

Agenda Date: August 21, 2014
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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Brian Shafritz, Technology and Environmental Assessment Division Manager
(961-8823)

SUBJECT: Marine Shipping- Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Trial Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) incentive trial program in the Santa Barbara Channel and future community forums on marine shipping.

DISCUSSION:

At the June 19, 2014, Board meeting, District staff described the development and scheduled launching of a VSR trial program in the Santa Barbara Channel this summer. Members of the Board asked staff to report back on progress of the trial and to look into scheduling additional community forums on marine shipping. Both of these items are addressed below.

The trial, a collaborative effort between the District, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA-CINMS) and the Environmental Defense Center, was launched July 1 and will continue through October. A news release (attached) was issued by the District and the program's partners on August 4th.

The trial has been well received by the shipping industry. Seven shipping companies are currently participating. Shipping lines proposed 88 transits for trial incentive payments; 39 of these transits qualified based on program parameters. With the resources allocated to date for the trial, the partners have committed to fund 16 transits.

The incentive payments for these transits will be funded through a grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation and \$25,000 from the District. The \$25,000 contribution from the District was

included in the \$84,128 that was committed under 'Projects funded with other grant funds' in the FY 14-15 budget, which was adopted by your Board at the District's June Board meeting.

To further the environmental benefits and extend data collection from the trial program, the partners are seeking additional funds to increase the number of transits in the trial. Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) staff have informed us that they will take a recommendation to their Board next month to provide \$30,000 in support of the VSR trial.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the District and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation approved at the June Board meeting, addresses the transfer of District funds and how incentive payments to participating shipping lines will be managed by the Foundation. The MOA includes a provision for the Air Pollution Control Officer to amend the MOA to increase the District's contribution to the VSR trial beyond the original \$25,000. Staying within the parameters of the FY 14-15 adopted budget, the District is planning to amend the MOA and contribute an additional \$15,909 towards the trial. This additional amount along with the pending \$30,000 contribution by VCAPCD would double the transits in the VSR trial from 16 to 32.

While the VSR trial is a new effort, over the years the District has been working on a variety of initiatives to address the air quality concerns from ships transiting the Channel. As ships also impact endangered whale species in the Channel, we developed a Marine Shipping Solutions Group to increase our knowledge on shipping, and the air quality and whale impacts. Meetings since 2012 have featured speakers from the shipping industry, ports, whale science, and firms that track international shipping emissions. We have scheduled another shipping forum on September 10, 2014, 3:00-5:00 PM, at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center. This forum will be open to the public and will feature a discussion of our trial program and presentations on air quality and whale science.

ATTACHMENTS (2):

Press Release on VSR Trial

Community Forum Flyer – Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies