CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO HEAR A STATUS REPORT ON IMPERIAL COUNTY AIR QUALITY AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2009 IMPERIAL COUNTY PM10 SIP

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to hear a status report on Imperial County air quality and consider approval of the 2009 Imperial County PM10 SIP developed and approved by the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District. If adopted, ARB will submit the Imperial County PM10 SIP to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for approval as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan.

DATE: May 27, 2010

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

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

This item will be considered at a one-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., May 27, 2010. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at lest ten (10) days before May 27, 2010, to determine the schedule on which this item will be considered.

Background:

Air Quality

Despite the unique challenges that Imperial County's geography, climatology, and proximity to Mexico pose for air quality, the combined efforts of State and local control programs have resulted in improving air quality in the region. Ozone concentrations as well as the number of ozone exceedance days have declined since 1997 and Imperial County attained the federal ozone standard of 0.080 ppm in 2008. PM2.5 levels have also been decreasing throughout the county. In 2003 Imperial County attained the annual PM2.5 standard. Today, the PM2.5 problem is limited to Calexico, with 24-hour concentrations that are just slightly over the standard due to international transport from neighboring Mexicali. Finally, PM10 levels exceed the federal standard on average once or twice per year. These infrequent occurrences are due to either international transport or naturally occurring high wind events. Given the nature of these events there is year to year variation in the number of days exceeding the standard. Over the past four years, the number of exceedance days has ranged from zero to five.

PM10 State Implementation Plan

The federal Clean Air Act establishes planning requirements for areas that exceed the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (standards). Areas are designated as nonattainment based on monitored exceedances of air quality standards. Nonattainment areas must then develop State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions based on the relative nature and severity of their air quality problem.

Imperial County was originally designated as a "moderate" PM10 nonattainment area. In August 2004, the U.S. EPA found that the Imperial Valley PM10 nonattainment area failed to attain by the moderate area attainment date of December 31, 1994. As a result, U.S. EPA reclassified the Imperial Valley from a "moderate" to a "serious" PM10 nonattainment area. On December 11, 2007, U.S. EPA determined that Imperial had failed to attain the PM10 standard by the serious area deadline of December 31, 2001.

In response, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (District) developed the 2009 PM10 SIP which was adopted by the District Board in August 2009. The SIP contains the required elements including: an assessment of PM10 air quality between 2006 and 2008, an emissions inventory, transportation conformity budgets, and a demonstration that Best Available Control Technologies /Best Available Control Measures have been implemented for all appropriate source categories.

PROPOSED ACTION

ARB staff has reviewed the 2009 PM10 SIP and finds that the SIP meets all applicable Clean Air Act requirements. Therefore, staff is recommending that the Board approve the 2009 PM10 SIP, as well as the updated transportation conformity budgets and emissions inventory as a revision to the California SIP for submittal to U.S. EPA.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

ARB staff will prepare a written Staff Report prior to the meeting. Copies of the Staff Report may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 1001 "I" Street, First Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 322-2990. This notice, the Staff Report, and the District's Implementation Plan may also be obtained from ARB's internet site at:
http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/sip.htm

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

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 comment submissions not physically submitted at the meeting must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, May 26, 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

The Board requests, but does not require that 20 copies of any written statement be submitted and 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.

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.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager, Particulate Matter Analysis Section, Planning and Technical Support Division at (916) 324-7163, or Elizabeth Melgoza, Air Pollution Specialist, Planning and Technical Support Division at (916) 322-6161.

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 alterno (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/

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James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

Date: April 26, 2010