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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Peter Cante (961-8827); Robin Cobbs (961-8824)

SUBJECT: Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the 2004 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Annual Report.

DISCUSSION:

The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Act, also known as AB 2588, requires businesses using and/or emitting any of over 700 toxic substances to quantify their emissions, assess the potential health risks from these emissions, notify the public of significant risks, and ultimately reduce these significant risks. The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program has evolved from a 'right-to-know' program, aimed at informing the public of potential toxic risks, to one that is intended to protect the public from significant exposure to toxic air contaminants. State law (Health and Safety Code Section 44363) requires the APCD to prepare an annual report that describes the progress and implementation of the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Act in Santa Barbara County.

The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program has significantly reduced the amount of air toxics emitted in Santa Barbara County. Since 1991, the number of significant risk facilities has been reduced by 92 percent. Currently, only four sources exceed the Board-approved significant health risk thresholds. Emission controls for reducing risk have been identified for two of these. A third is being reevaluated to determine its current risk. The fourth must reduce its risk to less than significant levels by August 2006. Non-significant sources are maintaining their risk status by submitting emission information in their quadrennial updates. Gas stations, part of the "industry-wide" category, were prioritized in 2004 to ensure that the APCD Board-approved significant risk thresholds were not exceeded. Additional small businesses or "industry-wide" sources remain to be prioritized.

These details are discussed more fully in the attached report.