

Agenda Date: January 15, 2015
Agenda Placement: Admin
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Molly Pearson, Planning & Grants Supervisor (961-8838)

SUBJECT: Update of District *Environmental Review Guidelines* Document

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file information on the District's update of its *Environmental Review Guidelines*.

BACKGROUND:

In April, 2014, District staff began a public process to update the District's *Environmental Review Guidelines* to include guidance for evaluating the significance of greenhouse gases from new or modified stationary sources. Updates on this effort were provided to your Board on May 15 and August 21, 2014. Another update follows; additional information on this effort can be found at the District website at www.ourair.org/greenhouse-gases-and-ceqa.

DISCUSSION:

Review of Public Process

The District held public workshops in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara in May of 2014, and received verbal and written input before, during, and after these workshops from numerous individuals and groups. Notes from the May workshops are available on the District website. Upon request from interested parties, District staff also held two stakeholder meetings at the District's Santa Barbara office that were open to the public.

The following groups submitted written input after the May workshops:

- League of Women Voters
- Private Citizen
- Environmental Defense Center (EDC) & Community Environmental Council (CEC)
- City of Santa Maria
- California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA) & Coastal Operators Group (COG)
- Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA)
- Latham & Watkins on behalf of Pacific Coast Energy Company (PCEC)

After reviewing the input received, District staff evaluated a number of options, and prepared summaries of four options for consideration. On December 3, 2014 we held another publicly noticed workshop where we summarized the input we received from the public, as well as an in-depth discussion of the four options under consideration. Well in advance of the workshop, materials were posted to the District's website, email notices were sent to our list of interested parties including your Board, and the workshop notice was published in several local papers. The December 3 public workshop was well attended (approximately 30 attendees) and there was extensive discussion of the options under consideration. We have requested that any written input on these options be submitted by January 16, 2015.

Next Steps

Upon review of comments, we intend to develop a staff report that includes final threshold options. We would then present the report to our Community Advisory Council as soon as practicable. The CAC meeting would be jointly scheduled with a public workshop that would precede the CAC meeting, and all materials would be made available to the public in advance.

We continue to strive for an open and transparent process. Inquiries and input on the project and the process should be directed to Molly Pearson, Planning & Grants Supervisor, at 961-8838 or at the CEQA@sbcapcd.org email address.