

JUNE 17, 2020

## **AGENCY REPORT TO SBCCOG – Judy Mitchell**

### **SCAQMD Governing Board Meeting**

The Governing Board met on June 5 via Zoom. Public Hearings covered (1) revisions to Rule 445 re wood-burning devices; (2) amendments to Rule 1117 re emissions from glass-melting and sodium silicate furnaces; (3) approval of Reasonably Available Control Technology Demonstration and Emissions Statement and Certification.

In addition, the Board heard a report on the impacts of COVID 19 on emission reductions and air quality. Changes are influenced by economic activity and meteorology. Port cargo is down 11%, regional airport flights are down 61%; vehicle activity on freeways are reduced for cars 25 – 43% and for trucks 12-26%. NOx emissions decreased 17-20% from mid-March to mid-May. However, high ozone levels were detected in late April and early May. Staff is conducting studies on this phenomenon. The cause may be the relationship between NOx and VOC ratios. Increases in VOCs (consumer products like hand sanitizers and cleaning products) interacting with NOx could cause high ozone levels.

### **Replace Your Ride**

2020 marks the fifth year of our highly successful Replace Your Ride Program, which offers up to \$9,500 to low-income residences to scrap their older vehicle and replace it with a cleaner vehicle. Replace Your Ride is currently funding up to \$500,000 weekly towards vouchers. 93% of the participants to date have been in disadvantaged communities, and a majority of the participants are at the lowest federal poverty level. The funding amount is the same for used vehicles and over 60% of the funded vehicles are used. The program serves as a nice landing spot for good condition used clean cars like those from lease returns. If the replacement vehicle is eligible for other state incentive programs, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, the participant can stack both incentives and it further lowers the cost of purchase. In addition to a clean vehicle, participants can also receive up to \$2,000 to have a vehicle charger installed at their home.

### **MOU with the Ports**

Emissions associated with the Ports complex represent the largest source of NOx emissions in our region. NOx is the key pollutant that drives our ozone levels, and also contributes to fine particulate levels. We have been working with the Ports to develop an MOU in lieu of an Indirect Source Rule regulation to reduce emissions associated with the Ports. The MOU will include specific commitments by the Ports regarding elements of their Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) that the Ports will implement to reduce emissions.

Trucks are the biggest opportunity for emission reductions as the Ports have limited ability to control vessel emissions. As part of the CAAP the Ports committed to develop a Clean Truck Program - a program to encourage and incentivize cleaner drayage trucks by charging a fee on drayage trucks and then exempting or providing a rebate for cleaner trucks. The revenue generated from the Clean Truck Program would then be used to provide incentives to purchase cleaner trucks. In March 2020 the Ports Board of Harbor Commissioners adopted a truck fee of \$10/TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) for the Clean Truck Program - basically a \$20/truck fee. This rate is estimated to generate approximately \$90 million/year. The details of the Clean Truck Program still need to be developed. South Coast AQMD, CARB and the Ports are working together to develop this program. Once developed, the details will be included in the MOU. The Ports are targeting to start implementing the Clean Truck Program in 2021.

### **Voter District Authorization Legislation**

SCAQMD has considered legislation to establish a voter district in the SCAQMD district ( SB732 authorized by Ben Allen). The District opted to make it a two-year bill last year due to opposition by Building Trades and numerous agencies concerned about their own sales tax initiatives on the ballot. The District has decided not to pursue the bill this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **California Air Resources Board (CARB)**

CARB will meet for two days on June 25-26. They will undertake two significant new regulations. The first is the AT-Berth regulation governing vessels that call on the California ports and requires certain emission reductions to be realized at berth with timeline schedules for vessel classifications. The second is the Advanced Clean Trucks regulation which requires truck manufacturers to meet certain percentages of sales of zero emission trucks in all truck classes in the state by timelines beginning in 2024.

### **SCAG**

SCAG met for its General Assembly on June 4 by Zoom. The assembly ratified the new officers: Rex Richardson (Long Beach) President; Clint Lorimore (Eastvale) First Vice-President; Jan Harnik (Palm Desert) Second Vice-President. The assembly also adopted the budget and the membership assessment schedule.