

Agenda Date: August 21, 2014
Agenda Placement: Regular
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

CONTACT: Dave Davis, President and CEO, Community Environmental Council

SUBJECT: Making Sense of Global Warming and Climate Change

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation from Dr. Catherine Gautier-Downes on Global Warming and Climate Change.

DISCUSSION:

At the March 20, 2014 District Board of Directors meeting your Board carried a motion that the Community Environmental Council set up a presentation by a climate change specialist and schedule it for a future District Board meeting. The Community Environmental Council coordinated with Dr. Catherine Gautier-Downes for this presentation, and provided the following background information for this agenda item.

Dr. Catherine Gautier-Downes (AKA Gautier) received her doctorate degree in Physics/Meteorology from the University of Paris. Throughout her career she has been a Physics Professor at the University of Quebec, Researcher at Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the Associate Director of the UC California Space Institute at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography of University of California, San Diego and a Professor in the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Geography Department for 25 years, where she is now emerita. She has also served as the CEO for independent businesses (Metsat Gautier, Earth Space Research Inc. and Planet Earth Science Inc.).

Dr. Gautier-Downes served as the Director of the Institute of Computational Earth System Science (ICESS) at UCSB. She has been involved in major national research projects with a focus on climate, including the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program of the Department

of Energy and the NASA AQUA Mission in which she served as a principal investigator on the visible component of the Atmospheric Infra Red Spectrometer (AIRS) instrument.

Dr. Gautier-Downes has led various research projects including the development and implementation of educational software for which she won the National Software Association CODiE Award and developed software that is used in the classroom. Her research has also focused on Climate Change Education and Communication. She is the author of more than 200 refereed articles and 5 books, of which “Oil, Water and Climate” and “Facing Climate Change Together” have been published by Cambridge University Press. In November 2013, she co-authored a book in French (Odile Jacob publisher) on Shale Gas, entitled: “Gaz de Schistes: Nouvel Eldorado ou Impasse.”

Dr. Gautier-Downes is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). For more information: <http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/~gautier/> gautier@geog.ucsb.edu