

Agenda Date: August 21, 2014
Agenda Placement: Admin
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Molly Pearson, Planning & Grants Supervisor (961-8838)

SUBJECT: Update of District Environmental Review Guidelines Document

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file information on the District's update of its Environmental Review Guidelines.

BACKGROUND:

The District's Environmental Review Guidelines provide procedures for the District and other agencies to use when reviewing projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These guidelines were last updated in November, 2000. In April, 2014, District staff began a public process to update the guidelines to include guidance for evaluating the significance of greenhouse gases from new or modified stationary sources. Publicly noticed workshops were held on May 6 and 8, 2014 in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, and your Board was briefed on this project at the May 15, 2014 meeting. Additional information on this effort can be found at the District website at www.ourair.org/ghg-and-ceqa.htm.

DISCUSSION:

Since the May 15, 2014 Board meeting, the District has received input from businesses, individuals and concerned organizations in the form of written letters, emails, and verbal input at stakeholder meetings. Following is a summary of the input we have received so far:

Verbal input at the May 6 and 8 public workshops:

We received verbal input from workshop participants at both workshops. Notes from both of these workshops can be viewed/downloaded from the District website at www.ourair.org/ghg-and-ceqa.htm.

Stakeholder meetings held at District offices:

- District staff met with representatives from 350 Santa Barbara on June 17, 2014. This meeting included five District representatives, two representatives from 350 Santa Barbara, and three individuals from the public that observed the meeting.
- District staff met with representatives from Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) on August 7, 2014. This meeting included five District representatives, 4 representatives from WSPA, and 12 individuals from the public that observed the meeting.

Written input received as of August 7, 2014:

- Received a letter from League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara on May 18, 2014.
- Received an email inquiry from a concerned individual on May 22, 2014.
- Received a joint letter from the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and the Community Environmental Council (CEC) on July 17, 2014.
- Received a letter from Peter Gilli, Planning Division Manager at City of Santa Maria, on July 28, 2014.

We compiled a list of email contacts for this project, and we continue to add contacts to this list as requests come in. Since the May 6 and 8 workshops, we sent four email notifications to the group for notice of website updates, when stakeholder meetings were scheduled, when the comment period was extended, and when other new information was available. To allow time for additional feedback after the stakeholder meetings, we extended our requested date for written comments to August 15, 2014.

Once all written input is reviewed, District staff will determine the agenda and schedule its next public workshop.

We continue to strive for an open and transparent process. Inquiries and input on the project and the process should be directed to Molly Pearson, Planning & Grants Supervisor, at 961-8838 or at the CEQA@sbcapcd.org email address.