

Agenda Date: January 20, 2011
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Estimated Time: 45 Minutes
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Ron Tan (961-8812)

SUBJECT: Adoption of the 2010 Clean Air Plan and Certification of the Associated Environmental Impact Report

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Hold a public hearing to receive public testimony on the 2010 Clean Air Plan and its associated Environmental Impact Report.
- B. Approve the resolution included as Attachment 1. This resolution contains the following action items:
 - B.1 The Board certification that the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the 2010 Clean Air Plan has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, was considered by the Board prior to approving the Clean Air Plan and the EIR reflects the Board independent judgment and analysis. (Attachment 2).
 - B.2 The Board finding that it has reviewed and considered the EIR prepared by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments for the Regional Transportation Plan as it relates to the proposed transportation control measures to be included in the Clean Air Plan.
 - B.3 The Board finding that the transportation control measures approved by the Association of Governments as part of the RTP meet the emission reduction objectives established by the District for the attainment and maintenance of the state ozone standard.

- B.4 Adoption of the California Environmental Quality Act Findings (Attachment 3).
- B.5 Adoption of the 2010 Clean Air Plan as submitted to your Board on December 16, 2010 and modified as set forth in Attachment 4.
- B.6 Authorization of the Chair to sign the attached letter (Attachment 5) transmitting the 2010 Clean Air Plan to the California Air Resources Board.

DISCUSSION:

At the December 16, 2010 Board hearing, staff presented the Draft 2010 Clean Air Plan and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Report. As discussed at that hearing, air quality in Santa Barbara County continues to improve to the point that it meets the state one-hour ozone standard. While our quality has improved significantly, we do not yet comply with the more health protective state eight-hour ozone standard. Therefore, we have developed a draft 2010 Clean Air Plan (2010 Plan) that will expedite the attainment of the state eight-hour ozone standard.

The 2010 Plan represents the blueprint for air quality improvement in Santa Barbara County, with the goal of attaining the state eight-hour ozone standard. The 2010 Plan also represents a partnership among the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District), the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the Community Advisory Council (CAC), local businesses, and the community at large to reduce pollution from all sources: cars, trucks, industry, consumer products, and many more.

We have made remarkable progress in cleaning our air; the number of days on which we experience unhealthful air quality in Santa Barbara County has been reduced over 90 percent from 1988 to now. The community should be proud of the accomplishments made to date in reducing air pollution. The 2010 Plan reflects a commitment to continue this progress and bring clean air to all of the residents of Santa Barbara County.

Draft 2010 Clean Air Plan

Public Process

On November 1, 2010, the Draft 2010 Clean Air Plan was released for public comment. A public notice was published in the Santa Barbara News Press, the Santa Maria Times and the Lompoc Record and copies were provided to interested parties. On November 8, 2010, The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was released for public comment. A public notice was published in the Santa Barbara News Press, and copies of the Draft EIR were made available for review at public libraries. Both documents were also made available for review at the District offices and on the District website at www.sbcapcd.org. The EIR was available for review and comment for a period of 45 days as required by the California Environmental Quality Act; therefore, the EIR public comment period closed on December 22, 2010.

On November 10, 2010, a public workshop was held immediately prior to the District's Community Advisory Council meeting in Buellton to receive comments on the 2010 Plan. Both District and SBCAG staff attended the workshop. Public comments and questions from the workshop and all written comments received by the close of the public comment period along with all District and SBCAG staff responses are included in Chapter 11 – Public Participation.

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Board Action

To meet the requirements of Health and Safety Code Section 40717(b)(3)(B), the District worked with SBCAG to identify a reasonable range of feasible transportation control measures that would reduce air pollution in the County. The District and SBCAG worked together cooperatively to quantify the emissions reductions that would occur if those transportation control measures were implemented and then the District used those projected emission reductions together with the emission control measures required by the Clean Air Plan and determined that these combined strategies will attainment and maintain the State 8-hour ozone standard. To meet the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 40717(b)(2) that the Association of Governments developed and adopted a plan to control emissions from transportation sources which will achieve the emission reductions established by the District, the Association of Governments has adopted the identified transportation control measures discussed above as part of the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan for the County of Santa Barbara.

On November 18, 2010 the SBCAG Board of Directors approved the Transportation Control Measure (TCM) component of the Draft 2010 Plan per the existing Memorandum of Agreement between SBCAG and the District (Attachment 7). The environmental impact report for SBCAG's 2008 Regional Transportation Plan evaluated the impacts of these TCMs and found no significant adverse impacts associated with their implementation (Attachment 6).

Community Advisory Council Process

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) was established by your Board to review District rules and plans. Starting January 2010, the CAC met regularly to review and provide input on individual chapters of the 2010 Plan. The CAC provided a range of input including grammatical and formatting suggestions, specific technical input, and policy direction that helped shape many components of the 2010 Plan. Staff appreciates the time and effort the CAC devoted to the development of the 2010 Plan. On November 10, 2010 the CAC unanimously voted to recommend that your Board adopt the 2010 Plan.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the APCD prepared an Environmental Impact Report (State Clearing House No. 2010071014) for the 2010 Clean Air Plan. The public review period for the Draft SEIR began November 8, 2010 and closed December 22, 2010. One comment letter was received on the Draft EIR. A responses to that letter is provided in the Final EIR which is included as Attachment 2.

When the TCMs in a clean air plan are developed and adopted by a council of governments such as SBCAG, the District's role in approving those TCMs is limited by Health and Safety Code Section 40717(b)(3)(B). For CEQA purposes, the District acts as a "responsible agency" when adopting the TCMs specified in the 2010 Plan. In that role, your Board must consider the environmental impact of those TCMs as evaluated in SBCAG's environmental impact report for the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan, which is provided as Attachment 6¹.

Conclusion

Your Board's action on the 2010 Clean Air Plan will continue our efforts to meet the state eight-hour ozone standard. This document reflects the successful efforts of a partnership including the District, the SBCAG, the CAC, ARB, local businesses, and the community-at-large all working to reduce pollution from multiple sources: cars, trucks, industry, consumer products, and many more. We believe this partnership will be key to continued progress in improving air quality, and providing for attainment of all applicable state ambient air quality standards.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. District Board Resolution for the 2010 Clean Air Plan.
2. Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2010 Clean Air Plan.
3. California Environmental Quality Act Findings.
4. Chapter 11 (Public Participation) of the 2010 Clean Air Plan.
5. Transmittal Letter for the 2010 Clean Air Plan.
6. SBCAG final environmental impact report for the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan.
7. SBCAG/APCD Memorandum of Understanding.

¹ Due to its length, Attachment 6, the environmental impact report for the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan, is included as a CD rather than as a paper version.