



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair
9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, California 91731 www.arb.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

February 22, 2006

Mail-Out #MSC 06-04

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS REVISIONS TO THE VOLUNTARY
ACCELERATED VEHICLE RETIREMENT REGULATION

The staff of the California Air Resources Board (Board or ARB) will conduct a public workshop at the time and place noted below to discuss proposed revisions to the ARB's regulation governing Voluntary Accelerated Vehicle Retirement (VAVR) programs. The ARB staff is in the early stages of the regulatory process and will present initial concepts for discussion.

Vehicle retirement or scrapping programs were first introduced in California in the early 1990s. The goal of VAVR programs is to retire older, more polluting vehicles earlier than their expected lifetime; thereby eliminating air pollution emissions associated with their operation. Participation in VAVR programs is strictly voluntary.

Legislation signed in 1995, directed ARB to adopt a regulation governing VAVR programs. (See Health & Safety Code sections 44100-44122.) The ARB adopted these regulations in 1998 and amended them in 2002. VAVR programs are overseen by ARB and administered by local air districts. District programs must ensure that the emission reductions are surplus to those obtained through the Bureau of Automotive Repair's (BAR) Smog Check Program. BAR's program covers vehicles that have failed their biennial Smog Check while the district programs cover vehicles that have passed their biennial Smog Check or are "off cycle" for Smog Check (i.e., not due for their biennial inspection).

Recently, the South Coast Air Quality Management District began developing a VAVR and vehicle repair program incorporating the use of remote sensing devices (RSD) to identify higher emitting vehicles. Other air districts are considering similar programs. There is growing interest in using RSD to identify older, higher emitting vehicles for potential participation in VAVR programs. Therefore, ARB staff is proposing to revise the VAVR regulations to include the use of RSD as an additional means of identifying higher emitting vehicles. The revisions would help codify the optional use of RSD in VAVR programs.

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: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

The ARB approved the methodology for calculating emission reductions for the VAVR regulation at its December 1998 Board meeting. However, a methodology for determining extra emission reductions for retiring higher emitting vehicles identified through RSD has not yet been established. ARB staff is also proposing to establish protocols for quantifying extra emission reductions associated with the voluntary retirement of higher emitting vehicles identified by RSD in this revision.

At least one air district has requested to include a voluntary vehicle repair component as part of their VAVR program. In this program, owners of qualifying higher emitting vehicles may be reimbursed for the cost of repairing their vehicles to pass the Smog Check up to a specified dollar limit. Because of an increasing interest in vehicle repair to obtain emission reductions, ARB staff will also consider information to provide a framework for air district repair programs.

The first public workshop will be held at the following time and place:

DATE: March 20, 2006
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
TOPIC: Revisions to the Voluntary Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Regulation
PLACE: California Air Resources Board
Coastal Hearing Room, 2nd Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

An agenda for the meeting is enclosed. The workshop will also be webcast accessible through the website: http://www.arb.ca.gov/app/calendar/cal_wbcst.php. Information on submitting questions or comments will be provided during the webcast for remote participants.

Workshop presentations and handouts will be available at the workshop and at the VAVR program's website. For additional information about the VAVR program, please visit the program website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/avrp/avrp.htm>. If you would like to receive notification by email of updates to the VAVR program website, please sign up at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/avrp.htm>.

If you have a disability-related accommodation need, please go to <http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/ada/ada.htm> for assistance or contact the ADA Coordinator at (916) 323-4916. If you are a person who needs assistance in a language other than

All Interested Parties
February 22, 2006
Page 3

English, please go to <http://www.arb.ca.gov/as/eo/languageaccess.htm> or contact the Bilingual Coordinator at (916) 324-5049. We welcome your participation.

If you have questions regarding this workshop or the VAVR program, please contact either Mr. Andrew Panson, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 323-2881 or by email at apanson@arb.ca.gov or Mr. Tom Roemer, Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 322-1520 or troemer@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Andrew Panson
Staff Air Pollution Specialist
Carl Moyer Off-Road Section

Mr. Tom Roemer
Air Pollution Specialist
Carl Moyer Off-Road Section

Public Workshop To Discuss Revisions To
The Voluntary Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Regulation
Coastal Hearing Room
March 20, 2006
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. ARB Staff Presentation
 - a. The Voluntary Accelerated Vehicle Retirement (VAVR) Program
 - b. A Brief Review of the Carl Moyer Program (CMP)
 - c. Remote Sensing Devices (RSD)
 - d. Default and Extra Emission Reductions
 - e. Preliminary Regulatory Concepts
 - f. Voluntary Repair of Vehicles (VRV) Issues
 - g. Issues to Consider
3. Discussion and Public Comment
4. Next Steps