



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Yates, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Chairman
Greg Adams, L.A. County Sanitation District
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Geoffrey Blake, DriLube/All Metals
Eric Busch, Representative, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Jacob Haik, Councilwoman Janice Hahn
Barbara Hanna, Council Member, City of Banning
Maria Elena Kennedy, Kennedy Communications
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for EJ
Harold Martinez, Able Industrial Products, Inc.
Art Montez, AMA International

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Loveridge, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Vice Chairman
Felipe Aguirre, Vice Mayor, City of Maywood
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
Daniel Cunningham, Metal Finishing Association
James R. Krausz, Esq., ALA Inland Counties
Kelly Moulton, Paralegal
Steve Mugg, South Orange County Representative, City of Mission Viejo
Todd Priest, Representative, Orange County Business Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nicole Nishimura, Board Member Assistant (*Lyou*)
Bob Ulloa, Board Member Assistant (*Yates*)

AQMD STAFF:

Mona Arteaga, Community Relations Manager
Joe Cassmassi, Planning and Rule Manager
Elaine Chang, Deputy Executive Officer
Ray Gorski, Technical Advisor
Larry Kolczak, Community Relations Manager
John Olvera, Senior Deputy District Counsel
William Sanchez, Senior Public Affairs Manager
Gregory Ushijima, Air Quality Engineer II
Jill Whynot, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Chair Dennis Yates called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Chair Yates introduced Mr. Art Montez as a new LGSBA member.

Chair Yates requested that if any of the advisory group members would like a local government or small business item to be put on the agenda, they should let him know.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of May 9, 2008 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

May 9, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item #4 – Overview of New 8-Hour Ozone Standards (item taken out of order)

Mr. Joe Cassmassi, Planning and Rules Manager, gave an overview of the New 8-Hour Ozone Standards (see attached).

Chair Yates commented that it is difficult to inform sports groups regarding air quality conditions.

Mr. Greg Adams asked if the U.S. EPA will officially redesignate all the areas. Mr. Cassmassi replied that the district is currently going through the PM2.5 redesignation process for the 24-hour standard. He added that the process takes about 2-3 years.

Mr. Geoffrey Blake asked if it would be possible to have a voluntary response program similar to the demand response program by the energy companies. Mr. Cassmassi replied that as part of Regulation VII, there is an Emergency Episode Program where schools are directly contacted, but businesses are notified through the media. Mr. Blake asked about responses to severe air quality days. Mr. Cassmassi replied that staff would like to see response by industry and schools enhanced. He added that the current outreach is expected to improve school and industry responses.

Mr. Art Montez asked if staff can provide a list of media that the AQMD distributes the information to and whether multiple languages are used. He additionally asked how staff is providing information for school siting and to Proposition 49 groups. Chair Yates replied that staff can provide comments on CEQA documents for school siting, but the AQMD does not have authority to tell where a school can be sited. Mr. Cassmassi replied that the newer Enviroflash notification system will utilize the expanded EPA capabilities of reaching more people.

Action item: Staff to provide a list of media outlets where AQMD distributes air quality information. Staff to provide a list of schools that receive e-mails and/or faxes on a daily basis.

Chair Yates asked if there is any expected change in standards with any change in the federal administration. Mr. Cassmassi replied that there is a 3-year process for redesignation and a 3-year reporting requirement. He added that the PM standard was just changed from an annual to a 24-hour standard, so another change is not expected soon.

Agenda Item #5 – Program Overview of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC)

Mr. Ray Gorski, Technical Advisor, gave an overview of the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) (see attached).

Mr. Paul Avila asked what is meant by the term “fund.” Mr. Gorski replied that the term means “enter into a contractual relationship in which performance of the contract will result in payment of monies from the MSRC to the project proponent to reduce emissions.”

Mr. Blake asked how much a school bus costs. Mr. Gorski replied that the cost is approximately \$135,000.

Mr. Montez commented that many school districts contract out for school bus service and asked if the program provides assistance to those contractors. Mr. Gorski confirmed this. Mr. Montez further asked about the procedure when cities want the cleaner buses, but the contractor does not. Mr. Gorski replied that the cities can work with the companies that the buses are purchased from. He added that cities can talk to the AQMD regarding Prop 1B funding.

Mr. Eric Busch asked if Prop 1B funding is available for expansion buses. Dr. Elaine Chang replied that the funding is not available for those types of buses.

Mr. Angelo Logan asked about the funding cycle and how projects compete. Mr. Gorski replied that the funding cycle is on an annual basis and that projects compete based on cost effectiveness. He added that MSRC wants to ensure that the amount of funds provided is in line with the amount of emission reductions which will be gained from implementation of the project. Mr. Logan asked how the projects are ranked since there are probably more projects proposed than money available. Chair Yates commented that people sitting on the MSRC board have a lot of influence over which projects get funded. Mr. Gorski replied that excess funding requests are always received, so a backup list is maintained.

Mr. Busch asked for a list of all the city’s balances for AB 2766 funding. Mr. Gorski replied that the Transportation Strategies program has that information.

Action item: Staff to provide a list of AB 2766 funding information for all cities.

Mr. Busch asked if public safety vehicles are using clean technologies. Mr. Gorski replied that CNG paramedic vehicles and natural gas sheriff vehicles have been funded. He added that most emergency response vehicles are participating in a program that replaces the engine with a cleaner diesel engine. Mr. Busch asked if clean technology patrol cars are less expensive and whether the technologies are readily available today. Mr. Gorski replied that the MSRC funding covered the incremental cost of the cleaner technology and confirmed that the cleaner technologies are readily available.

Mr. Montez commented that he is concerned about the stockpiling of the AB 2766 funds.

Mr. Logan asked if a control device for a mobile source be eligible for funding, such as a bonnet system for locomotives or marine vessels. Mr. Gorski replied that this type of system can be funded by the AQMD, but not through MSRC. He added that the MSRC is precluded from funding projects related to locomotives and marine vessels.

Agenda Item #3 – Update on Climate Change Activities (item taken out of order)

Dr. Elaine Chang gave a presentation on climate change activities (see attached).

Mr. Adams asked if AQMD prefers California Air Resources Board (CARB) to take a statewide position as opposed to a statewide threshold. Dr. Chang replied that the AQMD prefers a statewide threshold.

Mr. Adams later commented that Local Government Operations Protocol, which should be of interest to many of the local governments present, need to be aware of this document to help local governments establish a baseline, reduce from that baseline, and follow some type of standard methodology to account for those actions.

Action item: Staff to provide a synopsis of the Local Government Operations Protocol when available.

Agenda Item #6 – CAPCOA Future is Green Conference and Expo

Mr. Larry Kolczak, Community Relations Manager, gave a presentation on the CAPCOA Future is Green Conference and Expo (see attached).

Mr. Montez asked if there are any templates/programs that can be given to school districts beforehand and whether there is a charge for small businesses. Mr. Kolczak replied that there is no additional educational material available in advance of the conference. He also said that there is a charge to attend the conference, but attendees do not have to pay an additional charge to attend the Small Business Workshop on Sunday. He added that the expo is free on Sunday.

Mr. Haik asked if there are any special accommodations for teachers and students. Mr. Kolczak replied that both the Teachers Workshop and the Student Conference Sessions are free, and that limited reimbursement will be available for substitute teachers and busing.

Agenda Item #7 - Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities

No comments.

Agenda Item #8 - Other Business

No comments.

Agenda Item #9 - Public Comment

No public comment.

Agenda Item #10 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.