

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER A PROCESS FOR ADOPTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTING PROTOCOLS FOR COMPLIANCE PURPOSES, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF BOARD ADOPTION OF VOLUNTARY PROTOCOLS

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider a process for adoption of greenhouse gas accounting protocols for compliance purposes, including withdrawal of Board adoption of voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting protocols. This item is a non-regulatory item.

DATE: February 25, 2010

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
Byron Sher Auditorium, Second Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

This item may be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., February 25, 2010, and may continue at 8:30 a.m., on February 26, 2010. This item may not be considered until February 26, 2010. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before February 25, 2010, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

BACKGROUND

The Board has adopted four voluntary GHG accounting protocols to encourage voluntary early action to reduce GHG emissions. These protocols were developed by the Climate Action Reserve (CAR), and its predecessor the California Climate Action Registry. CAR has continued to update these protocols over time, and has used them for issuance of offset credits for the voluntary market.

In 2009, the Board adopted a Scoping Plan to achieve the emissions reduction target contained in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). One of the key measures included in the Scoping Plan is a cap-and-trade regulation which is now under development. As part of the cap-and-trade regulation that will be considered by the Board later this year, ARB will establish the requirements that will govern the use of offsets for compliance purposes. To support the proposed cap-and-trade regulation, ARB plans to initiate a process for the adoption of emission reduction protocols for compliance use. This process will include an environmental review.

ARB recognizes the importance of voluntary actions to reduce emissions based on rigorous greenhouse gas accounting methods such as those included in these offset protocols. Given that three of the four voluntary protocols previously adopted by the Board have been updated by the Climate Action Reserve and ARB is now focusing on the development of protocols for compliance purposes, staff is recommending that the Board consider withdrawal of Board adoption of voluntary GHG accounting protocols. As part of the cap-and-trade program, staff will develop regulatory requirements to implement Health and Safety Code section 38571, and begin the process for Board consideration of emission reduction protocols for compliance purposes. Staff plans to initiate this process by holding a public workshop in April 2010.

Withdrawal of Board adoption would apply to the following protocols:

- CAR Forestry Protocols Version 2.1
- CAR Manure Digester Protocol Version 2.1
- CAR Urban Forest Protocols Version 1.0
- CAR Forestry Protocols Version 3.0.

ARB staff will present a resolution at the meeting for the Board's consideration. Copies of the resolution will be available on the day of the Board meeting.

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

Interested members of the public may also present comments orally or in writing at the meeting and may be submitted by postal mail or by electronic submittal before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written comments not physically submitted at the meeting must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, February 24, 2010**, 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>

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 20 copies of any written submission. Also, ARB requests that written and e-mail statements be filed at least 10 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 Lucille van Ommering, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 324-5931.

To request a special accommodation or language needs for any of the following:

- An interpreter to be available at the hearing.
- Have documents available in an alternate format (i.e. Braille, Large print) or another language.
- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.

Please contact the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-5594 or by facsimile at (916) 322-3928 as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days before the scheduled Board hearing. TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.

Para solicitar alguna comodidad especial o necesidad de otro idioma para alguna de las siguientes:

- Un intérprete que esté disponible en la audiencia
- Tener documentos disponibles en un formato alternativo (por decir, sistema Braille, o en impresión grande) u otro idioma.
- Una acomodación razonable relacionados con una incapacidad.

Por favor llame a la oficina del Secretario del Consejo de Recursos Atmosféricos al (916) 322-5594 o envíe un fax al (916) 322-3928 no menos de diez (10) días laborales antes del día programado para la audiencia. Para el Servicio Telefónico de California para Personas con Problemas Auditivos, ó de teléfonos TDD pueden marcar al 711.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

/s/

James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Date: February 11, 2010

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.arb.ca.gov.