

Agenda Date: March 17, 2016  
Agenda Placement: Regular  
Estimated Time: 20 minutes  
Continued Item: No

## Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Mary Byrd, Community Programs Supervisor (961-8833)

SUBJECT: Update on Marine Shipping Emissions-Reduction Initiatives

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file an update on District participation in initiatives to reduce marine shipping emissions. Sean Hastings, Resource Protection Coordinator of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, will join Mary Byrd for the presentation.

### DISCUSSION:

Large ships transiting off the coast of Santa Barbara County are a major source of air pollution, and the District has been working on a variety of initiatives to address this problem. Reducing vessel speed cuts emissions of several air pollutants and also helps protect endangered whales. To achieve air-quality and marine-protection benefits, the District, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Environmental Defense Center, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, implemented a Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) incentive trial program in the Santa Barbara Channel in the summer of 2014. The program was modeled after VSR incentive programs that have been in place at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach for more than fourteen years, achieving significant emission reductions.

Seven global shipping companies participated in the 2014 VSR Trial, and twenty-seven transits through the Channel were slowed to average speeds of 12 knots or less. Shipping companies received an incentive of \$2,500 per slowed transit; incentives were funded by the District, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, and Santa Barbara Foundation, and administered by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The District led a Community Forum in

September 2014 to present preliminary results from the program. In March 2015 the partners published a report detailing the success of the VSR Trial.

In early 2015, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council convened a Marine Shipping Working Group with representatives from a diverse group of stakeholders, including the District. A list of members of the Working Group is attached. This group was charged to develop a suite of management, education, outreach and research recommendations to the Council that would address the following goals:

1. Reduce the risk of ship strikes on endangered whales;
2. Decrease air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
3. Improve navigational safety and promote efficient maritime shipping throughout the region, and
4. Reduce conflicts among ocean users.

From February 2015 to January 2016, the group convened four times in person and eight times via webinar, and utilized an interactive web-based mapping program to facilitate online collaboration. On February 12, 2016, the group issued a draft report describing a range of measures to address the group's goals. The final report will be presented to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council on March 18. The report can be viewed at (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/reports.html>).

The group's level of support for each measure is described in the report. Many of the measures do not address air-quality goals. Some are focused on improving the collection and communication of whale data; others suggest routing options to minimize impacts on whales. Some measures involve petitioning the International Maritime Organization to identify areas as sensitive marine areas, or to extend areas already identified as such.

Among measures that received unanimous support in the February 12 report was the concept of doing a second VSR incentive trial program to achieve emission-reduction and whale-protection benefits and assess some additional parameters. A second trial program would be funded by the District (\$50,000 in funds approved by your Board in the FY 2015-2016 budget), Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (tentative funding partner), Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (through a \$15,000 contribution from The Volgenau Family Foundation), and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (through a \$100,000 Community Service Payment recently secured).

The presentation to your Board will provide additional information on the above, and will also include results from analysis of satellite data to address whether vessels enrolled in the 2014 VSR program sped up outside the VSR zone.

We are excited to proceed with a second VSR Trial Incentive Program, and will return at a future Board meeting with additional information and an updated agreement with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for administration of funds.