

## **SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

### **GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2009-2010**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

“The South Coast AQMD believes all residents have a right to live and work in an environment of clean air and is committed to undertaking all necessary steps to protect public health from air pollution with sensitivity to the impacts of its actions on the community and businesses.”

#### **GOALS**

- I. Ensure expeditious progress toward meeting clean air standards and protecting public health.
- II. Ensure equitable treatment for all communities.
- III. Operate efficiently and in a manner sensitive to businesses, the public and AQMD staff.
- IV. Operate a “Clean and Green” program to promote and support sustainable practice strategies.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

##### **I. ENSURE EXPEDITIOUS PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING CLEAN AIR STANDARDS AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH**

- A. Develop a comprehensive program to achieve emission reductions to meet federal and state clean air standards by:
  - 1) implementing the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) that seeks equitable and expeditious reduction of emissions from all sources to meet clean air targets and protect public health,
  - 2) protecting the economy of the region by avoiding potential federal sanctions,
  - 3) improving data and understanding of toxic emissions, through MATES III study results and other controls and their associated public health benefits, and reducing emissions of toxic air contaminants to minimize localized and regional impacts of air pollution by implementing the Year 2000 Air Toxics Control Plan as amended in 2004, and developing and implementing the Clean

Communities Plan in 2009 which will take a community-based approach to addressing cumulative impacts, nuisance issues, and exposure to air toxic emissions,

- 4) seeking legislative amendments to provide the necessary authority and funding to implement measures in the AQMP,
- 5) providing input to state and federal regulatory activities to seek the greatest emission reductions as early as possible,
- 6) assisting the federal, multi-state, state and local governments in implementing SB 375 and AB 32, assisting state and local governments with AB 118, and continuing in other efforts to implement AQMD policies to reduce global warming gases,
- 7) seeking a fair share of more than \$1 billion in air quality improvement funds, and ensuring inclusion of air quality considerations for the \$2 billion Proposition 1B Transportation Corridor Infrastructure Funds, to ensure emissions reductions for this region,
- 8) Seeking additional emissions reductions for this region by ensuring inclusion of air quality considerations in policy, and in allocation of federal transportation funds through the Surface Transportation Reauthorization legislation, including the Congestion Management & Air Quality program, and
- 9) Implementing the Board-approved climate change policy and maximizing synergies with programs to reduce toxics and smog-forming emissions.

B. Ensure compliance through a program that includes:

- 1) monitoring air pollutants in the ambient air,
- 2) inventorying, monitoring and testing air pollutant emissions from stationary sources,
- 3) processing permit applications for stationary sources in a manner to:
  - a) prioritize processing of permit applications for installation and implementation of air pollution control measures to reduce emissions,
  - b) expeditiously issue all permits for equipment complying with all applicable air quality rules and regulations,
  - c) ensure all applicable requirements for public notification and public comments requirements are met prior to permit issuance,

- d) impose enforceable conditions on permits to ensure continued compliance and compliance with all environmental and public health rules and regulations, and
  - e) streamline application processing and expeditiously approve or deny (as appropriate) permits, plans and emission reduction credits to improve efficiency and customer service at AQMD.
- 4) using community-based deployment of field personnel for:
- a) timely compliance determinations and prompt remediation of non-compliance, and
  - b) prompt resolution of community air quality complaints.
- 5) training field personnel to ensure consistent and fair field enforcement practice and good customer service,
- 6) implementing programs to inform the public and regulated sources on air quality and regulatory compliance, and
- 7) using civil penalties and criminal referrals strategically to incentivize compliance and to deter non-compliance.
- C. Ensure that New Source Review offset requirements are modernized for areas where the supply of offsets is limited, consistent with AQMD's clean air objectives.
- D. Work with the United States Congress, California Legislature, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, and other federal, state and local agencies and authorities, to obtain a proportionate fair share of funding for essential programs to reduce emissions.
- E. Work with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, and other federal, state and local government agencies to encourage and support efforts to reduce emissions from primarily federal and state sources, such as ships, trains, planes, and off-road engines. Seek/support legislative amendments necessary to reduce emissions from marine vessels and locomotives, as required by the AQMP to attain clean air standards.
- F. Continue partnering with utilities, faith communities, and educational groups and institutions, to embrace and involve all stakeholders as partners in reducing air pollution by developing and implementing programs that are technologically advanced, more energy efficient and less dependant on fossil fuels, cost-effective, and sensitive to business, environmental, and community interests. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, local, state and federal governments, small business owners/operators, other members of the regulated community, environmental and community leaders, students, and residents.

G. Promote programs to reduce mobile source emissions by:

- 1) reducing emissions from traditional diesel-powered vehicles,
- 2) supporting the increased use of clean-fuel and other low-emission vehicles and engines,
- 3) assisting employers, local governments, including Clean Cities, and the private sector in reducing mobile source emissions,
- 4) providing guidance and technical assistance to local governments to ensure AB 2766 funds are utilized for cost-effective and quantifiable mobile emission reduction programs,
- 5) seeking to obtain additional legal authority over mobile sources, only where necessary to reduce emission control burdens that will otherwise be placed on stationary sources or as necessary to attain federal or state standards,
- 6) partnering with state and federal agencies in developing engine/vehicle retrofit regulations,
- 7) achieving maximum emission reductions and cost-leveraging through the Carl Moyer Program, Proposition 1B, AB 118, and other similar emission reduction incentive programs, and
- 8) conducting gross emitting vehicle repair/retirement/replacement using remote sensing technology.

H. Facilitate development of new air quality-enhancing technology by:

- 1) encouraging public/private partnerships to develop new and innovative technologies,
- 2) reducing financial, bureaucratic, and technological barriers that limit the use of clean fuels and technologies,
- 3) promoting development of clean renewable and alternative electrical energy generation technologies,
- 4) supporting projects to reduce emissions from surface coatings and solvents,
- 5) working with all stakeholders to accomplish advanced technology goals, such as use of hydrogen fuel, fuel cells, plug-in hybrids, and review existing

regulatory requirements to minimize barriers to the development and commercialization of new lower-emitting technologies, and

6) reviewing existing regulatory requirements to minimize barriers to the development and commercialization of new lower-emitting technologies.

I. Continue to implement the Chairman's Clean Port Initiative, including taking the following actions:

1) adopting AQMD port backstop rules,

2) implementing enhanced port / community air monitoring program,

3) arranging and participating in port conferences and other actions to coordinate control actions with Asian ports,

4) monitoring and assisting with implementation of San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, and

5) monitoring and commenting on CEQA / NEPA documents for port projects.

J. Continue to enhance public health protection by offering additional health services to impacted communities, using primarily penalties and settlement funds.

K. Secure maximum levels of funding and promote the priority use of air quality criteria in allocating State bond funds resources for emission reduction projects in Southern California.

## II. ENHANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENSURE EQUITABLE TREATMENT FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

A. Continue to implement AQMD's Environmental Justice policies and programs, and other initiatives directed at equitable treatment for all communities through:

1) individual endeavors and a series of town hall meetings throughout AQMD's four-county region and mobile Board meetings in impacted areas,

2) actively seeking to increase the public's participation in, and understanding of, policies under development, including increased translation of materials into multiple languages, and meetings in areas where community members can more easily participate,

3) working with community groups to build partnerships on air quality issues, and addressing community-level and resident concerns and issues,

- 4) distributing incentive funding in a manner that emphasizes communities most impacted by air pollution and low income communities,
- 5) host quarterly meetings of the AQMD Environmental Justice Advisory Group,
- 6) actively providing comments on feasible methods and technologies to mitigate significant air quality impacts for new CEQA and NEPA projects in environmental justice areas,
- 7) working with stakeholders to revise AQMD's air quality analysis handbook for CEQA and NEPA documents, and
- 8) continuing to implement Board-adopted Environmental Justice initiatives and work plan commitments.

B. Continue to enhance AQMD's website as a two-way communication tool with up-to-date data, technical information, advice, and educational videos and literature for communities and business interests. Implement a web-based communication tool, including database management, for electronic outreach and education.

C. Enhance the air quality forecast and real-time air quality data portions of the website to provide residents with more up-to-date and user-friendly air quality information, particularly during wildfires.

D. Continue to promote and expand the AQMD's school air quality flag program as one tool for protecting children's health, as well as educating students about air quality.

E. Continue proactive media relations activities to increase media and public awareness of AQMD's programs and policies that support community/business efforts that create awareness and educate the public and businesses about the harmful impacts of mobile and other forms of emissions on public health, animals, wildlife, and the environment as a whole.

### III. OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AND IN A MANNER SENSITIVE TO BUSINESSES, THE PUBLIC AND AQMD STAFF

A. Administer an efficient and cost-effective organization to expeditiously clean the air while being sensitive to the operational needs of the AQMD's businesses by seeking innovative partnerships and programs to ensure compliance and minimize compliance costs.

- B. Develop a sound budget, reduce fee complexity, adjust fee schedules to recover AQMD's costs as appropriate, and target agency resources to environmental and economic priorities.
  - C. Continue to streamline all agency functions to enhance efficiency.
  - D. Administer effective human resources and development programs that ensure an open and fair recruitment and selection system and, in accordance with existing law, continue AQMD's equal employment opportunity efforts to ensure diverse applicant pools for open positions.
  - E. Review the skills, management, and deployment of current staff to enhance customer service and continue to seek ways to increase efficiency and productivity.
  - F. Continue AQMD's procurement processes to ensure that minority-, woman-, and disabled veteran-owned enterprises are fairly represented in accordance with existing law.
  - G. Develop a workforce recruitment and retention plan.
  - H. Recognize and enhance the special contributions, skills and creativity of the AQMD workforce.
- IV. OPERATE A "CLEAN AND GREEN" PROGRAM TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE STRATEGIES
- A. Continue to explore strategies for recognizing and implementing technologies and policies which reduce criteria pollutants, toxics, greenhouse gases and petroleum dependence, such as promoting incentives for plug-in hybrid electric, electric and natural gas vehicles, at the local, state and federal levels.
  - B. To further reduce global warming and smog-forming emissions, launch a Green Building Initiative to encourage both new and existing commercial/industrial buildings to utilize solar installation and to reduce energy, water use, vehicle miles traveled, and overall adverse impacts on the environment.
  - C. Develop goals and metrics to monitor progress toward sustainable internal operations. Commission a task force of internal staff and other external experts to develop recommendations for "re-greening" the AQMD headquarters building.
  - D. Partner and collaborate with other local, state and federal organizations to determine and implement "best green practices" to exemplify and showcase clean and green sustainable operations.

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