

**DATE:** September 9, 2013

**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 AQMD

**RE:** Update on South Coast AQMD and California Air Resources Board (ARB) Activities

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### September 6, 2013 Board Meeting

The AQMD Board met on **Friday, September 6, 2013** at 9:00 am in the AQMD Auditorium, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar. The Board approved the following items that may be of interest to your cities:

- ◇ **RFI Release to Develop and Demonstrate Natural Gas Passenger and Freight Locomotives:** The AQMD released two Requests for Information to solicit strategies from qualified entities on technologies to reduce NoX and PM emissions beyond Tier 4 levels from natural gas locomotive engines for both passenger and freight locomotives. The technologies can include, but are not limited, to **locomotive engines fueled by dedicated natural gas fuel, a dual fuel (natural gas and diesel), or a combination of natural gas and diesel, where diesel provides energy for auto-ignition of natural gas injection under all conditions.**

Based on the information received, AQMD staff will evaluate the funding levels needed to conduct a LNG locomotive demonstration and will recommend to the Board at a future date, one or more RFPs to solicit more detailed proposals.

Concept papers are due to the AQMD no later than 1 p.m. on **December 6, 2013.** For more information, please visit [http://www.aqmd.gov/gb\\_comit/technology/2012-13/t20130719.html](http://www.aqmd.gov/gb_comit/technology/2012-13/t20130719.html). You may also contact Richard Carlson at [rcarlson@aqmd.gov](mailto:rcarlson@aqmd.gov) or 909-396-2599.

- ◇ **RFP Release to Solicit Battery Electric Vehicles and Provide Buy Down Incentives for Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers:** AQMD recently won a \$1 million award from the U.S. EPA to provide funding for truck replacements. A previous RFP was released but there were inadequate qualified responses. Staff worked with EPA to increase the eligible vehicle model years. A new RFP was approved to replace on-road medium heavy-duty diesel trucks with battery electric vehicles and provide buy-down incentives for EV chargers. The targeted communities include the Boyle

Height neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles. The RFP (#P2014-02) will close on **October 8, 2013**. For more details, contact Brian Choe at [bchoe@aqmd.gov](mailto:bchoe@aqmd.gov).

- ◇ **RFP Release for DC Fast Charging Network Provider and Education Outreach Consultant:** AQMD was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant from the California Energy Commission for installation of a DC fast charging network for plug-in electric vehicles at grocery stores along major freeway corridors in the South Coast Air Basin. The RFP was approved by the Board and will close on **October 18, 2013**. For more details, contact Patricia Kwon at [pkwon@aqmd.gov](mailto:pkwon@aqmd.gov).

### **Events** **25th Annual Clean Air Awards Luncheon**

The Clean Air Awards will be held on **October 4, 2013** at 11:30 am at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel – Biltmore Bowl, 506 South Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

Each year, the SCAQMD recognizes companies, organizations and individuals who have made a significant contribution to cleaning the air and creating a more sustainable economy. Awards are presented in the following categories:

- ◇ Advancement of Air Pollution Control Technology
- ◇ Innovative Transportation Projects
- ◇ Model Community Achievements
- ◇ Public Education on Air Quality Issues
- ◇ Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship

Additional awards are the S. Roy Wilson Memorial Award for Leadership in Government and the Robert M. Zweig M.D. Award for outstanding contributions in the field of medicine or air pollution health research

Reservations are being accepted to attend the 25th Annual Clean Air Awards luncheon. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$400 for a table of 10. To make a reservation or request more information please call (909) 396-2221, or e-mail [caawards@aqmd.gov](mailto:caawards@aqmd.gov) or you can register online at <http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/CleanAirAwards.htm>

### **Update on AQMD Rules** **Balanced Measure Governing Beach Bonfires Adopted by Board**

In July, the AQMD Board adopted an open burning rule that will better protect public health while preserving the availability of fire pits for recreation at Southland beaches. Under the measure, beach bonfires will continue to be allowed in Los Angeles and Orange Counties as long as a city has not made a determination based on state law that smoke from fire pits poses a nuisance.

Following 2.5 hours of public testimony, the AQMD Board voted to approve amendments to its Rule 444 – Open Burning. The regulation applies to the estimated 686 fire rings in Orange County and 79 in Los Angeles County.

In addition, effective **March 1, 2014**, fire pits can remain if:

- They are located at least 700 feet from the nearest residence; OR
- They are at least 100 feet apart (If a city has 15 or fewer fire pits, they must be separated by at least 50 feet) and
- Air quality for fine particulates (PM2.5) in coastal areas is not forecast to exceed 100 on the Air Quality Index. (This is expected to occur infrequently under special meteorological conditions.)

Fire pits at Dockweiler State Beach, Huntington City Beach, and Bolsa Chica State Beach are not expected to be affected by the distance criteria. All 60 of the fire rings in the City of Newport Beach (at Corona Del Mar State Beach and Balboa Beach) would have to be better dispersed and/or moved to another beach in the city to meet the rule's spacing requirements. In addition, a few dozen fire rings at Huntington State Beach and other beaches would have to be dispersed at greater distances.

The Board's action enhances each cities' local control by requiring removal of fire pits in cities or counties that made a determination based on state law that the fires are causing a nuisance. Such determination would need to be made in a publicly noticed meeting by a vote of the city council or county board of supervisors.

The Board also approved other provisions as follows:

- Any future AQMD actions affecting beach fire pits would be voluntary and not regulatory in nature
- Approved an exemption for fire pits in areas specifically constructed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Issued a request for bids to design and demonstrate up to 25 low-emission fire rings fueled by sources other than wood such as propane or natural gas. Potential demonstration sites include Big Corona beach and the Balboa Pier area in Newport Beach and state beaches in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

AQMD also will work cooperatively with local and state agencies to develop outreach programs to help raise awareness of the potential health impacts of wood smoke, and to prevent burning of inappropriate materials in the pits such as chemically treated wood.

AQMD first considered regulating beach burning earlier this year when the California Coastal Commission considered an application by the City of Newport Beach to remove its fire rings. Coastal Commission staff recommended denial of the application, citing in part AQMD's exemption of beach bonfires from its regulations. Recognizing that wood smoke is harmful, AQMD staff initially proposed a ban on beach burning in Orange and

Los Angeles counties. Following extensive public interaction including three public consultation meetings, AQMD staff revised its proposal to the one detailed above.

### **Proposed Rule 4001 – Backstop to Ensure AQMP Emission Reduction Targets Are Met at Commercial Marine Ports**

The AQMD is currently seeking comments regarding the development of Proposed Rule 4001 – Backstop to Ensure AQMP Emission Reduction Targets Are Met at Commercial Marine Ports. The proposed rule is tentatively scheduled for a **November 1, 2013** Public Hearing.

The purpose of the proposed rule is to establish actions to be taken in the event that emissions from port-related sources do not meet the emission targets assumed in the Final 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the purpose of meeting and maintaining the federal 24-hr PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard.

Based on the 2012 AQMP Control Measure IND-01, staff is proposing the following elements to be included in a proposed rule to be presented at a future date:

- ◇ Applicability to commercial marine ports, specifically the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (Ports).
- ◇ Provisions for the Ports to report emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> on an annual basis.
- ◇ If emissions do not exceed projected levels assumed in the 2012 AQMP, the Ports have no obligation under the proposed rule except emissions reporting.
- ◇ If additional emission reductions are needed, the Ports would submit a plan to address the emission reduction shortfall which may include, but not limited to, development of new ordinances or tariffs, negotiating lease provisions, project funding, or incentives programs.
- ◇ The proposed rule will not require any strategy that is not cost-effective or feasible or that the Ports lack authority to implement.
- ◇ The SCAQMD will approve or disapprove the plan through a public process.
- ◇ In addition to the above elements, the SCAQMD is seeking comments regarding flexibility to reduce emissions off Port properties.

The public is requested to send documents, studies, data, reports, comments or other information relevant to Proposed Rule 4001 no later than **September 6, 2013** to:

Randall Pasek, Ph.D.  
Planning Manager, Off-Road Section, Mobile Source Division  
Science and Technology Advancement

SCAQMD, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
Phone (909) 396-2251  
Fax (909) 396-3324  
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## **Proposed Rule 2301 - Control of Emissions from New or Redevelopment Projects**

The purpose of Proposed Rule 2301 - Control of Emissions from New or Redevelopment Projects is to mitigate emission growth from new residential, commercial, industrial and institutional development, and redevelopment projects. Since the initial proposal was released for PR 2301, CARB in compliance with an SB 375 requirement has set greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for each metropolitan planning organization (MPO).

The Southern California Association of Government's 2012 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) contains the plan for how these target emission reductions will be met. In light of this development, PR 2301 will be drafted as a backstop/contingency measure to ensure that the co-benefits of VOC, NOx, and PM 2.5 emission reductions from the SCS will meet the 2007 AQMP targets. No public meetings or hearings for this rule have been set. For information, contact Carol Gomez at (909) 396-3264 or [CGomez@aqmd.gov](mailto:CGomez@aqmd.gov).

### **Funding Opportunities Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program (Proposition 1B)**

The Proposition 1B – Goods Movement Emission Reduction Program (commonly referred to as the “Prop. 1B Program”) was approved by the voters in 2006 and provides funding for projects that reduce emissions from goods movement operations. Emissions from diesel equipment, locomotives and vehicles involved in goods movement greatly impact the health of communities located near ports, rail yards, distribution centers and roads with high truck traffic.

The program offers a financial incentive to owners/operators of eligible equipment involved in goods movement operations to upgrade their equipment, install a retrofit device, install electrical infrastructure at a truck stop or distribution facility, or implement other projects that will reduce diesel air pollutant emissions. The types of equipment targeted include: heavy-duty diesel trucks (replacement, retrofit or repower), truck stop or distribution center electrification infrastructure, locomotives, ships at berth (e.g., shore power), commercial harbor craft, and cargo handling equipment at ports or rail yard facilities.

The Prop. 1B Program Guidelines can be found on the California Air Resources Board website at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/bonds/gmbond/gmbond.htm>. For more details, please visit <http://www.aqmd.gov/tao/Implementation/Prop1B.htm>

## Free Assistance to Small Business Owners

The AQMD has a team of engineers and inspectors specifically designated to help small businesses (100 or fewer employees or with annual gross revenues up to \$5 million) understand and comply with air quality regulations. Staff can also provide no-fault inspections and assist businesses with regulatory record keeping.

If there is a dry cleaning business in your city, AQMD can help business owners switch to a dry cleaning machine that does not use toxic chemicals. Grants up to \$20,000 are available. For assistance, or a free onsite consultation, you can contact 1-800-4-CLN-AIR.

## CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards Program

The California Air Resources Board is accepting applications now through **November 1, 2013** for its fourth CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards Program which recognizes small businesses that integrate environmental stewardship and sustainability into their business practices. California small businesses that reduce energy use, conserve water and minimize their greenhouse gas emissions are demonstrating climate leadership and can compete for a CoolCalifornia Small Business Award.

Small businesses that meet the requirements can apply online for an award at: <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/article/small-business-awards-program>:

Awards will be given to small businesses in two categories:

- ◇ **CoolCalifornia Small Business of the Year Award:** Awarded to small businesses that have taken significant actions in 2012-2013 to reduce their climate impacts, demonstrated measurable greenhouse gas reductions and documented benefits from the actions they have taken (e.g., cost savings, return on investment, etc.) by using tools such as the CoolCalifornia small business carbon calculator.
- ◇ **CoolCalifornia Climate Leader Award:** Awarded to small businesses that were proactive in reducing their environmental impacts and can describe in detail the specific actions taken in 2012-2013 to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Last year ARB recognized 16 small businesses that took a variety of actions to save money while reducing their environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions. These included installing compact fluorescent lights and energy efficient equipment or solar panels; supporting carpooling, bicycling and alternative fuel vehicles; purchasing environmentally-friendly cleaning products and low volatile organic compound paints and carpet, and incentivizing climate-friendly behavior.