



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jane Carney, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Chairman
Greg Adams, L.A. County Sanitation District
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Daniel Cunningham, Metal Finishing Association
Jacob Haik, Councilwoman Janice Hahn
Barbara Hanna, Council Member, City of Banning
Kelly Moulton, Paralegal
Steve Mugg, South Orange County Representative, City of Mission Viejo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Loveridge, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Vice Chairman
Felipe Aguirre, Vice Mayor, City of Maywood
Geoffrey Blake, DriLube/All Metals
Eric Busch, Representative, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
James R. Krausz, Esq., Loma Linda University
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for EJ
Harold Martinez, Able Industrial Products, Inc.
Todd Priest, Representative, Orange County Business Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Earl Elrod, Board Member Assistant (*Yates*)

AQMD STAFF:

Oscar Abarca, Deputy Executive Officer
Leah Alfaro, Office Assistant
Mona Arteaga, Community Relations Manager
Dr. Elaine Chang, Deputy Executive Officer
Dr. Pom Pom Ganguli, Asst. Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
John Olvera, Deputy District Counsel
William Sanchez, Senior Public Affairs Manager
Gracie Tucker, Staff Specialist
Gregory Ushijima, Air Quality Engineer II
Vicki White, Air Quality Specialist
Patti Whiting, Staff Specialist
Jill Whynot, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Chair Jane Carney called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Chair Carney welcomed new committee member Ms. Barbara Hanna.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of June 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

June 15, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as presented

Follow-up Action Items

- Action item: Staff to identify those who are in opposition of SB 1028.
✓ Completed – There was no opposition.*
- Action item: Staff to prepare and e-mail AQMP summary and flyer to committee members.
✓ Completed – E-mailed after June 15, 2007 meeting.*
- Action item: Staff to inform committee where Flex O2 numbers on refinery measures came from and associated emission reductions.
✓ Completed – Dr. Elaine Chang to present information today.*
- Action item: Staff to receive clarification on the benefits of Low Carbon Fuel Standards.
✓ Completed – Handout provided today.*

Agenda Item #3 – Update on 2007 AQMP

Dr. Elaine Chang gave a presentation on updates to the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (see attached).

In response to the action item from the previous meeting, Dr. Chang replied that CM-Flex-O2 is a stationary source control measure called refinery pilot project that would allow refineries the flexibility to implement offsite projects to reduce emissions as opposed to what has traditionally been done, that the rules will specify the source category where reductions should come from. She added that there was significant concern by community members who wanted onsite reduction projects and mentioned that this still needs to go through the full public process.

Dr. Chang provided an overview of control measures that CARB will be including in the statewide strategy to close the gap for AQMD's PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration by 2015. The measures require all levels of government to do their fair share of reductions. For example, local governments are asked to spend 40% of their AB 2766 funds on SIP-creditable reduction projects and the U.S. EPA to contribute ten tons per day of NO_x reductions or sufficient funding to achieve equivalent reductions. In addition to the short-term strategies, the three agency staffs will prepare a white paper in the next four months to examine long-term strategies to address the 8-hour ozone "black box" commitment and future air quality standards.

Mr. Steve Mugg asked if the AB 2766 money, that can't be applied to preferred projects and returned to local governments, will be restricted or inhibited by the criteria. Dr. Chang replied that CARB can only provide guidelines that local governments voluntarily follow. She added

that smaller cities will be urged to pool their money together. Mr. Mugg asked if 4 tons of reductions can be extracted from smaller cities and contract cities. Dr. Chang replied that these reductions can be expected and that local governments have to look beyond their own fleets.

Mr. Mugg asked if reductions from airports have been addressed. Dr. Chang replied that the AQMP does not target reductions from aircraft, but airport-related ground support equipment are under CARB authority and funding can go to electrification of some of this equipment.

Mr. Greg Adams asked whether the agencies mentioned in the presentation include the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Dr. Chang confirmed this. Mr. Adams further asked if the federal reductions are a binding commitment. Dr. Chang replied that the AQMD considers the reductions as binding and that EPA staff understand and want to help the AQMD achieve its clean air goals. Mr. Adams asked who is running the Surplus Off-road Opt-in NOx (SOON) program working group. Dr. Chang replied that Henry Hogo, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Science & Technology Advancement, is the contact for that group.

Agenda Item #4 – Legislative Status Update

Mr. William Sanchez gave an update on federal and state legislation (see attached).

Mr. Jacob Haik asked about the postponement of Senate Bill 974. Mr. William Sanchez replied that what held the bill was the Governor's support, but that the Governor did reach out to work out the problems in the bill.

Agenda Item #5 – Dry Cleaning Grant Program – Extension of Financial Incentives Program

Mr. Gregory Ushijima gave a presentation regarding the dry cleaner grant programs (see attached).

Mr. Jacob Haik asked if the lack of professional wet cleaning grants was due to operators not thinking that the technology works. Dr. Pom Pom Ganguli stated that the hydrocarbon machines operate similar to the existing perc machines, so additional training is necessary for the professional wet cleaning systems.

A committee member asked how dry cleaners felt about the performance of the CO₂ machines. Dr. Ganguli replied that those who have used it claim it works well and can even work with leather.

Chair Carney commented that her local cleaner that switched to professional wet cleaning stated that they could not handle all types of clothing. Mr. Ushijima replied that some cleaners have said the same, but as cleaners become more familiar with the technology, become better trained, and use more improved washing solutions, fewer cleaners will have problems. She added that while the system is cheaper on electricity costs, there are additional labor costs. Dr. Ganguli replied that there are mixed responses to that from our consultant handling the demonstration program and he can give an overview of the current professional wet cleaning technology.

***Action item:** Peter Sinsheimer, Occidental College Pollution Prevention Center Professional Wet Cleaning Demonstration Program, to provide a presentation on current professional wet cleaning technology.*

Mr. Haik asked if the grant included training and whether that is enough. Dr. Ganguli replied that the Occidental College Pollution Prevention Center demonstration program includes training, as well as through the equipment vendors.

Mr. Adams asked why wet cleaning is prefaced with the word “professional.” Mr. Ushijima replied that the “professional” wet cleaning equipment is specialized with additional features compared to normal wet cleaning equipment. Dr. Ganguli added that the additional requirements on the equipment are to ensure proper operation and results. Ms. Jill Whynot added that the terminology was added to differentiate the common washer and dryer with the specialized wet cleaning system.

Mr. Daniel Cunningham asked what percentage of cleaners is in the grant program. Dr. Ganguli replied that there are about 1,300-1,400 cleaners with perc machines that are not part of the grant program.

Mr. Haik asked what the training difference was with the professional wet cleaning system. Mr. Ushijima replied that being able to handle and take care of the garments properly takes additional training.

Ms. Kelly Moulton asked in what languages the grant information was published and whether additional languages are needed. Mr. Ushijima replied that English, Spanish and Korean were used. Dr. Ganguli added that those are the prevalent languages used by the store owners/operators.

Chair Carney asked what percentage of the District are classified as Environmental Justice areas. Dr. Ganguli estimated that EJ areas represent approximately 30-40% of population of the District.

Mr. Mugg asked about the goal of the grant program. Ms. Whynot replied that the goal was to reduce approximately 800 tons of perc per year.

Agenda Item #6 – Update on Renewable Energy Projects in Communities Surrounding Electrical Generating Facilities

Ms. Vicki White gave a presentation on projects selected for funding as part of mitigation fees collected under Rule 1309.1 Priority Reserve (see attached).

Mr. Haik asked if individual owners applied for the residential component. Ms. White replied that the owners had to team-up with an installer to submit a proposal, and it was suggested to the owners that they seek at least three bids before choosing an installer. He also asked how homeowners are being notified in impacted areas. Ms. White replied that the AQMD hosted community informational meetings with small turnouts. She added that the installers, due to the competitive nature of this solicitation, have gone door-to-door to inform those in impacted areas.

Chair Carney asked whether staff is following technological improvements and/or encouraging its use. Ms. White replied that staff is aware of the new technologies and is encouraging its use.

Agenda Item #7 – Report on AB 32 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Ms. Jill Whynot gave a presentation on AB 32 (see attached).

Mr. Cunningham asked whether staff is afraid of double counting of CO₂ emissions that is reported to the state and AQMD, through annual emissions reporting. Ms. Whynot replied that CO₂ emissions are not currently reported to AQMD, and there will be no double counting since the calculated emissions will be compared, not added.

Agenda Item #8 - Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities

No comment.

Agenda Item #9 - Other Business

None.

Agenda Item #10 - Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item #11 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.