

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California 94109

APPROVED MINUTES

Advisory Council Public Health Committee Meeting
1:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 9, 2004

1. **Call to Order – Roll Call.** 1:38 p.m. Quorum Present: Linda Weiner, Chairperson; Diane Bailey, Elinor Blake, Victor Torreano. Absent: Sanjiv Bhandari, Jeffrey Bramlett, Brian Zamora.
2. **Public Comment Period.** There were no public comments.
3. **Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2004.** Mr. Torreano moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Ms. Bailey: carried.
4. **Indoor Air Quality.** Chairperson Weiner reviewed the two documents in the agenda packet entitled, *Report to the California Legislature: Indoor Air Pollution in California, California Air Resources Board (CARB), June 2004*, and *Indoor Air Technical & Policy Issues: An Update for the BAAQMD Advisory Council, by Jed Waldman, Ph.D., Chief, Indoor Air Quality Section, California Department of Health Services, May 12, 2004*. She stated that at this time there is no comprehensive and coordinated strategy on indoor air quality. Regulatory jurisdiction is spread throughout a variety of agencies.

Ms. Blake distributed her August 9, 2004 memorandum to the Committee entitled *Rough draft idea for a recommendation to the Council concerning the District's role in indoor air quality*. She observed that the CARB report was issued at the request of the Legislature and attests to the widespread health effects associated with indoor air pollution. Noting that the Air District has a rare opportunity to explore its potential role in this field, she offered two suggestions:

1) that the District convene a workshop or series of workshops in which researchers, organizations and regulatory agencies associated with indoor air quality could discuss the District's role. The workshops could be convened within the Bay Area with either a broad statewide invitation or as Bay Area-only but with representation from appropriate State agencies.. Key features of the discourse would include identifying current agency roles in indoor air quality and recommendations for future research, education and regulation.

2) That the District annually sponsor a graduate student scholarship for research in indoor air quality. This would provide both visibility and a connection with local academic institutions.

Mr. Torreano observed that building materials are a major source of the indoor air pollutants, particularly formaldehyde in pressboard and insulation. In commissioning buildings, contractors heat the interior to treat caulking and epoxies. However, any deficiencies in the commissioning process require review. If the proper installation and maintenance of building materials could be incorporated into building codes, this would reduce indoor air pollution.

Ms. Bailey suggested that the Committee review the study of the toxicity of formaldehyde in the recent rulemaking by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on wood products. Peter Hess, Deputy APCO, added that formaldehyde is used in plywood resin as a material binder, and is also found in the resin in caulking materials. The latter are regulated as consumer products by CARB, which is currently evaluating an air toxic control measure in this field.

Mr. Hess referred to an advertisement in today's San Francisco Chronicle for an indoor ozone generator, which asserts that ozone has a good effect on health. Chairperson Weiner suggested that the District consider issuing a letter to the editor correcting that misconception. Mr. Torreano observed that the CARB report on indoor air quality addresses this type of equipment.

Mr. Hess noted that the District regulates volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in paints and has adopted stringent rules in this field. The District's perchlorethylene (perc) rule, which is based on toxic air contaminant regulation, far exceeds the stringency of the CARB rule for perc dry cleaners. The District's authority to regulate perc derives from the California Health & Safety Code and is based on ambient air quality management. There may be indoor air quality benefits that derive from the rule but these cannot form the basis for its adoption.

Ms. Bailey opined that any District action on indoor air quality should not supplant its concern with or work on ambient air quality. However, other fields of indoor exposure, such as inside vehicles, and in occupational settings like an excavator or a highway tollbooth, should also be considered. Jack Broadbent, Executive Officer/APCO stated that the South Coast AQMD conducted an in-vehicle study in the 1980's that showed elevated levels of most of the compounds for which the agency monitored. The National Resources Defense Council has also conducted a study on air in buses. Chairperson Weiner noted that the American Lung Association is presently studying indoor air quality in the context of school buses.

Ms. Hess suggested that the Council consider working with staff in contacting and working with planning departments in Bay Area cities and counties. Council member Hayes has previously participated with District executive management in speaking to local governments about urban heat island mitigation. Such Council/staff outreach could be extended to the effort to influence building codes. The Council, in concert with staff, would develop the presentation, which would concern guidelines, recommendations and identify key issues. Ms. Blake suggested that local government staff be included on the invitation list to the above-mentioned workshops. Noting that the District was successful years ago in getting local entities to adopt air quality elements in their general plans, she suggested that a comparable general plan amendment for building codes could be studied. This may be a topic for next year's Advisory Council Retreat.

Mr. Torreano noted that the apprentice sheet metal workers in his union are trained in various ventilation processes. It would be ideal for a union training department to incorporate indoor air quality certification processes into an apprenticeship program. However, at the present time there are neither guidelines nor certification processes associated with the installation or maintenance of industrial air duct cleaners for hospitals and municipalities. Mr. Broadbent observed that there are building heating and ventilation guidelines on airflow, but these do not address indoor air quality concentrations. That is why the field of indoor air quality is ripe for review with regard to potential courses of regulatory action.

Jack Colburn, Senior Policy Advisor, stated that EPA has produced a packet on the “Tools for Schools” program, one of which will be provided to each Committee member. It provides a number of key sources of information. Guidance can be gleaned from the packet materials and reviewed for possible application to other indoor situations. A considerable amount of information on indoor air quality is generally available but there is no clearinghouse for it. Molds in buildings and homes are the major indoor air issue in the state. Ms. Blake noted that the State Health Department has active programs on mold in indoor building environments.

Mr. Broadbent suggested that at an off-site location next year the Board and Council hold a Retreat on indoor air quality. Prior to the Retreat, the Council could adopt recommendations for the Board to consider. In addition to the state of the science on indoor air quality, the discussion could include establishing standards for smaller sources comparable to the regulation of back-up diesel generators that are found in many buildings. It could involve a component in which owners of back-up generators, as well as building maintenance staff, could also be educated about ventilation systems and integrate ambient and indoor air quality management awareness.

Mr. Broadbent added that in the Bayview Hunters Point area, where there are higher incidences of asthma, there is no program to deal with indoor air quality. Mr. Hess suggested that perhaps indoor air could be included in the forthcoming public meetings on the Ozone Control Strategy. Mr. Broadbent added that the Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) program would be addressed in these community meetings. Ms. Roggenkamp indicated that the meetings would begin in late September and continue through mid-October.

Chairperson Weiner opined that the review of indoor air quality in Bayview Hunters Point, as it relates to the incidence of asthma, should not supplant the District’s careful review of permitting an electrical generating power plant since the emissions may also influence the incidence of asthma in that area. Ms. Bailey added that care must be taken in framing the categories of discourse on indoor air quality and asthma.

Ms. Blake inquired if there could be an immediate augmentation of programs in which the District encourages the development of educational and advisory materials for distribution in residential neighborhoods. Mr. Colburn replied that checklists for home inspections are available and there are scientifically proven building materials that meet both environmental and energy conservation ratings.

Mr. Broadbent added that such material may not be widely distributed, and this issue could be discussed in the workshop. Chairperson Weiner stated that from the perspective of social marketing, tailoring the principles of the meeting and the materials to be presented to a given audience is always to be recommended.

Ms. Blake suggested the following additions to the proposed recommendation, based on today’s discussion:

- In No. 3, prior to “we recommend that” add “to augment—but in no case to supplant—the District’s activities to improve ambient air quality” and before “in which” in the first line add “within the next year”.

- In the first bullet under No. 3, add a second sentence to read: “Included among the issues to be addressed should be their building materials and their appropriate installation and maintenance.”
- After “or workshops” in No. 3 in the first line add “or summit.”
- Delete “state policy” from the last line in No. 3 and insert “and programs” in its place.

Mr. Torreano moved adoption of the text as amended for forwarding on September 8 to the Council; seconded by Ms. Bailey; carried unanimously. The Committee directed that the members absent from today’s meeting receive the revised document via e-mail and be invited to separately submit comments to the Clerk for inclusion in the Council meeting agenda packet.

In reply to Chairperson Weiner, Emily Hopkins, Public Information Officer, stated that to date 30 cities and 6 counties have adopted the District’s wood smoke ordinance. There are approximately 100 incorporated cities and nine counties in the District’s jurisdiction, two counties of which are partial counties with some jurisdiction from another air district.

- 5. Committee Member Comments/Other Business.** Ms. Blake inquired as to the District’s view of a proposal by the Governor’s California Performance Review commission to eliminate CARB. Mr. Broadbent stated the District would respond with a letter of support for CARB. Ms. Blake suggested the Council might consider endorsing such an action by the District.
- 6. Time and Place of Next Meeting.** Monday, October 25, 2004, 1:30 p.m. 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, California 94109. The September 8, 2004 Committee meeting is canceled.
- 7. Adjournment.** 3:01 p.m.

James N. Corazza
Deputy Clerk of the Boards

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