

AIR RESOURCES BOARD – MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

Public Meeting Held on
April 23, 2015

NOTE: This is a brief, informal summary of the public Board meeting and is meant to convey an overview of the items and the discussions related to them. This summary is not considered as an official description of the meeting or of the Board's direction to staff. The transcript serves as the official recording of the meeting and is posted on ARB's web page about two weeks after the meeting and can be found at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/board/meetings.htm#future>

The April 23, 2015, Air Resources Board meeting was held in Sacramento, at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building. Key items presented are summarized below.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

15-3-1: Fifth Annual Report from the Office of Ombudsman 2014

The Board heard a presentation by the Ombudsman on enhancements to the Ombudsman's office that has occurred during the last five years and the office's focus going forward. The Ombudsman is responsible for connecting with California small business owners and related stakeholders and engaging them on ARB policies and regulations. The Ombudsman's office has improved compliance assistance and outreach for major ARB programs including Refrigeration Management and Truck and Bus, and has established the Small Business Opportunities Advisory Panel which will be a large part of activities in the future.

15-3-2: Public Hearing to Consider Amendments to Certification Procedure for Vapor Recovery Systems at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities: Aboveground Storage Tanks and Enhanced Conventional Nozzles

The Board adopted amendments to the gasoline vapor recovery regulations. These amendments will establish new performance standards and specifications for nozzles used at fleet facilities that exclusively refuel vehicles equipped with onboard vapor recovery systems, provide regulatory relief for owners of certain existing aboveground storage tanks, and ensure that mass-produced vapor recovery equipment matches the specifications of equipment evaluated during the Air Resources Board certification process.

15-3-3: Update to the Board on Vehicle Emissions Research

The Board heard an overview of recent and ongoing extramural and in-house research studies to reduce emissions from vehicles. Staff described studies focused on both the light- and heavy-duty sectors to evaluate emissions of current fleets and to help guide the transition to zero- and near-zero emission technologies. Studies using remote sensing, roadside measurements, and Portable Emissions Measurement Systems have demonstrated a 99 percent reduction in light-duty emission rates over 20 years. For heavy-duty trucks, the effects of programs including the Drayage and Truck and Bus rules have been seen in studies showing a 70 percent reduction in black carbon emission rates over just 2 years.

15-3-4: Update to the Board on Sustainable Freight Strategy

The Board heard a briefing by staff on the discussion draft of the report Sustainable Freight: Pathways to Zero and Near-Zero Emissions. The staff presentation highlighted the strides California has already made in reducing emissions of NO_x, SO_x, and PM from freight sources. Staff also outlined immediate actions, near-term action, and a vision for the future on a path to zero and near-zero emissions. In addition to increased efficiency throughout the freight transportation system, the report looks towards complete transition to zero- and near-zero emission technology and renewable fuels with the goal of a sustainable freight system that supports environmental, energy, transportation, and economic objectives. The Board approved a resolution that directed staff to continue to engage stakeholders, evaluate and develop potential measures and other policy approaches, and coordinate with the local air districts during the 2016 State Implementation plan (SIP) development process on freight- related measures for the SIP. Lastly, the Board directed staff to work with the State's transportation, economic, and energy agencies on a broad Sustainable Freight Strategy.