

Date: May 12, 2016

To: Gateway Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors
South Bay Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors
Westside Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors
Las Virgenes – Malibu Council of Governments Board of Directors
League of Cities LA County Division Board of Directors

From: Judith Mitchell, Governing Board Member, South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and California Air Resources (ARB) Board

Subject: Recap of March and April 2016 AQMD Governing Board Meetings and Other AQMD/CARB Activities

AQMD

The AQMD Governing Board met on **April 1 and 8, 2016** at the AQMD Headquarters in Diamond Bar. Key items presented are summarized below:

- **Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee:** The Board approved the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee's recommendations for local funding awards, including a contract with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for \$128,500 to provide special bus service to Angel Stadium, and a contract with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for \$2.5 million for expansion of the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks transit station in South Los Angeles.
- **Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) Development:** The Board received an update on the development of the AQMP, including a discussion on the current control strategy concepts and major policy questions related to this document. The presentation to the Board can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/clean-air-plans/air-quality-management-plans/2016-air-quality-management-plan/aqmp-fine-apr1-final.pdf?sfvrsn=2> For complete details on the AQMP, please visit <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/clean-air-plans/air-quality-mgt-plan>
- **Support for Aliso Canyon health study:** The Board approved a \$600,000 contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide independent guidance for a health study to address community concerns related to the gas leak. More information on how AQMD has responded to the Aliso Canyon incident, can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/aliso-canyon-update>

- **Sunshine Canyon Town Hall Meeting** – AQMD hosted a town hall meeting at Van Gogh Elementary School on April 21, 2016 to discuss air quality and odor issues related to Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL). A presentation was made about AQMD activities associated with SCL, including possible sources of odor on site, complaint response and enforcement actions, air quality monitoring activities, and improvements made in SCL’s permitted landfill gas collection system, as well as health impacts from air monitoring data. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled during the week of June 6 to provide feedback to local community members on implementation of next steps. More details can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/sunshine-canyon-landfill/town-hall-meetings>
- **ExxonMobil Refinery:** On February 18, 2015, while ExxonMobil was conducting maintenance on its Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (“FCCU”), an explosion occurred in its Electrostatic Precipitators (“ESP”). The ESPs control air pollution, and the explosion rendered the ESPs totally inoperable. The FCCU has remained completely shut down since the explosion. ExxonMobil has repaired the ESPs and is now planning to re-start the FCCU and associated equipment, including the air pollution control system.

AQMD recently held a public hearing on April 2, 2016 to address the issue, following testimony from AQMD staff, Exxon Mobil representatives, and members of the public. The AQMD Hearing Board issued an Order of Abatement to ExxonMobil that is designed to minimize emissions and protect the health and safety of nearby residents while the refinery restarts its major gasoline-producing unit and effectively resumes full operations.

The abatement order requires that **ExxonMobil must notify the public, by placing door hangers on all residences and businesses within one (1) mile from the ESPs, at least 48 hours in advance of its intent to de-energize ESPs**, introduce torch oil to the FCCU, energize the ESPs as the torch oil continues to heat, and commence catalyst recirculation. The door hangers will state that ExxonMobil intends to begin these activities within no less than 48 hours. The hangers will also provide instructions to sign up for Torrance Alerts, operated by the City of Torrance, for those wishing to be notified by email and/or phone. Residents can sign up for these alerts at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736722522#/login>

ExxonMobil has repaired the ESPs and is planning to re-start the FCCU and associated equipment, including the air pollution control system in May. More details can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/exxonmobil-refinery>

- **Tesoro Refining & Marketing Co. Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance Project (project):** Tesoro plans to invest more than \$460 million to physically connect, further integrate and upgrade their Carson and Wilmington facilities. The Draft EIR has been published, with the comment period closing May 24. The AQMD is holding a public meeting to discuss the proposed revisions to the existing permits for the Carson site (2350 E. 223rd Street Carson, CA 90810) and Wilmington

Site (2101 E. Pacific Coast Highway Wilmington, CA 90744). The meeting will be held on May 17, 2016, 6 –8 pm, Carson Center, 801 East Carson Street Carson, CA 90745. More details can be found at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/about/public-notices/public-hearings>

California Air Resources Board (ARB) Activities

- **AQMD RECLAIM program:** The CARB Board had an informal discussion pertaining to the AQMD's December 2015 adoption of amendments to its market-based RECLAIM program. In response to Board member questions, Executive Officer Richard Corey summarized concerns with the amendments and the role that RECLAIM plays in the South Coast's upcoming AQMP for meeting particulate matter and ozone standards. Mr. Corey also described ARB's oversight responsibilities under the Health and Safety code. Board members requested that staff keep the Board apprised of progress in reviewing the RECLAIM amendments and the development of the AQMP.
- **Proposed Southern California Consolidation Project:** The CARB Board considered the staff's recommendation regarding a site for the proposed new motor vehicle emission-testing laboratory in Southern California. Following the Board's deliberations, the Board voted 8-3 in favor of the Riverside site, located on Iowa Avenue near the intersection of University Avenue and Iowa Avenue. The Board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for a 30-day review period.
- **Aliso Canyon:** CARB and AQMD are jointly making ground level measurements around the sealed well to understand how residual methane still in the soil after the well has been sealed continues off gassing releasing small amounts of methane into the atmosphere. ARB and AQMD will continue to monitor the off gassing methane. More details, including daily measurements, can be found at:
http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/aliso_canyon_natural_gas_leak.htm

Pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation of January 6, 2016, ARB has developed a Climate Impacts Mitigation Program to mitigate the methane emissions from the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak. The complete report can be found at:

http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/aliso_canyon/arb_aliso_canyon_methane_leak_climate_impacts_mitigation_program.pdf

- **California Sustainable Freight Action Plan:** Work continues on the action plan to develop an integrated action plan by July 2016 that establishes clear targets to improve freight efficiency, transition to zero-emission technologies, and increase the competitiveness of California's economy. ARB continues to be a partner on this effort. More details, including projects that were submitted by Southern California parties, can be found at http://dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/cs_freight_action_plan/main.html

- **Cool California:** The cities of Claremont, Long Beach and Burlingame were honored on April 21, 2016 as the winners of the CoolCalifornia Challenge at the Green California Summit in Sacramento. This year's challenge saw nearly 3,200 households engaged in a valiant effort to reduce their energy use, saving 5,638 metric tons of carbon dioxide over the energy saving actions' lifetime, the equivalent of removing more than 2,500 California homes or over 1,100 cars from the road for a year, according to the results. Nearby cities that made the top 10 were South Pasadena, Huntington Beach and Lynwood,

For more information about CoolCalifornia Challenge, in partnership with Energy Upgrade California, please visit <http://www.energyupgradeca.org/en/see-whats-new-and-fun/campaigns/coolcalifornia-challenge/challenge>