

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP CHARTER May 1, 2009

Synopsis of History

The AQMD Governing Board established an Ethnic Community Advisory Council on September 7, 1990 to serve as an advisory body to the Governing Board with specialized expertise on the impact of air quality issues on the ethnic communities in the South Coast Air Basin. The Administrative Committee recommended in 2008 that this group be restructured into an Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG), with a focus on air quality and environmental justice issues in the area served by AQMD.

Mission

The mission of the EJAG is to advise and assist AQMD in protecting and improving public health in AQMD's most impacted communities through the reduction and prevention of air pollution.

Goals

The goals of the EJAG are to:

- (1) advise AQMD on issues related to environmental justice;
- (2) create and sustain a positive and productive relationship between AQMD and community members;
- (3) better inform AQMD about environmental justice issues; and
- (4) assure that AQMD makes meaningful and continuous progress toward the achievement of environmental justice through its decisions and activities.

Membership

AQMD shall ensure that the EJAG include an ethnically and geographically diverse membership, consisting of up to 30 members, with at least two members from each county and representatives from the most highly impacted communities within AQMD's jurisdiction. Members will serve staggered four-year terms. Upon recommendation by the EJAG Chair, appointments will be made by the Chairman of the Board with consideration for Board Member input, and following review by the Administrative Committee. The same process, as above, applies for reappointments to fill any vacancy or for removal of a member.

Structure & Process

The EJAG shall meet at least four times per year for in-depth discussions of one or two high priority topics at each meeting as suggested by members and staff. The meetings may take place at AQMD Headquarters or in host communities. The EJAG may form subcommittees to work on specific issues with staff.

In order to assure efficient and productive meetings, staff shall circulate background materials at least 10 days prior to each meeting. Members and the public may submit questions and comments to staff and other members prior to each meeting.

Meetings shall include:

- (1) an opportunity for members to provide community updates;
- (2) discussion and analysis of policy and other issues;
- (3) formulation of recommendations; and
- (4) time for planning, developing action items, and agenda-setting for future meetings.

Tasks

The EJAG's tasks shall include:

- (1) reviewing and assessing the status of past AQMD environmental justice work plans and making recommendations for future environmental justice work plans;
- (2) reviewing policy issues and agency activities that impact environmental justice communities (*e.g.*, goods movement, climate change, land use planning, cumulative impacts, air toxics, decision-making/risk/precautionary principles, community relations, complaint resolution, permitting/enforcement/rulemaking); and
- (3) reviewing and making recommendations on how to address community concerns.

Chair

The EJAG Chair shall be the Chairman of the Board or his/her designee.

Reporting

The Governing Board's Administrative Committee shall be the Board's liaison with this Advisory Group. The Group shall report to the Governing Board on its activities and results and shall provide the Governing Board with a written annual report outlining its accomplishments and proposing its goals and objectives for the coming year.

Compensation

Compensation is \$100 per diem plus travel allowance for mileage.