



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009 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, Metal Finishers of Southern California/All Metals
Eric Busch, Representative, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
Daniel Cunningham, Metal Finishing Association
Maria Elena Kennedy, Kennedy Communications
Art Montez, AMA International
Kelly Moulton, Paralegal

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Loveridge, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Vice Chairman
Felipe Aguirre, Vice Mayor, City of Maywood
Jacob Haik, Office of School Board Member Richard Vladovic
James R. Krausz, Esq., ALA Inland Counties
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for EJ
Steve Mugg, South Orange County Representative, City of Mission Viejo
Todd Priest, Representative, Orange County Business Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Earl Elrod, Board Member Assistant (*Yates*)
Kim Fuentes, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Vlad Kogan, Orange County Sanitation District
Rita Loof, Radtech

AQMD STAFF:

Anupom Ganguli, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
Naveen Berry, Planning & Rules Manager
Philip Crabbe III, Community Relations Manager
David DeBoer, Program Supervisor
Lori Langrell, Secretary
Nicole Mendoza, Secretary
John Olvera, Principal Deputy District Counsel
Dean Saito, Fleet Rule Implementation Manager
Rocio Santacruz, Sr. Public Information Specialist
Greg Ushijima, AQ Engineer II

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Chair Dennis Yates called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of December 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Chair Yates called for approval of the meeting minutes.

The December 12, 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

Mr. Philip Crabbe confirmed that there were no pending action items from the prior meeting.

Mr. Paul Avila noted the passing of fellow LGSBA Advisory Group member Harold Martinez, and spoke regarding his contributions to his community, to the Advisory Group, and to all he met. A moment of silence was observed in Mr. Martinez's memory.

Agenda Item #3 – LGSBA Advisory Group's 2008 Accomplishments/2009 Goals & Objectives

Dr. Pom Pom Ganguli gave a presentation on the proposed LGSBA Advisory Group's 2008 Accomplishments/2009 Goals & Objectives, noting that the Chair can add items at any time.

Mr. Avila asked with regard to the recent law regarding redevelopment, if there is a move to keep the monies locally instead of being forwarded up to Sacramento. Chair Yates replied that a lawsuit has been filed to keep the State from taking local redevelopment money, as the cities have lost funds that were used to stimulate business within their respective cities.

Mr. Art Montez indicated that he needs support from staff in setting up an environmental trust fund, based on his work with civil rights and labor groups. Chair Yates indicated to Mr. Montez that unless the environmental trust fund dealt directly with cleaning the air, the agency cannot assist with this type of support.

Motion and second to approve this item was made, and approved.

Agenda Item #4 – AQMD 2009 Legislative Goals & Objectives

Dr. Ganguli gave a presentation on the AQMD's 2009 Legislative Goals & Objectives.

Mr. Todd Campbell sought clarification on the court ruling regarding the moratorium on issuing permits. Dr. Ganguli stated that all offset credit exemptions are frozen at this time and any new businesses must purchase emission credits to get their permits issued. He added that if the equipment does not need an AQMD permit, emission credits are not required.

Mr. Montez asked what would be required to open a gas station. Dr. Ganguli replied that offset credits would need to be purchased at up to \$200,000 per pound.

Mr. Greg Adams commented that one of the bulleted items addresses modernizing offset credits, and not priority reserve credits. He also stated that AQMD needs to revisit the construct of the NSR program, and ERC generation. Dr. Ganguli responded that the larger question to be addressed is how to provide alternatives to offsets.

Ms. Maria Elena Kennedy asked if the recent court ruling is being appealed. Dr. Ganguli replied that the ruling is being appealed, and noted that there is an NSR Stakeholder meeting here at the District on January 21. Ms. Kennedy asked that she be emailed a copy of the notice of the stakeholder meeting notice.

Action item: Ms. Kennedy to be provided information on the NSR Stakeholder meeting via email.

Mr. Campbell asked if under the surface transportation bill, there is an opportunity to push the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to put clean trucks on the road, and Dr. Ganguli responded in the affirmative. He further discussed the “Prop 1B” turnback legislation and stated that the intent is to follow the Carl Moyer Program parameters as a model. He added that CARB and CAPCOA are in agreement with the District on this.

Mr. Adams asked if the transportation project funding also has a tie-in to the economic stimulus package. He added that design and build projects are not allowed in the district anymore. Ms. Kennedy indicated that the 405 freeway expansion project is a design and build. She added that she will follow up with her contacts at CalTrans to ascertain how that happened.

Mr. Montez asked if there is any way that the District can help the small operators who want the newer, lower polluting trucks, but want to avoid the bureaucracy. Chair Yates replied that all grant money has rules associated with those programs that are set by the Legislature and CARB and the District cannot vary from the rules in any way.

Mr. Montez asked if Congresswoman Hilda Solis was carrying the marine vessel bill, and if she is going to be the new Labor Secretary, should we then start lobbying her successor. Dr. Ganguli replied that Congresswoman Solis carried the prior marine vessel bill in 2008, and that any efforts to communicate with successors is premature at this point.

Mr. Adams asked how small operators get funds if most of the Proposition 1B funds are for large fleets. He also asked what a small operator can do if their truck has a lien. Chair Yates replied that the Energy Commission is looking at providing financing at a special rate to these operators since it is hard to get credit. He added that \$220 million in funding per year for 7 years could be finalized next month.

Action item: Agendize a discussion on the clean trucks program.

Ms. Kennedy asked if the truck funding can be used to remove the liens from the trucks, or transfer the liens to the newer trucks. Chair Yates replied that this is probably not the case. He added that a way to look at it is larger fleets with newer trucks can trade for the newer cleaner trucks, and pass on their old trucks to the smaller operators.

Mr. Campbell asked how “low carbon fuels” are defined. Dr. Ganguli stated it is a broad term referring to fuels with reduced greenhouse gases emissions and air quality impacts.

Agenda Item #5 – Rule 1610 – Old Vehicle Scrapping

Mr. David DeBoer gave a presentation on Rule 1610, Old Vehicle Scrapping. This presentation is an update from the prior presentation of May 2008.

Mr. Campbell asked what the scrappers do with the gas in the vehicles. Mr. DeBoer responded that they either haul it away as waste, or use the gas at the facility.

Mr. Adams asked if a non-operational permit on a vehicle is acceptable. Mr. DeBoer replied that it is acceptable for up to 180 days during the previous 24 months, but if the time period is longer than that, the vehicle would be treated like it was not running, and would not qualify under the program. Mr. Adams also asked what the charitable organizations do with the cars donated. Mr. DeBoer replied that he wasn't sure, but added that if the vehicle has been registered for the past 24 months, they can scrap it under the Rule 1610 Program.

Mr. Avila commented that this is a good program and reduces a small amount of pollution, but felt that Public Affairs does not focus on this program. Mr. DeBoer replied that they have been working with Public Affairs staff and the Clean Air Congress, and are always open for suggestions.

Mr. Art Montez commented that Latinos usually turn on their radios at 6:00 am, and that many people can be reached through radio advertisements, not only Latinos, but Vietnamese, Korean, etc. Mr. DeBoer agreed that this is something to look into, and Dr. Ganguli agreed this is a good suggestion for the District's Media department.

Agenda Item #6 – Update on New International Maritime Organization Standards

Deferred to next month's meeting.

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

No comments.

Agenda Item #8 – Update on Climate Change Activities (Written Report)

Ms. Whynot provided a written report update on climate change activities.

Agenda Item #9 - Other Business

No comments.

Agenda Item #10 - Public Comment

No comments.

Agenda Item #11 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.