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Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board
FROM: David Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer
CONTACT: Brian Shafritz (961-8823)
SUBJECT: Update on the 2013 Clean Air Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file a status update on the State Clean Air Plan triennial update (2013 Plan).

DISCUSSION:

General

Air quality in Santa Barbara County continues to improve; however, we do not yet meet the state 8-hour ozone standard. Therefore, we are required by the California Health and Safety Code to update our Clean Air Plan every three years to demonstrate progress towards attainment of this standard.

The District has made remarkable progress in cleaning our air. Since 1991, the number of days during which we experience unhealthy air has been reduced by more than 95 percent. The community and visitors to Santa Barbara County enjoy the pristine environment and air quality achieved through the combined accomplishments of locals and state agencies. The 2013 Plan reflects a commitment to continue this progress and achieve our vision of clean air for all of the residents of Santa Barbara County.

2013 Plan Process to Date

Community Advisory Council

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) was established by your Board to review District rules and plans. Starting December 2012, the CAC met regularly to review and provide input on individual chapters of the 2013 Plan. The CAC provided a range of input that helped shape

many components of the 2013 Plan. Staff appreciates the time and effort the CAC devoted to the development of the 2013 Plan. On May 8, 2013 the CAC voted to recommend that your Board adopt the 2013 Plan.

Air Pollution Control District Board

At the June 2013 meeting, District staff briefed the Board on the contents of the 2013 Plan. The Board's discussion centered on a growth allowance that was proposed for inclusion in Chapter 3, as a possible approach to address the scarcity of criteria pollutant offsets in the County. At the March 2014 Board meeting concerning the offset issue, your Board directed the APCO to work on the 2013 Plan concurrently with rule making efforts for the offset solution.

Finalization of the 2013 Plan

The District works closely with the California Air Resources Board (ARB) in updating its Clean Air Plans and they are fully informed as to the reason for delay in this 2013 update. Through recent discussions with ARB, the District concluded that New Source Review (NSR) rule amendments to address the offset scarcity issue could be pursued without any dependence on a growth allowance in the Clean Air Plan. Since the rule development process to address the criteria pollutant offset scarcity matter no longer has any attachment to the 2013 Plan, it will proceed on a track separate from the 2013 Plan, and no growth allowance is included in the latest draft of the 2013 Plan.

At our next scheduled CAC meeting (October 29, 2014) we will brief members on the removal of growth allowance from Chapter 3, and a few other minor edits/updates made to the May 2013 draft version of the Plan.

Once the CAC is prepared to recommend adoption of the 2013 Plan, we will bring it back to your Board, and will schedule a public hearing to consider adoption of the 2013 Plan at the appropriate Board meeting.