



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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ETHNIC COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

January 9, 2008

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

ABSENT

ECAG FACILITATOR

Pom Pom Ganguli, Asst. DEO/Public Advisor

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS

Patricia Byrd
Rosa Washington

Stan Lee
Todd Short

LATINO CAUCUS

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

Harold Martinez

ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS

Tom Chang, Chair
Paul Choe
David Sakurai

NATIVE AMERICAN

John Bacheller

OTHERS PRESENT

None

AQMD STAFF

Lourdes Cordova Martinez, Community Relations Manager
Phillip Crabbe, Sr. Public Information Specialist
Leticia Gutierrez, Secretary
Carolyn Hamilton, Public Affairs Specialist
John Olvera, Sr. Deputy District Counsel
Jean Ospital, Health Effects Officer

1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Pom Pom Ganguli at 1:22 p.m.

**2. Approval of December 14, 2007 Minutes
Review of Follow-Up/Action Items**

The minutes were approved as presented.

Action Item: Bring back 2008 Goals & Objectives for further discussion.

✓ Item is calendared for today's agenda.

3. Caucus and subcommittee Reports

Member Fernando Del Rio, Chair of the Latino Caucus, announced that the caucus would be submitting the resume of a prospective new member from Riverside County. Dr. Ganguli mentioned that the resume would be accepted, but held until the Governing Board Chairman selects a new ECAG Chair. Dr. Ganguli also reminded members that candidates are required to have a background in air quality.

4. Presentation on MATES III

Dr. Jean Ospital, Health Effects Officer, provided a summary of the MATES III Study which is being released as a draft report for 90-day public review.

Dr. Ospital informed members that the Air Toxics Studies had their beginning in 1987 with MATES I. These studies focused on toxic risks of chemicals, not on asthma or mortality. There are three components to the MATES III Study. Monitoring in this study proved more intensive in that it was conducted every three days, whereas previous studies were done every six days. Data was collected over a two-year period due to an abundance of rainfall during the initial year of the study. The results of MATES III monitoring revealed that the lifetime cancer risk from air toxics basin-wide has decreased to 1,200 in one million. Emissions from mobile sources account for 94 percent of the total toxic risk while diesel exhaust represents 84 percent of region-wide cancer risk.

The second component of the MATES III Study was conducted on emissions inventory up through 2007. Using updated methodology to backcast to 1998, toxic emissions showed a decrease in potency of 15 percent.

The third portion of the study concentrated on modeling to estimate air toxics throughout the basin on a 2 kilometer by 2 kilometer grid scale. The highest grid cells were at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

There were no mortality, or hospitalization risks included in this study, but non-cancer risks were tested and annual averages to chronic reference exposure levels

(CREL's) were compared. There have been continued improvement in air toxics, but risks are still unacceptable which is compelling the District to aggressively pursue programs and rules that will reduce diesel pollution.

The study has been released to the public for a 90-day review, and is also accessible on the web. There will be a review by the Technical Advisory Group in February and the District will be holding a series of public workshops to seek input from the public. The District's Air Toxics Control Plan will also be updated to include strategies for further reducing toxic air pollution and cancer risk based on MATES III findings.

Member Anastacio Medina inquired if other Air Districts conduct similar studies. Dr. Ospital noted that the Bay Area AQMD is involved in a similar study entitled Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE). Member Medina also inquired about costs. Dr. Ospital stated that a study of this nature can cost \$3 million. Mr. Medina commended the District for embarking on such a comprehensive study of air toxics.

5. 2007 ECAG Accomplishments & 2008 Goals & Objectives

Dr. Ganguli stated that all additions have been made to the goals. The goals and objectives were approved as amended.

6. Overview of Senate Bill 2191: The Lieberman – Warner Climate Security Act of 2007

Phillip Crabbe, Sr. Public Information Specialist, provided an overview on this bill co-sponsored by U. S. Senators Joe Lieberman and John Warner. Mr. Crabbe stated that this is perceived as landmark Federal legislation which would reduce U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Under S. 2191, a Cap and Trade system would be established with a limited number of GHG emission allowances available from 2012 – 2050. These allowances are equivalent to a share, much like stock. They enable an entity to emit one ton of GHG, but each subsequent year the amount will be reduced, so that by 2050 there would be a 70 percent reduction in GHG.

This legislation will create a limited number of emission allowances determined at the beginning of the program. Each allowance will have a unique serial number for tracking purposes. There will be a provision for discounting and crediting of allowances. Anyone will be able to buy, hold, sell or retire emission allowances.

Member Del Rio inquired as to the distribution of allowances. Mr. Crabbe responded that a portion will be auctioned beginning in 2012, then increasing gradually until 2031 through 2050, when each year 70.5 percent of allowable emissions will be auctioned.

Since funds will be created from the auctioning of emissions, this bill will establish six new funds in the U. S. Treasury which will oversee these funds. The proceeds from emission allowance auctions would be used for the development of cleaner fuel technologies, emergency firefighting, low-income energy cost assistance, climate change worker training programs and other related programs. This bill has received numerous amendments. Mr. Crabbe noted that the key amendment to the bill would include a low-carbon fuel standard that would require oil used for transportation to contain 5 percent less carbon per unit of energy in 2015 and would increase to 10 percent less in 2020.

Member Patricia Byrd posed a question regarding the injection of CO2 into the ground. Dr. Ganguli explained that CO2 is a climate change element and injection is done in empty areas where water has been removed or mining has depleted other chemicals, therefore creating a space. Injection is done to fill the void in the ground and is permanent storage. Member Paul Choe asked in what state is the CO2 injected? Dr. Ganguli explained that the CO2 is liquefied then injected much like steam injection. There is no return pipe. The liquid goes into the ground and remains there permanently.

7. Review last Governing Board Meeting and Discussion on Upcoming Governing Board Agenda Items

Dr. Ganguli noted that the Chairman's announcement to set up a climate credit exchange program to address global warming is now on the website. Staff has been directed to return to the Board next month with a program for tracking credit exchanges and certifying carbon credits for local industries and businesses. Dr. Ganguli noted that the highlight of the Board Meeting was the MATES III presentation delivered by Dr. Ospital.

8. Other Business

Dr. Ganguli alerted members to a hearing which will be held by Senator Boxer in the Los Angeles City Council on Global Warming and to check her website for further information.

9. Public Comment

There was none.

10. Adjournment

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:4