



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKPLAN 2003-04 SUMMARY

The following is a brief description of the proposed initiatives for 2003-04:

Category I: Further-Reduced Health Risks

I-1 Enhanced outreach to local governments to incorporate an Air Quality Element into General Plans

Many EJ issues related to air quality involve land use decisions within the purview of local governments. As local governments update their general plans, air quality issues should be considered. Therefore, AQMD has formed a partnership with the Western Riverside and Orange County COGs (Councils of Government) to develop a model air quality element for local governments, which was part of the EJ program enhancements for 2002-3. In the current phase, the COGs and AQMD will market the Model Air Quality Element and implement an outreach program to encourage its adoption by local governments.

I-2 Review the Current Inventory of Toxic Air Pollution Emissions

Enhance the reliability, accuracy and usefulness of the inventory of toxic air pollution emissions in the South Coast Air Basin. In the past, criteria and toxic inventories have not been linked together, thus causing multiple data banks to exist. This project will update AQMD databases, undertake a systematic review of inventory methodologies, improve estimates for various source categories, and make emission data more publicly accessible.

I-3 Review and Update the District's Air Toxics Control Plan

Staff developed, and the Board approved, a draft Air Toxics Control Plan in 2000, a comprehensive 10-year strategy for reducing toxic air emissions. Under the Toxics Plan, the Board has adopted rules to reduce perchloroethylene (perc) emissions from industrial degreasing and motion picture film cleaning and printing. In an historic move that set a national precedent, the District became the first air agency in the nation to approve a gradual phase-out of the toxic chemical perc used at dry cleaners by 2020.

Also, the Board amended Rule 1469, which limits emissions of the toxic chemical hexavalent chromium from metal plating and anodizing shops, and adopted Rule 1426, requiring other plating facilities to adopt good operating practices and collect emissions data for two years so that AQMD can evaluate whether additional air pollution controls are needed.

The current plan was adopted in March 2000. Most of the identified measures have been implemented, so an update of the plan is needed to reflect the latest technical information and regional air quality needs.

Although MATES III emissions monitoring will not be completed in time for the update to the Air Toxics Control Plan, the inventory and modeling can proceed. The updated Air Toxics Control Plan will consider additional health-based indicators (cancer, non-cancer and asthma) in the development of control strategies. Consistent with MATES II, the March 2000 toxics plan primarily focused on cancer-based risks. The updated plan will have both mobile and stationary control strategies based on technically and economically feasible approaches.

I-4 Cumulative Impacts Reduction Strategies

In September 2002, the Governing Board approved enhancements to the EJ program for Fiscal Year 2002-2003. In response to public comments at that meeting, the Board directed staff to report back on the feasibility of rulemaking to further address cumulative impacts of air toxics beyond current AQMD requirements. A working group, which consists of environmental and community organizations, business representatives and other agencies, has

been assisting staff in developing recommendations regarding options and approaches to this complex issue.

Staff will prepare a White Paper for the Board's consideration this summer. The White Paper will include background information on existing and ongoing programs, the public input process, recommendations for rule and policy development and a proposed implementation plan. Approaches may include new strategies and expansion of existing programs to reduce toxics from mobile and stationary sources in higher impact areas. Improvement of tools for planning, as well as additional funding, may also be included. Implementation of such actions would begin this fiscal year.

Addressing the cumulative impacts associated with exposure to air toxics requires a multi-faceted approach consisting of short- and long-term strategies. AQMD staff's suggested approach consists of three components:

- a suite of early action control strategies for immediate development and implementation;
- update to the Air Toxic Control Plan; and
- update to the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study, or MATES III.

The Air Toxics Plan and MATES III are described in other sections of this document.

There are a suite of control strategies that merit evaluation for short-term adoption or implementation. These include:

- Air toxics control for backup diesel generators;
- Requirements for spray coatings containing chromium;
- New rules for the reduction of emissions from yard hostlers, rail yards, and warehouses;
- Pilot program for odor abatement for new sources in a couple of industries;

- Enhanced enforcement program for stationary sources in high risk areas with guaranteed minimum inspections and more stringent penalties for repeat emission violations;
- New source review of air toxics to include more stringent requirements for facilities located near schools and possibly other sensitive receptors, including facility-wide risk limits for new facilities;
- Continued efforts to develop fleet rules.

In addition, Voluntary Community Partnership for areas with higher risk such that staff will offer presentations, consultations with City Council and Planning Commissions regarding land use decisions, and tools to identify incompatible land uses. An air quality/environmental checklist will be developed for use by any local government. This work will be coordinated with the outreach proposed under Category I-1 for incorporation of Air Quality Element into General Plans.

I-5 MATES III

The Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES II) was a landmark urban toxics monitoring and evaluation study conducted in 1998-99 initiated as part of the Environmental Justice Initiatives adopted by the Board in October 1997. This study identified diesel exhaust as a major contributor to risks from air toxics.

Noting that current data on air toxic levels and exposures utilizing the most up-to-date scientific tools would be needed if there was to be meaningful evaluation of cumulative impacts from air pollutants, at the January 2003 Board Meeting Chairman Burke asked that staff begin the planning efforts needed to provide for a MATES III study.

The project will include one year of ambient monitoring for air toxics, scheduled to begin in early 2004. This phase will have a combination of Basin-wide measurements and localized studies, to be followed by a phase of comprehensive analysis.

It is anticipated that the MATES III study will be used to assess and develop appropriate follow-up control strategies to continue reducing public health risks.

Category II: Greater Community Access & Involvement

II-1 Website Redesign

AQMD's web site has greatly expanded its information offerings in the past several years. Community-based organizations and other stakeholders were recently surveyed to determine their information needs. The AQMD website is currently being redesigned to add information and to facilitate use by the community. Multilingual translation of the web site information is also being expanded. Additional work is being proposed to continue to improve the "look and feel" of the website for easier access and navigation by community members relative to environmental justice-related information.

II-2 Prepare an annual summary of AQMD's EJ program efforts and proposed enhancements for the following 12 months

Each year, a summary of the EJ program is being provided to the Board. In June 2004, staff will prepare an annual summary of EJ accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2003-04 and submit a proposed workplan for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

II-3 Continue "Neighborhood Environmental Justice Council" program to harness the power of neighborhood cooperation

In an effort to improve dialogue between residents, local businesses and AQMD, a pilot Neighborhood Environmental Justice Council program was established in La Puente/Avocado Heights and Pico Rivera. The Councils consist of local homeowners, residents, business owner and enforcement officers. Participants receive background briefings on AQMD policies, procedures, and local air quality and emission sources.

Knowledge gained from these councils will be utilized to identify two new locations. Participants will be briefed on AQMD policies, procedures and local air quality and emission sources. Task force groups will be set up and

community meetings will be held over the next year to address local environmental concerns.

II-4 Hearing Board Outreach

The Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial panel authorized to provide relief from AQMD regulations under certain circumstances including hearing petitions by companies for variances, petitions for abatement orders and appeals by companies.

The Hearing Board has requested a series of outreach meetings to explain the Hearing Board process to the public. Often, members of the general public who are participating as witnesses or complainants before the Hearing Board are unfamiliar with the legal proceedings that occur within the framework.

Also, to facilitate public participation, the Hearing Board will hold off-site meetings in the community.

Additionally, the feasibility of providing videoconferencing as an enhancement to the Hearing process will be evaluated.

II-5 Further Review of Public Records Policies

The California Public Records Act (Act), Gov. Code Sections 6250 et seq., is designed to provide the public with access to records in possession of public agencies. Certain state and local bodies, including the AQMD, are required to establish written guidelines for accessibility of records (Section 6253.4). The public is entitled to inspect public records during regular business hours and request a copy of records that "reasonably describe an identifiable record or records" (Section 6253). A public agency is entitled to payment of fees covering the direct costs of duplication, other fees as specified (Section 6253.9), or a statutory fee if applicable (Section 6257).

The District's Public Records guidelines have been a cornerstone of its policies and procedures for decades. Further, the District has continuously looked at ways to improve public access to information. The guidelines are regularly revised and updated as needed to incorporate changes in the California Public Records Act, and other applicable statutes and case law, by setting forth the

procedures to be followed when making records available to the public. The District's Guidelines were most recently revised and adopted by the Board in March, 2001. An updated review of the District public records policies may reveal ways to enhance public access to information.

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