

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Inter-Office Memorandum

To: Chairperson Haggerty and
Members of the Executive Committee

From: Jean Roggenkamp
Director of Planning and Research

Date: September 22, 2004

Re: Status Report on 2004 Ozone Strategy

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND

The Air District, in consultation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association for Bay Area Governments, is preparing the Bay Area 2004 Ozone Strategy. The Ozone Strategy will address national and state air quality planning requirements. The Ozone Strategy will include a redesignation request and a maintenance plan for the national 1-hour ozone standard and a triennial revision to the Bay Area strategy to attain the California 1-hour ozone standard and to reduce transport to downwind regions. The strategy will also address other related air quality issues, including community outreach, fine particulate matter and global warming. This report provides an update regarding the control strategy, public outreach, modeling, and the future schedule.

DISCUSSION

Control Strategy. The Ozone Strategy must include all feasible measures to reduce ozone precursors as part of the triennial plan update for attaining the California ozone standard and reducing downwind transport. Staff has evaluated a wide range of potential control measures for inclusion in the Ozone Strategy. Ideas for potential measures have been gathered from community meetings, the Ozone Working Group, consultation with ARB and other air districts, the District Advisory Council, and District staff.

Staff evaluated nearly 400 stationary, area, and mobile source control measure suggestions. Based on the evaluations, staff is proposing the inclusion of 15 stationary and area source control measures in the Ozone Strategy. These measures would strengthen the Air District's existing regulations on industrial and commercial operations. Staff is also proposing the inclusion of 4 mobile source measures to reduce emissions from on-road and off-road mobile sources through incentives, model ordinances and educational efforts. These programs will complement the mobile source regulations implemented at the state and federal levels. In addition, Air District staff has worked with MTC staff to update and enhance 19 transportation control measures that address transit, ridesharing, traffic management, bicycling, transportation pricing, smart growth and educational programs.

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In addition to the control measures, the Ozone Strategy will include further study measures. These are measures for which insufficient information was available during the development of the control strategy to allow the agency to commit to them as control measures. For instance, the technology may not be sufficiently demonstrated or the emissions data needs further investigation. Staff identified 21 further study measures to be evaluated. If the results of the study indicate that the measure is viable, it will be considered for implementation through a regulation or program. The further study measures address stationary, area, mobile and transportation emission sources.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, we are preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze potential secondary adverse environmental impacts of the control measures. A consulting firm, Environmental Audit, is assisting with preparing the EIR. A draft and final EIR will be circulated for public review along with the draft and final Ozone Strategy.

Public Outreach. The Air District's outreach for the 2004 Ozone Strategy extends well beyond the outreach conducted for previous planning processes. Outreach includes Ozone Working Group meetings, community meetings, consultation with other air districts, and Modeling Advisory Committee meetings. Information about the planning process and materials for each of the OWG, MAC and community meetings is posted on the Air District website. In addition, staff has presented updates on the planning process to the Board of Directors Executive Committee, the Regional Agency Coordinating Committee, and the District Advisory Council.

The Ozone Working Group provides regular opportunities for public involvement in the ozone planning process. At OWG meetings, staff present updates on various aspects of the planning process and solicit discussion and public comment. Any interested party is welcome to participate in the OWG. Participants include representatives of business, industry, environmental and community groups, transportation advocates, local agencies, neighboring air districts, U. S. EPA, and the Air Resources Board. Eight OWG meetings have been conducted to date, with the next meeting scheduled for September 28, 2004.

The District conducted six community meetings in September 2003 focused on the Ozone Strategy. This first round of community meetings provided background information about the District, ozone, and the planning process, and solicited suggestions for potential ozone control measures.

A second round of community meetings is scheduled for September and October 2004. At these meetings staff will present the draft control measures and further study measures proposed for the 2004 Ozone Strategy and solicit feedback on the draft measures. These meetings will also include a presentation on the District's new Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) program. The local public health officers have been invited to participate in the community meetings.

In addition to soliciting input on potential control measures via the Ozone Working Group and community meetings, Air District staff has also consulted with ARB and downwind air districts. These consultations have included discussions through the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association on all feasible measures, rule comparison discussions with ARB

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and northern California air districts, and discussions with staff at the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District on their specific control measure suggestions. Staff has also scheduled a consultation meeting with downwind air districts to discuss our draft control measures on October 7, 2004.

The Modeling Advisory Committee (MAC) reviews the work of the District's modeling consultants and District staff on a regular basis. The MAC includes representatives of EPA, ARB, downwind air districts, MTC, industry, environmental and community groups, and transportation advocates. To date, staff has held 19 MAC meetings.

Ozone Modeling. Air District staff and modeling consultants (ENVIRON International Corporation) are developing a state-of-the-science photochemical ozone modeling system as a tool for ozone planning for the Bay Area and for analyzing pollutant transport to downwind air basins. Significant progress has been made in developing modeling results for recent periods of high ozone, specifically a July 1999 episode and a July/August 2000 episode. Model performance for the Bay Area for these historic episodes meets performance criteria established by the Environmental Protection Agency. However, model performance in downwind regions (e.g. San Joaquin Valley) needs improvement. ENVIRON has prepared a draft report on the work completed to date. The Modeling Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the draft report.

Schedule. The next step in the planning process for the Ozone Strategy is to receive feedback on the draft control measures and further study measures through the upcoming community meetings and Ozone Working Group meeting. After considering the feedback, staff will complete the Draft 2004 Ozone Strategy and release it for public review and comment, most likely in early November 2004, along with the Draft EIR. At the conclusion of the public comment period, staff will revise the documents and prepare a proposed final Ozone Strategy and EIR. The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing and consider adoption of the Ozone Strategy in early 2005. MTC and ABAG will also consider adoption of the redesignation request and maintenance plan.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

None. Funding for development of the Ozone Strategy is included in the adopted budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Roggenkamp
Director of Planning and Research

FORWARDED: _____

Reviewed by: Peter Hess