



**South Coast**  
**Air Quality Management District**  
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182  
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

**ETHNIC COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP**  
**April 25, 2008**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

ECAG Chairman  
Board Member Joseph Lyou, Ph.D.

**ABSENT**

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS**

Patricia Byrd  
Stan Lee  
Tod Short

Rosa Washington

**LATINO CAUCUS**

Fernando Del Rio, Chair  
Ramon Diaz  
Anastacio Medina  
Rose Montoya-Lona  
Daniel Morales

Harold Martinez

**ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS**

David Sakurai  
Tom Chang

Paul Choe

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Earl Elrod, Board Assistant (Yates)  
Roy Kim, California Fuel cell Partnership  
Nicole Nishimura, Board Assistant (Lyou)

**AQMD STAFF**

Larry Bowen, Planning and Rules Manager  
Lourdes Cordova Martinez, Community Relations Manager  
Pom Pom Ganguli, Asst. DEO/Public Advisor  
Carolyn Hamilton, Public Affairs Specialist  
John Kampa, Financial Analyst  
Mary Leonard, Financial Analyst  
John Olvera, Sr. Deputy District Counsel  
Donna Peterson, Financial Analyst  
Rick Pearce, Chief Financial Officer

ECAG Minutes – April 25, 2008

**Agenda Item #1 Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Joe Lyou at 12:20 p.m. The meeting began with a brief update by Dr. Pom Pom Ganguli on recent discussion at Administrative Committee regarding Board Advisory Groups. He commented that out of six standing Advisory Groups, only three meet on a regular basis and there was discussion before Administrative Committee of repositioning some of the Advisory Groups to focus on the most important issues facing AQMD. Member Rose Montoya-Lona was interested in attending the next Administrative Committee meeting to express her concerns regarding the potential elimination of ECAG. Dr. Lyou suggested that as opposed to eliminating ECAG there had been discussions about converting ECAG into an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, using a different format for discussions and agenda.

**Agenda Item #2 Approval of March 21, 2008 Minutes  
Review of Follow-Up Items**

The minutes had minor edits and were approved as presented. There were no follow-up items.

**Agenda Item #3 Caucus and Subcommittee Reports**

There were none.

**Agenda Item #4 FY 2008-09 Draft Budget and Work Program**

Donna Peterson, Financial Analyst, provided an overview of the Executives Officer's Proposed 2008-09 Budget and Work Program. Ms. Peterson began her presentation by stating the goal is to maintain current service levels and to enhance certain areas, and as well as to implement Board Directives.

The FY 2008-09 Budget calls for the addition of six new positions and refund six positions that had been cut from prior budget years. The salary savings factor is being increased to six percent which should be achievable based on the increased number of anticipated retirements. Five regional inspectors will be funded for a five-year period using funds from the BP ARCO Settlement. Other new programs expected to be implemented are the Architectural Coatings Compliance Program and the Portable Equipment Registration Program.

Member Tod Short inquired as to the actual air quality standards that the AQMD is required to attain. Dr. Ganguli mentioned there is an 8-hour ozone standard and a 24-hour PM10 standard. Mr. Short then inquired if attainment is on course. Chair Dr. Lyou stated that presently the AQMD is not meeting the standards, but is required to meet them and if not met there can be severe penalties.

*Action: Dr. Lyou will forward CARB's Ambient Air Quality Standards chart for distribution to EGAG members.*

Member Montoya-Lona expressed interest in a joint meeting between ECAG and MSRC. Dr. Lyou stated all MSRC meetings are open to the public and ECAG members are encouraged to attend these meetings, as well as the annual joint meeting of the MSRC and its Technical Advisory Committee where the coming year's workplan is discussed. Member Daniel Morales mentioned a \$200 rebate for purchasing a CNG vehicle and inquired whether or not this rebate is still available. Dr. Ganguli informed members that there are other tax credits available, but this rebate may have expired.

*Action: Agendize a presentation on the Moyer Program Funding, including any funding information for Clean Trucks, for a future ECAG meeting.*

**Agenda Item #5 FY 2008 – 09 Proposed Amendments to Regulation III – Fees**

Larry Bowen, Planning & Rules Manager, presented information regarding proposed changes to AQMD's fee rules. Mr. Bowen informed members that staff is proposing a third and final year of the ten percent fee increase for permit processing fees, annual operating permit renewal fees and annual operating emissions fees. There is also a proposal to change Annual Emissions Reporting from a fiscal to a calendar year in order to be consistent with CARB's Portable Equipment Registration Program annual reporting requirements.

There will also be a special Operating Fee for petroleum refineries to cover RECLAIM SOx Reduction Technology Assessment. Also, if a facility owes the District court judgments or administrative penalties, those fees would have to be paid prior to AQMD accepting or processing any new permits.

In the last few years, AQMD has been working on Proposed Rule 314, Architectural Coating Fees. The fees collected would be used to recover AQMD costs related to conducting a more accurate emissions inventory, as well as implementing an enhanced compliance program. Member Tom Chang inquired as to how this fee would benefit a small business. Dr. Lyou responded that fees are being assessed on manufacturers within the District boundaries, but there are other manufacturers who sell their product within the AQMD's jurisdiction and do not pay these fees. The funding structure for this issue requires some changes, he added as volatile organic compounds (VOC) from coatings are the biggest stationary source of emissions. Dr. Lyou mentioned that Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell suggested that the fee structure be changed to reward those who manufacture and sell ultra-low and low-VOC paints making them exempt from fees.

**Agenda Item #6 Overview of California Fuel Cell Partnership (CaFCP)**

Roy Kim, staff member of CaFCP, briefed the members on CaFCP's 2008 public outreach efforts and planned activities. Mr. Kim stated that CaFCP has 32 active members representing auto manufacturers, energy companies, fuel cell technology companies and government agencies, including AQMD. They share a common message

which is to educate the public and create awareness about fuel cell technology. One way in which they reach the public is by bringing fuel cell vehicles to public events and demonstrating the vehicle and its fueling system.

Member Short expressed interest in the possibility of solar vehicles. Member Lee posed a question regarding the costs for such vehicles to which Mr. Kim responded that at this time the costs are quite high. Member Del Rio sought information regarding the possibility of the phasing out of gasoline by the Year 2025. Mr. Kim assured members there will always be a need for gasoline and there will definitely be more emphasis placed on going electric.

#### **Agenda Item #7 Review last Governing Board Meeting and Discussion on Upcoming Governing Board Agenda Items**

In response to Member Short, Dr. Ganguli pointed out to the ECAG members that \$6 million in funding is available for the Carl Moyer Program and projects are funded on a first come – first served basis, with the projects with the highest potential for emissions reduction given priority.

Dr. Ganguli stated the other upcoming Governing Board Item that members should be aware of deals with the Budget and Fees which were scheduled to be heard on May 2, 2008.

#### **Agenda Item #7 Other Business**

Chair Dr. Lyou noted the discussion on the future of ECAG and other Advisory Groups will be in the minutes of the April 11, 2008 Administrative Committee. He reminded members that it would be acceptable if ECAG members were to attend the May 9, 2008 Administrative Committee meeting. Dr. Lyou further mentioned he has previous experience serving on the Local Government & Small Business Assistance Advisory Groups. He would like to restructure the Advisory Groups so that the meetings would allow for more interaction with the members and not solely focus on AQMD staff making presentations to the Advisory Groups. He then invited members to come up with some ideas and bring back to future meetings.

Member Montoya-Lona alerted members to an upcoming event held in the Northridge area, Whole Children/Whole Family Expo, on May 17-18, 2008.

#### **Agenda Item #8 Public Comment**

There was none.

#### **Agenda Item #9 Adjournment**

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.