

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 5, 2023

AGENDA NO. 8

PROPOSAL: Appoint Alternate Medical Member to Hearing Board

SYNOPSIS: The Alternate Medical Member position on South Coast AQMD's Hearing Board has been vacant since the end of 2022. In January 2023, a recruitment was opened to fill the vacancy. As required by state law, an Advisory Committee appointed by five members of the Governing Board was responsible for reviewing the resumes of the three candidates that applied for the position. The Advisory Committee met on April 11, 2023 and recommended that two of the three candidates be interviewed by the Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee interviewed both candidates at its meeting on April 14, 2023, and made a final recommendation. This action is to appoint the alternate medical member to fill the unexpired term ending June 30, 2025.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, April 14, 2023; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Appoint Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH, CMQ as South Coast AQMD's Hearing Board Alternate Medical Member to fill the unexpired term ending June 30, 2025.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

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Background

The South Coast AQMD Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial body appointed by, but acting independently of, the Governing Board. By state law, the Hearing Board consists of five members: one engineer, one attorney, one medical professional and two public members. An alternate for each position is appointed to ensure the Hearing Board has sufficient representation when the primary member is otherwise unable to attend. At its May 6, 2022 meeting, the Board appointed Dr. Wayne Chen as the Alternate Medical Member for the July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 term. In September 2022, Dr. Wayne Chen unexpectedly passed away.

At the end of 2022, a continuous recruitment was opened to fill the vacant Alternate Medical Member position. The vacancy was posted on South Coast AQMD's website, several job boards through partnership with Careers in Government, and social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram); and sent to two University of California physician groups. Additionally, outreach efforts included direct contact with individual physicians and the Los Angeles Medical Association.

Per Health and Safety Code Section 40501.1(b), an Advisory Committee appointed by five members of the Governing Board is responsible to review candidates in the recruitment for Hearing Board members. Three applications/resumes were submitted between January through March and forwarded to each member of the Advisory Committee for review. The Advisory Committee met on April 11, 2023 to discuss the qualifications of the applicants and recommended that two of the three candidates, (Dr. Jerry Abraham and Dr. Sion Kumar Roy), should proceed to an interview with the Administrative Committee.

Proposal

The Administrative Committee interviewed the candidates at its meeting on April 14, 2023 and recommended that the Board appoint Dr. Jerry P. Abraham to the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board as the Alternate Medical Member commencing May 5, 2023 to fill the unexpired term ending on June 30, 2025. A summary of Dr. Abraham's qualifications is shown below.

Jerry P. Abraham - A physician and public health advocate who currently serves as the Director & Chief Vaccinologist at Kedren Community Health Center in South Los Angeles. Dr. Abraham received his medical degree from the University of Texas School of Medicine and completed his family medicine residency at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. He also holds a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University and completed post-graduate fellowship training in Global Injury Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Abraham has been an active member of the American Medical Association for many years and has been actively involved in healthcare policy and advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, trustee of the California Medical Association, and the board of the Charles R. Drew Medical Society. In addition, he has been a vocal advocate for health equity and medical justice, particularly in underserved communities. Throughout his career, Dr. Abraham has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to public health and healthcare, and has been featured in numerous media outlets.

Fiscal Impacts

Sufficient funds are budgeted each year to compensate those who serve on the Hearing Board.