

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Memorandum

To: Chairperson Haggerty and
Members of the Executive Committee

From: Thomas Perardi
Director of Planning and Research

Date: April 23, 2003

Re: Status Report on 2003-04 Ozone Planning

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND

The 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan, adopted by the regional agencies on October 24, 2001, addresses issues identified by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from the Bay Area 1999 Ozone Attainment Plan and provides for attainment of the national 1-hour ozone standard by 2006. It also includes two interim planning commitments: (1) a commitment to conduct a mid-course review of our progress toward attaining the national 1-hour ozone standard by December 2003 and (2) a commitment to provide a revised ozone strategy to EPA by April 2004. In addition, the California Clean Air Act requires that we update our Clean Air Plan (CAP) for attaining the State 1-hour ozone standard every three years. The Board of Directors adopted the most recent CAP update in December 2000. This report to the Executive Committee provides an update on the current ozone planning process, focusing on ozone modeling and public involvement.

DISCUSSION

The current modeling effort to support our planning process for the national and state 1-hour ozone standards will benefit from an intensive field study, the Central California Ozone Study (CCOS), conducted during the summer of 2000 on high ozone days. In addition, state-of-the-art models will be applied for emission inventory, meteorology, and photochemical ozone formation. ENVIRON Corp. has been hired to conduct the modeling for the Bay Area using the information from the CCOS study. A Modeling Advisory Committee (MAC) reviews the work of the consultants on a monthly basis. The MAC includes representatives from BAAQMD, MTC, EPA, ARB, downwind air districts, industry, environmental groups, community groups, and transportation groups.

Three episodes of high ozone have been selected for analysis: two episodes from the summer of 2000 (July 28 – August 1, and June 14 – 15) and one from summer 1999 (July 11-12). The 1999 episode is important because high ozone levels occurred throughout the Bay Area as well as the downwind air districts. ENVIRON is working with ARB to complete development of the emission inventory and meteorological inputs necessary for the ozone modeling. ENVIRON is also beginning to conduct warm-up runs to get the inventory, meteorological and photochemical models working together. Preliminary modeling results are expected this coming summer.

In terms of the public involvement process, staff held the first meeting of the Ozone Working Group (OWG) on March 27, 2003 in the MetroCenter auditorium. The meeting facilitator was David Early of Design, Community, Environment. Announcements for the meeting were distributed widely and posted on the BAAQMD, MTC, and ABAG websites. Attendees represented wide-ranging interests, including representatives of the three regional agencies, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, CalTrans, local government, community groups, downwind air districts, environmental groups, transportation groups, League of Women Voters, bicycle advocates, industry, American Lung Association, and the Port of Oakland.

The focus of the kick-off meeting was twofold: (1) to provide background information on planning requirements, ozone trends, health effects, etc. and (2) to get input from the participants about the role of the Ozone Working Group. The discussion among the participants regarding the role of the OWG revealed interest in two different kinds of public involvement. Some participants want the OWG to delve into detail about the various aspects of ozone planning, including control measure development, modeling, and transport. Others are interested in ensuring that the ozone planning process is accessible to Bay Area communities that are concerned about air pollution. Both of these aspects of public involvement are important. Staff will conduct two different types of public involvement: the Ozone Working Group and community-oriented meetings.

The Ozone Working Group will continue to meet at MetroCenter approximately every other month throughout the planning process to provide opportunities for participants to work intensively with staff as we delve into the technical and policy aspects of ozone planning. The agendas, meeting notes, handouts, and other notices will be posted on the Air District website at www.baaqmd.gov/planning/2004sip/2004sip.htm. The next meeting of the Ozone Working Group is scheduled for May 14, 2003 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. The focus of the meeting will be control measure suggestions.

The community outreach effort is currently under development. Staff will work with Community Focus and the Air District's Resource Teams to hold meetings about the ozone planning effort in communities around the region. Resource Teams are located in East Palo Alto, North Richmond, Bayview/Hunters Point, San Francisco/San Mateo, Santa Clara County, Southern Alameda County, Tri-Valley, Napa/Solano, and Marin/Sonoma.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Perardi
Director of Planning and Research

Prepared by: Jean Roggenkamp

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