

MEETING
BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ORIGINAL

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD
BOARD HEARING ROOM
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Shorthand Reporter

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1 MR. LAGARIAS: Here.

2 MS. HUTCHENS: Parnell?

3 MR. PARNELL: Here.

4 MS. HUTCHENS: Riordan?

5 SUPERVISOR RIORDAN: Here.

6 MS. HUTCHENS: Vagim?

7 SUPERVISOR VAGIM: Here.

8 MS. HUTCHENS: Wieder?

9 Chairwoman Schafer.

10 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Here.

11 Before taking up the first agenda item, which is
12 94-11-1, I would like to remind those of you in the audience
13 who'd like to present testimony to the Board on any of
14 today's agenda items to please sign up with the Board
15 Secretary.

16 If you have a written statement, please give 20
17 copies to the Board Secretary.

18 The first item on the agenda today is No. 94-11-1,
19 a public hearing to consider amendments to the area
20 designations for the State ambient air quality standards.

21 This item is for the Board to consider the staff's
22 recommendations for designating areas of the State with
23 respect to the attainment status of the State ambient air
24 quality standards.

25 I understand that the proposed changes are

1 relatively routine; that the staff will be making just a
2 short presentation on this item, in recognition of the full
3 agenda facing us today and tomorrow on the main item before
4 us.

5 At this point, I'd like to ask Mr. Boyd to
6 introduce this item and to begin the staff's presentation.

7 Mr. Boyd?

8 MR. BOYD: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Good
9 afternoon, Board members, and good afternoon to the vast
10 audience out there. And we will try to be brief with this
11 first item.

12 As you mentioned, we are proposing amendments to
13 what are known as area designations for the State's ambient
14 air quality standards. Our own State Clean Air Act requires
15 that your Board establish and periodically review the
16 criteria for designating areas with respect, again, to our
17 own State standards.

18 As indicated, we are not proposing any amendments
19 to the designation criteria today. As you know, the Act
20 requires the Board to use these criteria to designate each
21 area of the State as either attainment, nonattainment, or
22 unclassified for the pollutants for which we indeed have
23 State standards.

24 The Board must review these area designations each
25 year and update when new information indicates its

1 appropriate, and this is the annual review.

2 We initially designated areas of the State in
3 1989, and your Board has amended these regulations every
4 year since then. Today, the staff proposes that the Board
5 update the designations based on our review of air quality
6 data for the years '91 through '93. And for a second year
7 in a row, our proposal's one of what we see as good news.
8 All the proposed amendments are either a change to
9 attainment or a change in the direction of attainment.

10 In other words, the air in California continues to
11 get cleaner.

12 With that, I'd like to introduce Debora Popejoy,
13 who's Manager of the Air Quality Analysis Section of the
14 Technical Support Division, to present the staff report.

15 She is substituting for Cynthia Garcia, who's
16 sitting next to her mute because she has laryngitis and
17 can't make her own staff proposal.

18 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Go right ahead, Ms. Popejoy.

19 MS. POPEJOY: Thank you, Mr. Boyd.

20 Good afternoon Madam Chairwoman and members of the
21 Board.

22 As Mr. Boyd has said, we are proposing changes to
23 the area designations. These changes are all good news.
24 The proposed changes are either a change to attainment or a
25 change in the direction of attainment. We are not proposing

1 any new nonattainment areas today.

2 Before I go into the details of the proposed
3 amendments, I'll summarize briefly the key provisions
4 of the designation criteria, and go over some of the more
5 important terminology.

6 First, the designation criteria require the Board
7 to use only data for record. The criteria also specify the
8 size of the designation areas, which depends on the nature
9 of the pollutant.

10 In addition, the criteria require the Board to
11 review the designations on an annual basis and to update as
12 new information become available.

13 Finally, the criteria specify the requirements for
14 three major categories and one subcategory.

15 Now, let me explain some important terms. First,
16 there are two terms that are very similar and may cause some
17 confusion. These terms are "exceedance" and "violation."

18 An exceedance is a measurement that is higher than
19 the State ambient air quality standard. However, an
20 exceedance is not necessarily a violation.

21 In contrast, a violation is an exceedance that is
22 not affected by a highly irregular or infrequent event. One
23 or more violations in a given area would be the basis for
24 designating an area as nonattainment.

25 Now then, what is a highly irregular or infrequent

1 event? It can excuse an exceedance from being considered as
2 a violation.

3 There are two types of these events. The first
4 type is the exceptional event, which is patterned after the
5 concept developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection
6 Agency for purposes of the national standards.

7 The US EPA defines an exceptional event as an
8 event that is not likely too recur at a given location or is
9 possibly uncontrollable. It is tied to a specific,
10 identifiable cause, such as a chemical spill or forest fire.

11 The second type of highly irregular or infrequent
12 event is the extreme concentration event. The concept of an
13 extreme concentration event was defined by the Board, and is
14 used only when designating areas for the State standards.

15 The extreme concentration event refers to an event
16 that is expected to occur less frequently than once every
17 year, and is not influenced by controls. The difference is
18 that an extreme concentration event is not necessary tied to
19 a known cause or event, but rather is determined by a
20 statistical calculation.

21 Now that we have reviewed these terms, we can look
22 at the four designation categories.

23 The first category is nonattainment. An area is
24 designated as nonattainment if there is at least one
25 violation in the last three years.

1 As you may recall, violations are those
2 exceedances that are not affected by highly irregular or
3 infrequent events.

4 The second category is nonattainment/transitional.
5 This is actually a subcategory of the nonattainment
6 category. It signifies that an area is close to attainment
7 and that the area may need to reassess whether control
8 measures scheduled for future adoption are still needed.

9 The third category is attainment. An area is
10 designated as attainment if there were no violations in the
11 last three years. An area that has exceedances may still
12 qualify for attainment if these exceedances are the result
13 of highly irregular or infrequent events.

14 Finally, the last designation category is
15 unclassified. This is a default category. That is, if data
16 are insufficient to designate an area in any of the first
17 three categories, then the area would be designated as
18 unclassified.

19 For areas with no or incomplete data, we have
20 screening procedures which provide a basis to designate an
21 area as attainment for the pollutants listed on this slide.
22 There are a number of screening parameters, which may
23 include population and emissions, that vary depending on the
24 pollutant.

25 Now, I will move on to the proposed area

1 redesignations.

2 Our proposed changes are based on the staff's
3 review of air quality data for the three-year period of 1991
4 to 1993. As shown in this slide, we are proposing to change
5 the designations of seven areas and four pollutants. We
6 propose to redesignate one area for ozone, four areas for
7 carbon monoxide, one area for sulfur dioxide, and one area
8 for sulfates.

9 The one change in ozone is the designation for
10 Mono County in the Great Basin Valley Air Basin. This
11 county was previously designated as nonattainment. This
12 area has been redesignated nonattainment/transitional by
13 operation of law. That is, it is done automatically without
14 the Board's decision.

15 There was a violation in 1992, but no exceedances
16 in 1993. Therefore, the staff concludes that Mono County
17 satisfies the criteria and is now nonattainment transitional
18 by operation of law.

19 The first area that we are proposing to
20 redesignate for carbon monoxide, or CO, is the San Jose
21 Urbanized Area of Santa Clara County in the San Francisco
22 Bay Area Air Basin.

23 This area's currently designated as
24 nonattainment/transitional, while the remainder of the
25 county is designated as attainment.

1 During 1991, there were four exceedances, which
2 were effected by extreme concentration events. Therefore,
3 the staff recommends the entire county be designated as
4 attainment for CO. With this redesignation, the entire San
5 Francisco Bay Area Basin is attainment for the State CO
6 standards.

7 The second area we are proposing for CO
8 redesignation is the San Joaquin County in the San Joaquin
9 Valley Air Basin. Currently, San Joaquin County is divided
10 into two designation areas for CO.

11 It is divided into the Stockton Urbanized Area,
12 which is designated as nonattainment, which is designated as
13 unclassified.

14 During 1991, there were two exceedances in the
15 Stockton Urbanized Area, which were effected by extreme
16 concentration events. Although there is no CO monitoring
17 site outside the Stockton area, the staff believes the CO
18 concentrations in the Stockton area reflect the highest CO
19 concentrations in the county.

20 Therefore, we conclude: The entire San Joaquin
21 County qualifies to be redesignated as attainment for CO.

22 The next CO redesignation is for Stanislaus
23 County, also in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.
24 Stanislaus County is also divided into two designation
25 areas: Modesto Urbanized Area, which is designated as

1 nonattainment, and the remaining part of the county, which
2 is designated as unclassified.

3 During 1991, there were two exceedances in the
4 Modesto Urbanized Area, which were effected by extreme
5 concentration events. There were no exceedances in the
6 remaining portion of the Stanislaus County.

7 Therefore, staff recommends that the entire
8 Stanislaus County be redesignated as attainment for CO.

9 The last area for CO redesignation is Orange
10 County in the South Coast Air Basin. Currently, all of
11 Orange County is designated as nonattainment.

12 In 1992, three sites each had one exceedance, all
13 being effected by extreme concentration events. Therefore,
14 we propose that Orange County be redesignated as attainment
15 for CO.

16 That was the last redesignation proposed for CO.
17 Now, I will continue with the next pollutant, sulfur
18 dioxide.

19 Kern County in the Southeast Desert Air Basin is
20 the only area in the State that is not designated as
21 attainment for sulfur dioxide. That portion of Kern County
22 is currently designated as unclassified.

23 The emissions of oxides of sulfur in the Southeast
24 Desert portion of Kern County satisfy the screening
25 parameters contained in the designation criteria for areas

1 with no or incomplete air quality data.

2 Therefore, Kern County in the Southeast Desert Air
3 Basin qualifies for redesignation as attainment for sulfur
4 dioxide.

5 The last redesignation proposed today is for
6 sulfates. The South Coast Air Basin, which includes Orange
7 county, and portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San
8 Bernardino Counties, is currently designated a nonattainment
9 for sulfates.

10 There were no exceedances of the sulfate standard
11 at any site in the South Coast during the last three years.
12 Therefore, we recommend the entire South Coast Air Basin be
13 redesignated as attainment for sulfates.

14 Before I end, I would like to acknowledge that
15 there was one exceedance of the State lead standard in the
16 Los Angeles County portion of the South Coast Air Basin in
17 1993.

18 This exceedance was determined to be effected by
19 an exceptional event, which is one type of a highly
20 irregular or infrequent event. As a result, this exceedance
21 is not considered a violation.

22 Staff does not recommend any change to the lead
23 attainment designation for Los Angeles County.

24 In summary, we are proposing changes to the
25 designations that either bring areas into attainment or move

1 them in that direction.

2 We have not received any comments on these
3 proposals. So, that concludes my presentation.

4 If you have any questions, we'd be happy to answer
5 them.

6 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: Thank you very much, Ms.
7 Popejoy.

8 At this point, do any of the Board members have
9 questions for the staff on this presentation?

10 Okay. At this point, I'd like to give witnesses
11 an opportunity to comment on this item before the Board
12 takes action. However, I understand that there is no -- no
13 one who has signed up to be a witness on this item.

14 Therefore, I'd like to ask the staff -- although I
15 think I know the answer to this -- to summarize any written
16 comments that the Board may have received.

17 MS. POPEJOY: There have been none.

18 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: No written comments.

19 Okay. Mr. Boyd, does the staff have any further
20 comments on this item?

21 MR. BOYD: No, Madam Chair, no further staff
22 comments.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: And I'm correct in believing
24 there's no one in the audience that wants to speak on this
25 item?

1 Since all testimony, written submissions, and the
2 staff comments for this item have been entered into the
3 record and the Board has not granted an extension of the
4 comment period, I want to officially close the written
5 record on this portion of the agenda item, No. 94-11-1.

6 Any written or oral comments received after this
7 period will not be accepted as part of the official record
8 on this item.

9 This is a reminder to Board members. At this
10 point, we normally identify any ex parte communications on
11 this item, but I suspect there are none on this matter.

12 And we should have a resolution before us shortly.

13 MR. BOYD: It's coming right now. Just like it
14 mysteriously appeared, it mysteriously reappeared, thank
15 goodness.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: I'll ask the Board members to
17 take a moment to look over the resolution before we consider
18 a motion to adopt it.

19 (Thereupon, the Board members perused the
20 document.)

21 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: Do I have a motion to adopt
22 the staff proposal?

23 SUPERVISOR RIORDAN: Madam Chair, I would move to
24 adopt the proposed resolution in front of us, which is 94-
25 59.

1 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Thank you very much,
2 Supervisor Riordan?

3 Do I hear a second?

4 MR. LAGARIAS: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Mr. Lagarias, thank you.

6 If there's any further discussion among the Board
7 on this item, this might be the time to accommodate that.

8 If not, I will call for a vote on Resolution No.
9 94-59, and ask the Board Secretary to take the roll.

10 MS. HUTCHENS: Boston?

11 DR. BOSTON: Yes.

12 MS. HUTCHENS: Calhoun?

13 MR. CALHOUN: I.

14 MS. HUTCHENS: Edgerton?

15 MS. EDGERTON: Aye.

16 MS. HUTCHENS: Hilligoss?

17 MAYOR HILLIGOSS: Aye.

18 MS. HUTCHENS: Lagarias?

19 MR. LAGARIAS: Aye.

20 MS. HUTCHENS: Parnell?

21 MR. PARNELL: Aye.

22 MS. HUTCHENS: Riordan?

23 SUPERVISOR RIORDAN: Aye.

24 MS. HUTCHENS: Vagim?

25 SUPERVISOR VAGIM: Aye.

1 MS. HUTCHENS: Chairwoman Schafer.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Aye.

3 MS. HUTCHENS: Passes 9-0.

4 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Thank you very much.

5 The second item before the Board this afternoon is
6 Item No. 94-11-2. Again, I'd like to remind any of you in
7 the audience who would like to testify on the next agenda
8 item to please sign up with the Board Secretary. I know
9 you're in the process of doing that.

10 And I know this is a very large audience, and many
11 people will want to testify, so we'll try to keep it in as
12 orderly a fashion as possible.

13 This next item is a public hearing to consider
14 approval of a revision to the California State
15 Implementation Plan. The remainder of today's meeting --
16 and I know we will go on to tomorrow -- will be the
17 consideration of amendments to the California State
18 Implementation Plan that demonstrates how California will
19 meet the national ozone standard.

20 We are considering this item today in order to
21 comply with the Federal Clean Air Act, which requires
22 California and many other states to submit ozone attainment
23 plans by November 15, 1994.

24 California has six such areas. We will be
25 considering the plans for all six of these areas as well as