

REPORT:

California Air Resources Board

SYNOPSIS:

The California Air Resources Board met on January 29, 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) January meeting was held on January 29 in Sacramento at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building. Key items presented are summarized below.

1. ARB's Program Priorities for 2015

The Executive Officer briefed the Board on ARB's priorities for 2015. The briefing detailed ARB's successes and next steps in continuing implementation of criteria pollutant and climate programs. 2015 will be a pivotal planning year which will help lay out the path to meeting mid-term and 2050 climate goals, achieving the PM2.5 and ozone standards, and reducing localized risk. To address these priorities, ARB is strengthening its operations by realigning resources, looking at the benefits of cross-sector plans and initiatives, and forming partnerships with local, state, federal and international agencies.

2. ARB Research to Support Sustainable Communities

The Board heard an overview of ARB's research program focused on supporting strategies to improve the sustainability of California's built environment. ARB's research in this area includes projects on land use patterns, transportation infrastructure, and buildings. This work has informed local agencies on strategies to reduce carbon emissions from transportation as required by SB 375 and from buildings as required by the State green building code.

3. GHG Quantification Determination for the Council of Fresno County Govts Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy

Staff presented its technical evaluation of the Council of Fresno County Governments' (FCOG) greenhouse gas determination for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy adopted by FCOG in June of 2014. The Board acted to accept FCOG

determination that its 2014 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), if implemented, would achieve the region's per capita greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for 2020 and 2035. The 2014 SCS represents a shift away from the county's historic growth pattern of dispersed, auto-oriented development, and instead focuses on more inward facing development, multi-family housing and alternative modes of travel, with less emphasis on expanded road capacity.

4. Report on Air Quality

The Board was briefed on California's air quality progress. The report discussed on-going successes in meeting the federal health-based air quality standards for ozone and PM2.5. A key highlight is the South Coast Air Basin's attainment of the 15 ug/m³ annual PM2.5 standard in 2013, one year ahead of the 2014 attainment date. The report also described planning efforts for the more stringent ozone and particulate matter standards, and how the nature of the remaining air quality challenge will inform appropriate regional strategies in meeting these standards. Finally, the presentation discussed U.S. EPA's proposal to further strengthen the ozone standard, and potential new nonattainment areas.