

Agenda Date: October 16, 2014
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Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Dave Van Mullem, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Mary Byrd, Public Information Officer (961-8833)

SUBJECT: Update on Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Trial Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) incentive trial program in the Santa Barbara Channel.

DISCUSSION:

Along with its partners, the District is currently implementing a trial incentive program in the Santa Barbara Channel to slow ships down for cleaner air and whale protection. The trial program started July 1, 2014, and will continue through October 31, 2014. Shipping companies receive an incentive of \$2,500 for each registered trip through the Channel at an average speed of 12 knots or less.

The trial is a collaborative effort between the District, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA-CINMS) and the Environmental Defense Center, with funding from the District, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, and the Santa Barbara Foundation, and incentive payments administered by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Since we updated your Board on the progress of this trial program at the August meeting, we have some news to report.

- At its September 9, 2014 meeting the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Board approved joining the program, providing \$30,000 in additional funding (a press release is attached).

- The additional funding brings the total program funding to \$90,000 and will allow the trial program to incentivize approximately 32 transits.
- Preliminary data through September 3rd indicate that fourteen of fifteen registered transits in the program have met the requirement to travel through the Santa Barbara Channel at an average speed of 12 knots or less.
- Seven global shipping companies are currently participating. Six companies initially announced their participation in the trial, COSCO, Hapag-Lloyd, K Line, Maersk Line, Matson, and United Arab Shipping Company. A seventh company, MOL, registered ship transits in the program but did not want to announce its participation initially, as the company was not sure it could meet the VSR requirement. A registered MOL transit has since successfully traveled through the Channel at the reduced average speed.
- A free Community Forum was held on September 10 with participation by all the partners, the shipping industry, and the University of California at Santa Barbara Bren School of Environmental Science and Management.

Upon completion of the trial period, the District and partners will prepare a report on findings from the trial program, and indicate ways the program could be expanded in the future.

ATTACHMENT (1):

Press Release on Ventura County Air Pollution Control District joining the VSR Trial