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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Peter Cantle, Engineering & Compliance Division Manager (961-8827)

SUBJECT: Status Report on AB-2588 Significant Risk Sources

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a status report on four “Significant Risk” air pollution sources operating in Santa Barbara County and each facility’s progress in reducing risks from air pollution to less-than-significant levels.

DISCUSSION:

Five facilities operating in Santa Barbara County have been deemed “Significant Risk” sources under the Air Toxic Hot Spots and Information Act (AB-2588 or ATHS). Four of these are required to reduce their risk to the public to less than significant levels by July 2004; the fifth must comply by August 2006. The four operations which must meet the July 2004 timeline are:

- Venoco Carpinteria Oil and Gas Plant;
- Venoco Ellwood Onshore Facility (Goleta);
- Greka Zaca Lease (near Los Olivos); and,
- Greka Cat Canyon Oil Field (south and east of Santa Maria).

An air pollution source presents “significant risk” to the surrounding community if a health risk assessment (a computer model that accounts for the quantity and type of toxic emissions from the facility, typical meteorology, surrounding terrain, height of pollutant release, nearest receptors of pollutants and other factors) shows that excess cancer risk is greater than or equal to 10/million, or that acute or chronic non-cancer risks are greater than or equal to an index of 1.0. These significant risk thresholds were approved by the APCD Board of Directors in September 1998. The four facilities named above have shown one or more of these modeled risks over the significance threshold, and by statute (H&SC 44391) are required to reduce these risks to less-than-significant levels within a five-year period. The four facilities identified above were due as of July 2004. Staff will brief the Board on the risk reduction compliance status of each facility and discuss additional risk reduction and compliance measures that may be implemented.