please contact ARB's Bilingual Manager at (916) 323-7053.

On September 27, 2007, the ARB approved plans for attaining the federal fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and 8-hour ozone standards in the South Coast Air Basin. These attainment demonstration plans rely on emission reductions from new control measures identified and committed to in the 2007 AQMP adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), and in the ARB's 2007 State Strategy. On November 15, 2007, ARB adopted transportation conformity budgets for the South Coast Air Basin. The conformity budgets adopted in November 2007 are

consistent with the PM2.5 and 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration plans for the South Coast Air Basin as approved by the Board on September 27, 2007. The adopted conformity budgets reflect anticipated on-road vehicle emission reductions from new control measures identified in ARB's State Strategy. Both the attainment demonstration plans and the conformity budgets have been submitted to the U.S. EPA as proposed revisions to the SIP.

U.S. EPA staff has expressed concerns about these budgets related to issues they have raised about the State Strategy used in the attainment demonstration plans. U.S. EPA staff indicated that these concerns could prevent the agency from approving or finding adequate conformity budgets based on the State Strategy.

ARB staff is now recommending that the Board adopt two sets of conformity budgets for the South Coast Air Basin at the April 24, 2008 hearing. The first set reflects the 2007 SIP submittal for the South Coast Air Basin, including the locally adopted 2007 AQMP and the 2007 State Strategy adopted by ARB. The second set of budgets reflects control measures adopted as of October, 2006 – the rules that formed the baseline emission inventory used in the development of the 2007 SIP. Both the SIP-based and baseline budgets provide sufficient reductions to meet the Clean Air Act's reasonable further progress test. Staff recommends that the Board submit both sets of budgets to U.S. EPA with a request that U.S. EPA approve the baseline budgets only if it cannot approve or find adequate in their entirety the budgets based on the 2007 SIP. Because the baseline budgets do not reflect new measures committed to in the 2007 SIP and are therefore less constraining than SIP-based budgets, staff recommends the Board commit that, if U.S. EPA approves the baseline budgets, ARB staff will work with staff of the AQMD, the Southern California Association of Governments, U.S. EPA, and the Federal Highway Administration to resolve budget adequacy issues, and that the State will submit updated transportation conformity budgets within the next 12 months.

The newspaper notices for this item indicated that proposed revisions to transportation conformity budgets for the Coachella Valley would also be considered at this hearing. The Board adopted transportation conformity budgets for the Coachella Valley on November 15, 2007 as part of the Early Progress Plan for the Coachella Valley. ARB staff has determined that it will not be necessary to revise these budgets.

ARB staff will present oral statements at the meeting. Copies of the proposed conformity budgets may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 1001 "I" Street, 1st Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990, by April 14, 2008. The proposed conformity budgets may also be obtained from ARB's internet site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/sip.htm>.

Interested members of the public may also present comments orally or in writing at the meeting, and in writing or by e-mail before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments submissions not physically submitted at the meeting must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, April 23, 2008**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Facsimile submittal: (916) 322-3928

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

The Board requests, but does not require, 30 copies of any written submission. Also, ARB requests that written and email statements be filed at least ten days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board members have time to fully consider each comment. Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Dennis Wade, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 327-2963.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

/s/

James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Date: April 8, 2008