

Agenda Date: May 19, 2005
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Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Ron Tan, Planning and Technology Supervisor (961-8812)

SUBJECT: Briefing on Requirements of SB 656

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report on SB 656 requirements and provide direction to the Control Officer.

DISCUSSION:

In 2003, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 656 (SB 656, Sher) codified as Health and Safety Code §39614 to reduce public exposure to airborne particulate matter. SB 656 is directed at reducing ambient concentrations of PM₁₀ (particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or smaller) and the subgroup of finer particles PM_{2.5} (particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns and smaller). SB 656 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and adopt, by January 1, 2005, a list of the most readily available, feasible and cost-effective control measures that could be employed by CARB and air districts to reduce PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} (collectively referred to as PM). By July 31, 2005, CARB and air districts are required to develop and adopt from this list, an implementation schedule for appropriate CARB and air district measures to control PM. The goal is to make progress toward attainment of State and federal PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} standards.

Santa Barbara County is currently not attaining the State ambient air quality standard for PM₁₀. The existing PM problem in Santa Barbara was characterized by analyzing current ambient air quality and emission inventory data. A control strategy was developed through review, selection and prioritization of the CARB provided control measures for consideration by the air districts. As a result of this analysis process, we prepared a proposed implementation schedule. Please find attached a staff report presenting the background analysis and recommended particulate control measure implementation schedule. Staff will be presenting a summary of this report and its conclusions at your May 19th hearing.

In keeping with the requirements of SB 656, the report recommends four PM₁₀ particulate control measures focusing the particulate emission contributions from the following source categories: paved roads, construction/demolition, unpaved roads, and non-agricultural open burning (amending existing APCD Rule 312). The proposed implementation timeframe for these four measures extends from 2006 to 2011.

A public workshop was conducted concurrently with the regularly scheduled April 13, 2005 meeting of the Community Advisory Council (CAC). As a result of that workshop/meeting, the CAC recommended that your Board adopt the control measure implementation schedule shown in the attached report with the following exceptions:

1. Rename the control measures identified in the report from “proposed” to “further study.”
2. Delete the proposed control measure related to unpaved roads because of low effectiveness caused by enforcement difficulties.
3. Delete the control measure related to non-agricultural open burning (APCD Rule 312) and bring this measure back to the CAC outside of the SB 656 process as resources allow.

With regard to changing the headings of the control measure sections of the report, such terminology changes would have no practical effect on changing the intent of the report which is to implement SB 656 by proposing control measures for adoption. While the revision recommended by the CAC may initially confuse readers as to our intent, we do not believe it would materially affect your Board’s action, which is to set a schedule for adoption of the control measures.

We understand the CAC’s concern regarding the effectiveness and enforceability of the unpaved roads control measure. Unfortunately we do not have sufficient information to accurately characterize the magnitude of emissions produced by this source. We recommended this control measure because it has been demonstrated to be cost effective in other jurisdictions and has been adopted in many California communities.

Finally, at the request of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, we included the proposed revision of Rule 312 (Non Agricultural Open Burning) to prohibit the burning of residential yard waste in unincorporated portions of the northern area of the County. Smoke from such fires often causes a nuisance to nearby neighbors. Also, the Fire Department has expressed a concern regarding the resources necessary to permit and manage this open burning practice. The prohibition of backyard burning is included in the list of measures approved by ARB. The implementation of SB 656 is an opportunity for your Board to provide staff with direction regarding the Fire Department’s request. The CAC recommendation is to handle such a rule revision separately from the SB 656 schedule.

Staff is requesting direction from your Board as to including the CAC’s recommendations in the final schedule for adoption.