
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Larry R. Allen, APCO
San Luis Obispo County APCD

Michael Villegas, APCO
Ventura County APCD

Dave Van Mullem, APCO
Santa Barbara County APCD

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Debbie Arnold
5th District Supervisor
San Luis Obispo County

Mike Morgan
Council Member, City of Camarillo
Ventura County

Janet Wolf
2nd District Supervisor
Santa Barbara County

MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2014

Present

Council Members: Jan Marx, San Luis Obispo County (for Debbie Arnold)
Mike Morgan, Ventura County
Janet Wolf, Santa Barbara County

Staff: Larry Allen, San Luis Obispo County
Michael Villegas, Ventura County
Dave Van Mullem, Santa Barbara County
Alyssa Roslan, San Luis Obispo County (Minutes)

1. Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2014

On a motion by Janet Wolf, with a second by Jan Marx, meeting minutes from May 14, 2014 are approved.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments, however, one member of the public present for the meeting; Erica McColottie of ERS Consulting Firm.

3. Update on Marine Shipping – Dave Van Mullem & Mike Villegas

In 2008, Emissions Inventory revealed over 50% of Santa Barbara County's emissions were from marine shipping; totaling almost 8,000 trips per year. In or around the same time frame, the state adopted the low- sulfur fuel rule. In 2010, EPA adopted a regulation to keep vessels using low-sulfur fuel 200 miles out to sea, which had little effect on vessels in California until recently. In 2016, new engines will begin meeting a higher emission standard. An incentive program designed to slow transport vessels down is proposed to reduce emissions until vessel engine replacement emission reductions are realized. Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are already using an incentive program, with a high success rate. Out of 38 qualified, 32 transits can receive funds.

4. Update on SLOCAPCD Dunes Dust Rule Implementation – Larry Allen

State Parks and Friends of Oceano Dunes (FOD) initiated law suits regarding the District's dust rule which were initially won by APCD and then promptly appealed. APCD, State Parks and ARB worked together through a series of meetings in Sacramento to develop a Consent Decree that provided a mechanism to implement the rule without a permit, resulting in State Parks dropping their appeal. The Consent Decree establishes a three step dispute resolution process to help resolve any compliance issues. The Consent Decree was submitted to the Appeals Court for approval and was requested to be remanded to the Superior Court for implementation; included in that request was a motion to deny the FOD appeal. The request was denied and a hearing date is expected to be scheduled in the very near future.

State Parks conducted their own study last summer which confirmed the APCD's Phase 2 Study results and demonstrated the riding areas are 5 to 8 times more emissive than non-riding areas. They have installed hay bales on more than 30 acres of non-riding area and applied 15 acres of wind fences in the riding area in an effort to reduce PM levels below the federal standard. State Parks and APCD have agreed on the location of the monitoring sites required by the rule, and have also have agreed to form a Technical team comprised of APCD, ARB and State Parks technical staff to jointly review all future data rather than generating individual data and analyses. There is still no permanent mitigation in place yet.

5. CA Adaptation Forum – Dave Van Mullem & Larry Allen

The California Climate Adaptation Forum, only the 2nd conference of its kind, was held in Sacramento on August 19th & 20th, 2014 with over 800 attendees. Its overall message was that climate change is occurring now with widespread impacts and adaptation strategies must be implemented. Notable comments and facts from the conference included the following: water content is at an all-time low, while fire danger is at an all-time high, and 50% of California's most damaging fires have occurred since 2003. Sacramento Metropolitan Utility Department developed a Climate Readiness Strategy in 2012 and looked at intense heat events, determining that we aren't getting as much nighttime cooling as previously, which is affecting power equipment. Almost 80,000 farms and ranches may suffer significant impacts with this drought. Long term, expect to see a 60% reduction in cherry crops, new pests as a result of rising temperatures, increasing costs and a shift in where crops can grow. Dry farming is suggested for many crops; even though it would produce lower yields, it would produce a better product, with grapes in particular.

6. Project XL Emission Reduction Credits – Mike Villegas

"Project XL" was an U.S. EPA program that allowed companies flexible permits in return for superior environmental performance. Imation was a company that produced magnetic tapes; a process which uses large amounts of solvents, generating significant emissions. As part of Project XL, Imation donated 55 tons per year of ROC emission reduction credits to the Ventura County APCD. The Economic development Collaborative of Ventura County is tasked with making recommendations on how to allocate those credits. The credits have a conservative value of about 2.2 million dollars and proceeds would be intended for additional clean air projects.

There are many criteria to determine which companies would qualify for the emission reduction credits, such as if the project's emissions will be less toxic and reactive than the compounds emitted by Imation. Ventura County APCD staff is working with environmental and social justice groups to reach consensus on this criteria. , For example, a Health Risk Assessment will be recommended to determine if the air toxics criteria is met.

7. Drought and its Effects on Local Air Quality – All

Mr. Van Mullem reports that Santa Barbara County has seen some exceedences of the 8 hour federal standard for ozone and was concerned could be deemed non-attainment for the federal standard; however, through the summer they have only seen an isolated number of exceedences. San Luis Obispo County normally sees increased ozone levels in the eastern portion of the county due to transport, but the dry conditions have reduced the frequency of the inversion layer, improving the ozone levels in these impacted areas. The drought has had a considerably higher impact on PM 2.5 and PM10 than it has on ozone levels. However, it is very hard to prove to EPA that the exceedences are due to the drought and should be considered an "exceptional event."

The California Air Resources Board is looking for solutions for the state as a whole, but in the meantime San Luis Obispo County is looking for strategies to mitigate PM levels from projects while being drought conscious. Mr. Morgan reports that Camarillo is implementing a de-salter to utilize the brine water source below the city.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Confirm Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting Date - December 17th, 2014 @ 9:00am

10. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.