



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Yates, Mayor, City of Chino and LGSBA Chairman
Felipe Aguirre
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Geoffrey Blake, Metal Finishers of Southern California/All Metals
Rita Loof, RadTech International
David Rothbart, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ben Benoit, Councilman, City of Wildomar and LGSBA Vice Chairman
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
Maria Elena Kennedy, Kennedy Communications
Lupe Ramos Watson, Councilmember, City of Indio

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Ulloa, Board Member Assistant (*Yates*)

SCAQMD STAFF:

Derrick J. Alatorre, Asst. Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
Philip Fine, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Officer
Henry Hogo, Asst. Deputy Executive Officer
Laki Tisopulos, Ph.D., P.E., Asst. Deputy Executive Officer
Nicholas Sanchez, Senior Deputy District Counsel
Naveen Berry, Planning & Rules Manager
Rudy Eden, Senior Enforcement Manager
Elaine-Joy Hills, AQ Inspector II
Lori Langrell, Secretary
Brian Sinajon, AQ Chemist

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Mayor Dennis Yates called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of March 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Chair Yates called for approval of the March 13, 2015 meeting minutes. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #2 – Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Mr. Derrick Alatorre advised there were two follow-up items from the March meeting. The first was a request for the health effects studies article mentioned by Dr. Phil Fine at the March meeting, which was emailed to the Advisory Group members on May 6, 2015. Mr. Alatorre further advised regarding the request for information pertaining to the body shops assisted in the Small Business Assistance report, where none of the body shops in the report had issues with Rule 1147.

Agenda Item #3 – Review of ASTM International Meeting

Mr. Brian Sinajon provided a review of the activities and discussions held at the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International Meeting held in Canada.

Mr. Paul Avila asked if the 98 non-profit members are all chemists from different segments and disciplines, and if they focus on one issue, until everyone agrees. Mr. Sinajon replied they all know what issues they are talking about in their discussions.

Ms. Rita Loof asked why the district has the chairmanship of this committee if this is an industry group and that it's a backroom door policymaking through ASTM. Mr. Sinajon indicated as chairman he is only there to facilitate discussions, gather people for meetings, ensure correspondences are sent out to all members, it's purely administrative, with only one vote like everyone else, and it's equal.

Mr. Avila inquired regarding demographics of the members, are they young, old, or a mix. Mr. Sinajon advised it is a very mixed group, experienced to younger generation members with new perspectives, and history and wisdom received from others in the group.

Ms. Loof commented on the association's decision regarding a method encompassed in SCAQMD Rule 1130. The method in question was approved by the District after 20 years of effort and input. Ms. Loof objects to any further revisions made to the agreed upon method, especially if prompted through administrative changes.

Mr. Geoff Blake asked if this affects Method 304. Mr. Sinajon indicated no.

Mr. David Rothbart asked if ASTM is a separate entity with volunteers only. Mr. Sinajon indicated yes, and administrative oversight is there.

Mr. Avila asked if membership is for chemists only. Mr. Sinajon replied no, anyone can join.

Agenda Item #4 – Rule 148.1 – Oil and Gas Production Wells

Dr. Phil Fine provided an update on proposed amended rule that seeks to address potential odor and associated exposure concerns from the operation and maintenance of oil and gas production wells.

Mr. Avila asked for an example of what would be considered sensitive receptors. Dr. Fine indicated sensitive receptors include children, senior citizens, people with compromised immune systems, and those with respiratory issues. Anywhere there is a potential for a sensitive receptor, for example schools, nursing homes, and hospitals.

Mr. Blake inquired what constitutes a confirmed odor event. Dr. Fine indicated once the complaint is received, the inspector must visit, confirm the odor, and track it to where it came from.

Mr. Avila asked if this rule is specific to oil and gas only, or would this apply to the Huy Fong Sriracha plant. Dr. Fine indicated yes this applies to oil and gas only, not applicable to Sriracha.

Mr. Blake asked if this rule applies to stripper wells, for example, those you see in a backyard, and how many stripper wells are there, approximately. Dr. Fine replied yes it applies, there are in the 300-400 range, and as far as complaints, maybe 3 to 4.

Ms. Loof asked if the rule will contain what a confirmed event is; Dr. Fine replied yes.

Mr. Avila asked Dr. Laki Tisopulos if the machines were good enough in the older wells that are pushing 100 years old, if they were to burst and contaminate the soil, would the machines be able to tell. Dr. Tisopulos indicated it is still premature technology, but the technology is improving so two to three years from now, we may be able to have sensors with that kind of sensitivity.

Mr. Rothbart inquired if having sensors is good for verifying problems, what if the public wants their own sensor. Dr. Tisopulos replied in a scenario like this that the Board felt compelled to authorize the creation of this new testing center to start testing the sensors, to evaluate the accuracy and reliability, and communicate the results back to the community the effectiveness of the sensors. Mr. Rothbart asked if a group of community members may have interest in finding some type of result that they want, would there be some kind of QA program or something that would screen out data that the district would not be in control of. Dr. Tisopulos indicated that can happen; however, we hope that the sensors are tested and be able to interpret the results. For example, if a particular sensor has an accuracy level of plus or minus 50% and the message out there says that the sensors indicate your emissions are 10% above the limits, you can say that the accuracy level is plus or minus 50%.

Mr. William Thompson indicated if the district relied on third party data to take the compliance action, which would be a negative. We would go to the lab first before any action is taken in that regard.

Agenda Item #5 – Further Emission Reduction from Mobile Sources Needed to Attain Federal Air Quality Standards

Mr. Henry Hogo presented an overview of the mobile source contribution and needed emission reductions in order to attain the federal ozone air quality standards in 2023 and 2031.

Mr. Rothbart asked as far as the 2032 inventory, is that what is projected after the rules have been in place to reduce emissions. Mr. Hogo replied yes. Mr. Rothbart asked if the source 2012 AQMP inventory just estimates what the inventory will be after we get the reductions we need, which is the 2032 inventory. Mr. Hogo replied it is the baseline emissions inventory based on projections from 2008 during the 2012 AQMP process, 2008 to 2032, taking into account growth in the region, as well as any regulations in the books today and emission reductions associated with those regulations. It's not meeting the ozone standard, it's just in the baseline.

Ms. Loof commented, that staff should consider the relationship of manufacturers moving out and goods movement increasing. Mr. Hogo responded that there are various regulatory activities that causes manufacturers to leave or come back, not only air regulations, but also land use permitting. Whatever those factors are, they are taking into account the economic projects developed by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for various industries, so we have that incorporated.

Mr. Avila asked whether the State of California has an economic department that would look at the scenario of what Ms. Loof inquired, for instance what are the financial impacts of manufacturing companies leaving this area because of regulatory issues. Mr. Alatorre replied that it might be the Department of Finance that studies that, they look at the State's finance, laws that may impact government finances, and tax revenues and impacts. Mr. Avila asked if there is an interaction between the District and the State's Department of Finance, and if there is any information exchanged. Mr. Alatorre responded he was not aware of any. Mr. Hogo indicated they audit the Carl Moyer program, and all our State funded programs are audited by Department of Finance, which is the only interaction we are aware of.

Mr. Rothbart asked what further needed to be done to reach attainment as it is unlikely that everyone would switch to electric vehicles simply because of a USEPA dictate. Chair Yates indicated we are looking into seeking control of mobile polluters, if we can't regulate them, we need credit towards our goals.

Ms. Loof inquired about what the manufacturing/industrial source entailed, if it included all stationary sources in the basin. Mr. Hogo replied no and that it was a separate category and referred to the 2012 AQMP, Appendix 3, emissions are broken down by various source categories.

Mr. Avila asked if there are different measurements for new trucks built, say 2015, versus old trucks. Mr. Hogo indicated there are different emissions standards.

Mr. Blake inquired if the trucks were running on natural gas instead of diesel, what would the emissions be. Mr. Hogo indicated the number would still be the same because today's natural gas engine meets the current emission standards.

Mr. Rothbart asked what impact it has that EPA takes more time to implement a standard than we have to meet our clean air requirements. Mr. Hogo replied we would have adopted this standard four years ago. Sixteen years from now is 2031, which we are already behind, but if it's adopted early enough, and we can offer incentives, we can accelerate having 0.2 gram engines. We need to have a full package, not only the standards, but also incentive funding to help accelerate that.

Ms. Loof asked what is the time line for the Rule 9510 recommendations to the Board. Mr. Hogo indicated they are not developed yet, perhaps the 2016 AQMP will contain control measures, but in the AQMP process we may have early action items that could occur in parallel.

Mr. Avila inquired if a lot of the big trucks were purchased out of State, except for the price, and maybe sales tax, why are they purchased in Texas or Arizona. Mr. Hogo replied the number of trucks that operate in California is approximately one million, and over a half are purchased out of State. Many times the companies purchase their fleets directly from the factory.

Agenda Item #6 –Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities

No comments.

Agenda Item #7 - Other Business

No comments.

Agenda Item #7 - Public Comment

No comments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.