

Agenda Date: August 20, 2009
Agenda Placement: Admin
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

SUBJECT: Minutes of the February 18, 2009 South Central Coast BCC Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the attached minutes from the February 18, 2009 meeting of the South Central Coast Basinwide Control Council.

DISCUSSION:

The Health and Safety Code (Section 40900) requires that each air basin, which is comprised of two or more air pollution control districts, establish a basinwide air pollution control council. This council is intended to promote coordination of air pollution control efforts throughout the air basin. The council receives reports on rule development and planning efforts, the anticipated effect of state and federal actions, and other issues of interest.

The South Central Coast BCC meets quarterly and consists of one Board Member, appointed by the Air Pollution Control Board, from each of the following Districts: San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and Ventura County. As you may recall, Eric Onnen was appointed by your Board at the January 15, 2009 meeting to represent Santa Barbara County on this Council.

The attached minutes summarize the February 2009 Central Coast Basinwide Control Council meeting. We provide such minutes to your Board on a regular basis.

**SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL**

**Ventura County APCD
669 County Square Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
805-645-1400**

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Larry R. Allen, APCO
San Luis Obispo County APCD

Michael Villegas, APCO
Ventura County APCD

Terence E. Dressler, APCO
Santa Barbara County APCD

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Karen Bright
Council Member, City of Grover Beach

Mike Morgan
Council Member, City of Camarillo

Eric Onnen
Council Member, City of Goleta

**MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2009**

Present

Council Members: Mike Morgan, Ventura County
Eric Onnen, Santa Barbara County
Karen Bright, San Luis Obispo County

Staff: Mike Villegas, Ventura County
Terry Dressler, Santa Barbara County
Larry Allen, San Luis Obispo County
Kim Johnson, San Luis Obispo County

1. **Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2008**
Onnen/Bright Minutes Approved
2. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**
Chair: Mike Morgan
Vice Chair: Eric Onnen
3. **ARB's Proposed Greenhouse Gas Refrigerant Regulation (*Mike Villegas*)**

Refrigerants from grocery stores, office buildings etc. are high global warming potential greenhouse gases (GHG) and will need to be regulated. At present, it is easier and cheaper to replace refrigerant when leaking rather than maintaining the equipment. The regulation will require leak detection and maintenance procedures and reporting requirements. The regulation will be phased in starting with large (over 2,000 lb of refrigerant) and medium sources (200-2,000 lb) beginning in 2011; regulation of small sources (50-200 lbs) begins in 2013. ARB has assumed that the large districts will enforce the regulation with their own staff, while medium and rural districts can choose to have ARB implement the regulation. ARB estimates that Ventura County has 70 large, 600 medium and over 4,000 small sources. Enforcement costs could almost equal one position. Larry Allen noted that SLO cannot add this workload to existing staff. As proposed, inspections will be required every 2 years for large sources, every 5

years for medium sources, and only spot checks for small sources. There was discussion on taxing refrigerants; it was also noted that any tax would need to be applied nationwide, to avoid smuggling and black market deals with unregulated gases from different states. It was also noted that mobile refrigerated trucks have not been targeted for regulation to date.

Districts are working with ARB to work out resources issues before implementing the entire AB 32 compliance plan to understand all staff resource needs, rather than attempting to deal with these issues rule by rule.

4. **CEQA Thresholds for Greenhouse Gases (*Terry Dressler*)**

ARB was charged with providing guidance on how to establish CEQA significance thresholds for greenhouse gases. That guidance has not been developed, so individual jurisdictions are moving forward to develop their own thresholds to avoid lawsuits from the Attorney General. Having individual jurisdictions establish their own thresholds is a concern to air districts, since GHG impacts are global rather than local in nature. CAPCOA is continuing to apply pressure on ARB to act on this. There is now an urgency to the situation but it still needs a lot of deliberation. CAPCOA is putting together a task force to identify a range of mitigation strategies to reduce GHG. The team will quantify the actual GHG benefit of a variety of mitigation standards, but it will take at least a year to produce something that streamline the process. CEQA thresholds may be an interim strategy until SB275 is implemented. 20% of GHG is how water is moved and used in the state. Saving water will also reduce GHG.

5. **SB 375 Update and Implementation Efforts in San Luis Obispo County (*Larry Allen*)**

This requires ARB to establish GHG reduction targets for each Metropolitan Planning Jurisdiction (MPO) in the state by Sept. 2010. An advisory committee is to be established by Sept. 2009 to develop criteria for setting targets. ARB is to be responsible for reviewing and approving the modeled reductions for the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The AB 32 Scoping Plan assumes a 3% reduction in VMT by 2020 from better planning in transportation and land use. Regional VMT will have to be reduced or stay the same to meet the target. Because of the timeline, the RTP updates will not be in sync with regulatory target schedule. SLO is asking COG to work on SCP and put off TRP update to avoid being behind. A technical and policy working group would be established to provide assistance in developing the RTP and develop interim targets. SLO is working with all jurisdictions on their GHG inventories and Climate Action Plans. This may not be complete by early 2009 to meet the deadlines.

6. **ARB's Proposed Vessel Speed Reduction Regulation (*Mike Villegas*)**

A proposal to reduce diesel particulate matter emissions and health risk from container ships was discussed. The shipping lanes come close to the coast in Ventura and Santa Barbara County, and there is a significant impact from these ships. One mitigation factor would be a 12 nautical mile speed limit on ships traveling within 24-40 nautical miles of shore. The average vessel speed through the Santa Barbara channel is 20-25 knots. ARB is considering a voluntary speed reduction program, and also a regulation with ARB enforcement. There is concern that a speed limit would cause the ships to try and make up time in unregulated areas. The U.S. Navy has concerns some ships would pass through their missile range.

A reduced speed limit 24 nautical miles offshore would result in a 20% reduction in PM and 21% NOx reduction; extending the speed limit 40 nautical miles offshore would provide a 32% reduction in particulate matter and 25% reduction in NOx emissions. EPA is working with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on a regulation to limit emissions from new vessels, with perhaps some retrofit requirements for older vessels. The IMO regulates both U.S. and foreign vessels, while EPA has jurisdiction over U.S. vessels. It was noted that ship traffic has

actually been reduced due to economic issues. There was discussion about the widening of the Panama Canal, which will change shipping routes and use of West Coast ports. This will help from a GHG and energy standpoint.

7. **SLOAPCD Multi-Pollutant Clean Air Plan and Pending Federal Nonattainment Status**
(Larry Allen)

SLO APCD is set to embark on a multi-pollutant Clean Air Plan to address nonattainment of state PM and ozone standards, along with toxics and GHG. This update is required by law due to SLO County redesignation as a nonattainment area for ozone. This will be a two year process, with about half the District staff involved and a Community Advisory Committee to provide input and review draft plan elements. The ozone element will look at all feasible measures; the GHG section will incorporate elements of the AB 32 Scoping Plan as well as local measures; the PM element will include all feasible measures previously adopted by the Board; and the Air Toxics section will incorporate the Toxic Risk Management Plan currently under development.

Related to the CAP, for the first time SLO County is about to be designated nonattainment for the Federal ozone standard. Designation is based on the average of the fourth highest ozone concentration in a three year consecutive period. Nonattainment is determined if that total average is above the federal 8 hour ozone standard of .075 ppm. The only two places in SLO County where the standard is exceeded are at high elevation monitoring sites in the East County, located in the Red Hills and Carrizo Plains. The design value at Red Hills is .088 ppm and .084 ppm at Carrizo; the next highest ozone design value in the county is .068 ppm at Paso Robles.

Six new areas in the state will be designated federal nonattainment due to the new ozone standard. Of these, five are being recommended by ARB for limited area designations because they are all high elevation monitoring sites with limited population in the area; SLO County is the only one of those six areas for which ARB is recommending the entire county be designated nonattainment. APCD staff have requested ARB to limit our nonattainment designation to only the east portion of the county and provided them with substantial technical analyses showing transport from San Joaquin Valley and Monterey County on several high ozone days. ARB reviewed the information we provided but disagreed with our analysis and decided they would not change their recommendation.

8. **Other Business/Next Meeting Date**

Mr. Morgan discussed the “windmill of the future” which is being held up due to financial reasons at this point.

2009 Meeting Dates: June 17, September 16, December 16

9. **Adjourn – 11:45 a.m.**