

REPORT:

California Air Resources Board

SYNOPSIS:

The California Air Resources Board met on February 19, 2015, in Sacramento. The following is a summary of this meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and File.

Judy Mitchell, SCAQMD Board Member

The Air Resources Board's (ARB or Board) February meeting was held on February 19 in Sacramento at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building. Key items presented are summarized below.

Consent Items

1. Public Meeting to Consider a Minor Revision to the South Coast 2012 PM2.5 State Implementation Plan

The Board approved a revision to the South Coast Air Basin 2012 PM2.5 State Implementation Plan to be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as a revision to the California SIP. The revision will provide U.S. EPA the documentation needed to facilitate approval of the 2012 South Coast PM2.5 SIP under subpart 4 provisions of the Clean Air Act.

Discussion Items

1. Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of Evaporative Emissions Control Requirements for Spark-Ignition Marine Watercraft

The Board adopted a regulation for controlling evaporative emissions from spark-ignition marine watercraft. The regulation will harmonize with similar federal requirements, while adding specific provisions needed to support California's air quality needs. The emission control technology needed for this regulation is already being applied to on-land vehicles and therefore is cost-effective. The rule applies to new watercraft and has the support of major industry associations.

2. Report to the Board on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Climate expert, Susanne Moser, provided an update on the latest assessment of the scientific basis for climate change from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The presentation documented the evolution of climate science and the current level of certainty the scientific community has in the anthropogenic causes of global warming. Dr. Moser also emphasized the importance of education and the necessity of California leadership to realize the national and worldwide changes needed to mitigate the severe consequences from climate change.

3. Public Hearing to Consider a Low Carbon Fuel Standard

The Board held the first of two hearings on the proposed re-adoption of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). The re-adoption will address State of California Court of Appeals' direction on California Environmental Quality Act and Administration Procedure Act procedures for the standard and provide greater certainty and clarity in the regulation and its 2020 goal of reducing the carbon intensity of the transportation fuel pool by 10 percent. The second hearing will occur in the summer and complete the environmental review process and the external review of the carbon intensity tools.

4. Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Regulation for the Commercialization of Alternative Diesel Fuels.

The Board also held the first of two hearings on a proposed regulation governing the introduction of alternative diesel fuels (ADF) into the California commercial market. The ADF regulation works with the LCFS to enhance the development and penetration of low carbon ADFs. The benefits of the ADFs include lower NOx and PM emissions, decreased toxic risks, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. This regulation will help California achieve the LCFS 2020 and the Governor's 2030 50 percent renewable energy goals.