

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Resolution No. 2005-05

A Resolution Establishing the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Climate Protection Program

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming scientific evidence that shows concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are increasing steadily, and that the Earth's surface and ocean temperatures are rising;

WHEREAS, most scientists agree that anthropogenic sources of greenhouse gases largely account for these increases and are causing the earth's climate to change and that conflicting views are more about the rate of change and the ultimate results, rather than questioning the underlying premise of human-caused changes to climate;

WHEREAS, these scientists represent respected agencies such as NASA, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the International Panel on Climate Change, and other eminent scientific bodies in North America, Europe and Asia;

WHEREAS, scientific analysis has shown that average global surface temperature increased more than 1° F over the past 100 years, with a 9° F average increase in the polar regions, and that 1990 – 2000 was the hottest decade of the 20th century, and 2001, 2002, and 2003 were the hottest years ever recorded;

WHEREAS, scientific analysis has also shown that concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere have been increasing and the current concentration is the highest level in the past 420,000 years, and the greatest CO₂ concentration increases have occurred since about 1750, which coincide with the beginning of human industrialization and widespread use of fossil fuels, and the rate of increase has also been on the rise in the last century;

WHEREAS, concentrations of other greenhouse gases, such as methane and nitrous oxides, have also been increasing, and these gases are also created by human activities;

WHEREAS, global climate change could have significant effects on local weather conditions such as increases in temperatures, the extension of warm weather seasons, changes in wind and precipitation patterns, increases in severity of storms, and changes in other weather variables that have important effects on our local air quality and public health and welfare;

WHEREAS, ground level ozone and other pollutants are formed due to the photochemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight and heat, and as climate change causes temperatures to increase, the emissions of ozone precursors and photochemical reactions will also increase;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area is a non-attainment area for the national 8-hour ozone standard and the state 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has dedicated significant resources to reducing ground level ozone in the region in order to protect public health, and climate change will impact those efforts;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area is also a non-attainment area for state particulate matter standards and many sources, specifically fossil fuel combustion, that lead to greenhouse gas emissions also contribute significantly to the region's particulate matter burden;

WHEREAS, in addition to ozone precursors and particulate matter, fossil fuel combustion also causes emissions of toxic air pollutants and other criteria pollutants that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District regulates in order to protect public health;

WHEREAS, reducing dependence on fossil fuels has the co-beneficial effect of reducing criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change from fossil fuel combustion as well as providing energy independence;

WHEREAS, AB 1493 (Pavley) directed ARB to set regulations that would achieve the maximum feasible and cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles and ARB adopted a new emissions standard for light duty vehicles to go into affect in the 2009 model year;

WHEREAS, the transportation sector accounts for the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the region, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is already promoting efforts to reduce emissions from mobile sources through lower-emission vehicle incentive programs, transportation control measures, and smart growth policies, and these efforts also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District also regulates emissions from energy generation, refineries, and chemical plants in the region, which are also a significant sources of both criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases and the District is already promoting energy conservation and efficiency measures that have co-benefits for greenhouse emission reductions;

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is charged with improving public health in the region with respect to air quality, and by taking a leadership role in addressing greenhouse gas emissions the District will assist the core goal of achieving health-based air quality standards as well as reduce the regional contribution to global climate change;

WHEREAS, there are already a number of municipal and community- based climate change programs already underway in the region such as efforts in Sonoma and Marin Counties, the Silicon Valley, and the City of Oakland to inventory emissions and set reduction targets, and continuing support of these efforts will provide additional opportunities to strengthen these programs, stimulate additional activities, and encourage further relationships between the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and its stakeholders.

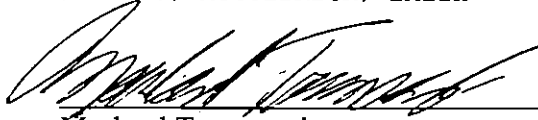
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors establishes a Bay Area Climate Protection Program to address climate change and climate protection through District activities including outreach and education campaigns, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, hosting a regional conference on climate protection, and support and leadership for local efforts in the Bay Area to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the Motion of Director TOWNSEND, seconded by Director UULKEMA, on the 1st day of JUNE 2005 by the following vote of the Board:

AYES: COOPER, DALY, DeSAULNIER, HAGGERTY, KWOK, MILEY, MILLER, ROSS, SHIMANSKY
SILVA, TORLIATT, UILKEMA, WAGENKNECHT, YOUNG, TOWNSEND

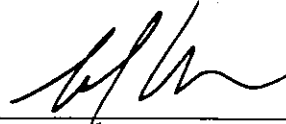
NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, DUNNIGAN, GARNER, HILL, KNISS, McGOLDRICK, SMITH



Marland Townsend
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Mark Ross
Secretary of the Board of Directors