



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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ETHNIC COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

March 21, 2008

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

ABSENT

ECAG Chairperson
Board Member Joseph Lyou, Ph.D.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS

Stan Lee
Patricia Byrd
Todd Short

Rosa Washington

LATINO CAUCUS

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

Harold Martinez

ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS

Paul Choe
David Sakurai
Tom Chang

OTHERS PRESENT

Earl Elrod, Board Assistant (*Yates*)

AQMD STAFF

Larry Bowen, Planning & Rules Manager
Lourdes Cordova Martinez, Community Relations Manager
Pom Pom Ganguli, Asst. DEO/Public Advisor
Leticia Gutierrez, Secretary
Carolyn Hamilton, Public Affairs Specialist
Larry Kolczak, Community Relations Manager
John Olvera, Sr. Deputy District Counsel
Jill Whynot, Director of Strategic Initiatives

ECAG Minutes – March 21, 2008

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Pom Pom Ganguli at 12:15 p.m.

Approval of March February 13, 2008 Minutes

Review of Follow-Up Items

The minutes were approved as presented. There were no follow-up items.

Caucus and Subcommittee Reports

Latino Caucus Chair Fernando del Rio requested the status of a candidate from Orange County whose name had been submitted by the caucus for membership consideration. Dr. Ganguli mentioned that ECAG membership, both new member recommendations and reappointments, will be submitted to Administrative Committee in May for review and approval. (*The Committee later decided to reconsider the mission and goals of all Advisory Groups.*)

It was also mentioned that Member John Bacheller of the Native American Caucus resigned from ECAG due to conflicting schedules.

Rule 461- Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing

Larry Bowen, Planning & Rules Manager, provided an update on recent amendments to Rule 461. Mr. Bowen explained to members that Rule 461 deals with fuel delivery by gasoline tanker trucks to gasoline dispensing facilities (GDF's) and the fuel delivery to vehicles.

Gasoline dispensing from service stations represent the second largest stationary source that the AQMD regulates. There are approximately 4,500 GDF's in the basin. Enhanced Vapor Recovery (EVR) and In-Station Diagnostics (ISD) are required by state law to improve control efficiency and provide more stringent testing prior to certification. These requirements are applicable to all GDF's in California.

The Governing Board adopted amendments to Rule 461 at the March 7, 2008 board meeting. Under the rule amendments, local GDF's will be required to submit permit applications for Phase II EVR by September 1, 2008 or compliance plans by October 1, 2008. Currently there is ongoing outreach to GDF's, repair contractors and other industry representatives to assist them in meeting these compliance deadlines.

Member Stan Lee asked about the number of E85 stations in Los Angeles. Mr. Bowen noted there were less than 10. Member del Rio requested clarification on the purpose of the rule amending process. Mr. Bowen stated the process is to identify new technologies to lower emissions in a cost-effective manner. Also, rule amendments are often required by changes in state law.

Presentation on Natural Gas Hearth Product Buy-Down Pilot Program

Jill Whynot, Director of Strategic Initiatives, provided an overview to ECAG members on the recently approved gas log buy-down incentive program. Ms. Whynot began by explaining that the Governing Board not only adopted Rule 445—Wood Burning Devices, but also approved the incentive program. The Healthy Hearths Program is a pilot program that will provide incentive funds to local residents to encourage them to permanently install clean-burning gas log sets in their open-hearth fireplaces. The program has \$500,000 in funding. Staff has released a request for proposal for interested companies that would be interested in being part of the program. Retailers would be asked to sell the gas sets, install the units and assist with advertising the program. Incentives per installation would be approximately \$100 to \$150 per unit.

These incentives will be granted until the funds are depleted. Funds will be paid directly to the contractors, not the homeowners. Homeowners will pay less for the equipment. Other air districts have successfully implemented this type of program.

Member Del Rio expressed concern regarding the limitations on wood burning in the region. Ms. Whynot explained that wood burning will not be eliminated, but there may be mandatory curtailments in specific areas when air quality is forecasted to be poor. Ms. Whynot mentioned that the first violation of this rule would bring a fine of \$50 or attendance in a training session.

Member Lee posed a question relating to the rule applying to only Eastern Los Angeles County areas. Ms. Whynot clarified that this rule would be for all four counties. Member Daniel Morales was interested in knowing how the District measured particulate matter in order to know that wood burning was an actual problem. Ms. Whynot commented that it is difficult to measure directly since wood smoke contains many chemical elements. Studies of filtered air are used and the chemical makeup of the air is identified from the filters.

Member Tom Chang expressed concern regarding the benefits to the homeowners from a consumer's point of view. Ms. Whynot stated that it will be easy for the homeowner because there will be a poster placed where the fireplace items are sold advertising the incentive program. It will be easy for consumers because there will be no application process or need for submitting forms for rebates.

Member Patricia Byrd noted that since there is a less than 10% PM2.5 problem relating to fireplaces, she inquired as to where the city of Riverside fit on the scale.

ACTION ITEM: Jill Whynot informed members that she would check to see if the study is specific to the Riverside area.

Overview of 2008 Lawnmower Exchange Program

Larry Kolczak, Community Relations Manager, provided an update on the 2008 Lawnmower Exchange Program. Member David Sakurai stated the he has owned an electric mower purchased in the exchange, for over three years and has had no problems. Mr. Kolczak stated that 60% of all the electric mowers available for this year's exchange

program have been sold. Member Ramon Diaz inquired as to what is done with the old gas mowers and if there were attachments which could be purchased for the new mowers. Mr. Kolczak assured members that the old mowers are scrapped. Attachments for the electric lawnmowers are available through the manufacturer, Neuton.

CAPCOA Future is Green Conference & Expo

Mr. Kolczak also provided the overview on the Green Technologies Conference and Expo to be held at the Long Beach Convention Center on September 14-16, 2008. The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) is the sponsoring organization. Members were provided with a conference flyer which highlighted session topics and a listing of exhibitors. The conference will also include a session for people interested in starting an environmental or green business. More information is located on the AQMD's website.

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

Dr. Ganguli noted that the Public Hearing on Rule 445 was the main item on the March agenda. Dr. Ganguli also mentioned that the Proposed Amendments to Reg. III-Fees and Rule 314 will both be heard at the May 2, 2008 Governing Board meeting.

On the April 4 agenda there is a proposal for AQMD to fund a summer Asthma Camp for 130 children. This program would have AQMD partnering with the California Chapter of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation.

Dr. Ganguli also mentioned an RFP to fund various air quality and public health related projects from Valero Penalty/Settlement. Funds totaling \$1.125 million will be used for services within a 10 mile radius of the Valero Refinery.

Other Business

Member Lee requested an overview of the issue between City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster regarding pollution from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Dr. Ganguli said that a presentation on the ports' Clean Air Action Plan would be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

Member Todd Short inquired about the definition of clean fuels. Dr. Ganguli mentioned that the title implies cleaner rather than other types of fuels. Member Tom Chang inquired as to whether there would be an incentive program to install alternative energy equipment in residences. Dr. Ganguli responded that presently there is no new program in the works.

Public Comment

There was none.

Adjournment

The being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.