




MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 12, 2020
TO: Community Advisory Council (CAC) Members
FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 
SUBJECT: Community Advisory Council Update

The last meeting of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) occurred on July 22, 2020. As per the CAC by-laws, if there are no planning or rulemaking matters to discuss, a CAC meeting will not be scheduled. In lieu of a meeting, District staff provides a quarterly update to the CAC.

The following items are provided as a status update since our last meeting.

Recent Air Quality Exceedances

During the months of August, September, and October of 2020 the entire state of California, including Santa Barbara County, was affected by a combination of hot and dry weather, strong winds, and wildfire smoke that impacted air quality. Strong winds fueled wildfires and sent smoke and ash into our County, resulting in elevated levels of particulate matter (PM) in both size ranges (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀). Hot and stagnant conditions, coupled with the presence of ozone precursor pollutants (NO_x and ROC) led to elevated ozone concentrations.¹

The District has a robust ambient air monitoring network of 9 stations that measures ozone and PM levels throughout the County². During this period, there were numerous measured values that exceeded ambient air quality standards, summarized below. More detailed information is available on our website: www.ourair.org/days-exceeding-ozone-and-particulate-standards-santa-barbara-county.

- The state 1-hour ozone standard was exceeded on four days (locations were Carpinteria, Paradise Road, and Santa Barbara).
- The state and federal 8-hour ozone standards were exceeded on six days (locations were Carpinteria, Las Flores Canyon, Paradise Road, and Santa Barbara).

¹ PM_{2.5} includes particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter; PM₁₀ includes particles less than 10 microns in diameter; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; ROC = reactive organic compounds.

² More information is available at www.ourair.org/air-monitoring.

- The federal 24-hour PM2.5 standard was exceeded on nine days (locations were Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara).
- The state 24-hour PM10 standard was exceeded on 23 days (locations were Goleta, Las Flores Canyon, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria).

During these periods of poor air quality, District staff coordinated with Santa Barbara County Public Health to inform the public of the current and expected conditions and how to protect themselves from the effects of wildfire smoke. Recommended strategies included staying informed of local conditions, staying indoors and limiting outdoor activities, creating “clean air rooms” using air purifiers, and using N-95 masks if you are an essential worker and must work outside. In total, four air quality advisories were issued during this period.

District Rule 363, Particulate Matter (PM) Control Devices

One of the requirements of California Assembly Bill (AB) 617 is for each nonattainment air district to implement Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) for stationary sources that are subject to the State’s Cap-and-Trade regulation. The District adopted a BARCT rule development schedule in December 2018³, and the next rule development effort on the schedule is Rule 363, which will regulate particulate matter emissions at one of the facilities subject to this requirement. A draft proposed Rule 363 has been prepared and is currently under review by the affected facility, Imerys Filtration Minerals, Inc., which is located in an unincorporated area near the City of Lompoc. The next step in this effort is to conduct a public workshop and present the rule to the CAC, tentatively in January 2021. After CAC review, the proposed rule will be presented to the District Board for consideration, tentatively in March 2021.

This concludes the status update for this quarter. If you have any questions, please contact me (aaq@sbcapcd.org) or Molly Pearson (mmp@sbcapcd.org).

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The CAC’s charter is to consider issues related to air pollution planning and rulemaking for which the District has jurisdiction, and to render advice to the District Board and the APCO. The CAC serves an important function by providing expertise and representation of community interests during planning and rulemaking. The CAC’s advice has helped the District Board adopt plans and rules, which have contributed to improving air quality in our county, and District staff appreciate the care and consideration you show in carrying out your service. These updates will also be posted to our website at www.ourair.org/community-advisory-council-info.

³ More information is available at <https://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-12bd-d5.pdf>