

# **BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

939 ELLIS STREET - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94109

Approved Minutes: Advisory Council Regular Meeting – September 14, 2005

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Opening Comments: Chairperson Zamora called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Present: Brian Zamora, Chair, Cassandra Adams, Sam Altshuler, P.E., Diane Bailey, Louise Bedsworth, Ph.D., Elinor Blake, Bob Bornstein, Ph.D., Jeffrey Bramlett, Harold M. Brazil, Irvin Dawid, Emily Drennen, William Hanna, Stan Hayes, John Holtzclaw, Ph.D., Kraig Kurucz, Victor Torreano, Linda Weiner.

Absent: Fred Glueck, Kevin Shanahan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** There were no public comments.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. **Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2005.** Mr. Dawid requested “and” replace the dash mark on page five, Item No. 9, line two, and moved approval of the minutes as corrected; seconded by Dr. Holtzclaw; carried unanimously.

Chairperson Zamora called Item No. 9 out of order.

## **COMMENDATION/PROCLAMATION**

9. **Resolution in Honor of Outgoing Advisory Council “Public Health Agency” category member Elinor Blake.** Chairperson Zamora presented Ms. Blake with Resolution No. 90, in the Matter of Expressing Esteem and Appreciation to Elinor Blake for her Outstanding Service on the Advisory Council from April 1996 to October 2005. Council members proffered their congratulations on her year of service to the District. Ms. Blake expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

## **PRESENTATION:**

2. **Public Health and Land-use Patterns.** Dr. Richard Jackson, former California State Health officer, presented “Urban Sprawl and Public Health.” Dr. Jackson opined that the purpose of public health is to fulfill society’s interest in assuring the conditions in which people live can be healthy. After having observed an elderly woman in Atlanta carrying a heavy shopping bag on a hot day without access to public transportation, he concluded that had she died of heat stroke, the official cause of death would have been heat stroke without any reference to the lack of public transportation or other references to the environment in which one lives.

He noted that as a former member of the Center for Disease Control in the 1990’s, he reviewed public health issues for the current millennium. The diseases of the 21<sup>st</sup> century include the costs of care for

aging populations, excess weight, diabetes, heart disease, mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, developmental problems and substance abuse. From a systemic perspective, the management of wealth is a key problem, since Americans “supersize” and over-consume everything and create threat to their health. During Saturday morning cartoons, there are 200 food advertisements in first four hours. California children are in desperate physical shape, such that only one quarter of the state’s ninth graders can run a 12-minute mile. The supersizing of homes creates a tremendous burden on electric utilities. This over burdening also occurs with larger cars and the creation of sound walls to mitigate the additional noise. Sound walls cost \$1.5 million per mile to construct.

There is a similar supersizing of capital investments in roadways and highways now occurring, along with a corresponding increased consumption of land (equivalent in size to the State of Georgia) that has been rendered impervious due to paving and other covering. In 1946, Los Angeles was the leading agricultural county in California. The pressure to develop primary agricultural land has not abated. This may lead to the scenario in which California will become an importer of fruits and vegetables one day.

Rapid development in the Central Valley in California will increase that region’s population beyond the City of New York by 2040. This will create even greater bottlenecks on California highways entering into the Bay Area. Four of the ten most polluted cities in the United States are in the Central Valley in California. The large building developments in these areas without corresponding health and government services shows a lack of a long-term view, and this adversely influences air quality simultaneously. As to considerations of causal analysis, in Atlanta in 1996 people were asked not to drive, and traffic volume decreased by 30% while air pollution improved by the same amount. A dramatic drop off occurred in hospital visits during this same time period.

With regard to the issue of asthma prevalence in California, one person in six has asthma. The rapid paving over of the United States and California has also had a major impact on temperature increases. If this trend continues, temperatures will be six to eight degrees higher in the summer and three to four degrees higher in the winter within the next generation. Similarly, reductions are forecasted in the Sierra Snowpack under such circumstances will mean the loss of this natural reservoir and the need to rebuild the entire water system in the state. This will have extremely significant economic impacts.

Mothers now drive their cars twice as much as in the past, and children do not walk or bike to school but instead are driven under current land-use patterns. The removal of such physical exercise bodes ill for health considerations, and entails the questionable spending of more money on sound walls than on sidewalks. Supersized schools are replacing the smaller schools. Dr. Jackson added that in his view the consumption of Ritalen—which reduces hyperactivity—by today’s youth may be related to the withdrawal of a regular physical activity regiment from schools.

The most prevalent disease among Americans is depression. Exercise works as well as chemical treatment for this condition, and creating environments in which walking and biking is discouraged is self-defeating. Obesity is also epidemic in America. In 1990, less than 10% of residents in California were obese. In 1993, that figure rose to 10-14%, and by 2001 that figure rose further to 20-25%. This is a high risk factor for high blood pressure, gall bladder disease, cancer, and many other adverse health conditions. Obesity puts strain on hospitals, which have had to purchase heavier, more sturdy and more costly gurneys, given the increased average weight that Americans have in the last ten years.

An indirect effect of increased 10 pounds of weight in Americans has increased consumption of jet fuel by 350,000 million gallons, and the emissions from this increase may be easily estimated. The

most rapidly growing surgery is stomach stapling, including in children. Insurance will pay for this surgery, but a doctor's prescription of health club regimen would not be covered. The distinction between disease response versus prevention cannot be sufficiently emphasized. The epidemic of obesity is linked with diabetes, in which a major increase has been observed. Risks of Type II diabetes increase in particular. In 1993-94, 6-8% of Californians had Type II diabetes, and by 2001, over 10% of the state's population has been diagnosed with this disease. Most instances of adult onset diabetes in children are obesity related. One third to one half of all Type II diabetes in children comes from obesity, and there are children in significant numbers diagnosed with liver disease. Increasing physical activity within the population is as important as reducing obesity.

On the positive side, speculations on the epidemic of heart disease in the 1960's were proven wrong, by changes in diet, reduced smoking and improved medical care. Cigarette consumption in the state has also decreased from 1980 in 130 million packs a year of cigarettes to 44 million. The change has been due to environmental factors, such as taxes on cigarettes, and anti-tobacco advertising and no-smoking regulations in buildings. Lung cancer has decreased 19.5% in 25 years.

Americans need to change the general pattern of diet and reduce their consumption of high fructose corn sugar. High fructose corn sugar should be taxed, just like cigarettes are taxed. This would generate significant funds that could be applied to programs consonant with the themes developed in this presentation. A strong program of in-fill development should be aggressively sought for the development of healthy living environments.

Increases in incidental exercise need to be achieved in American life. Europeans walk or bike in almost half of their routine errands. Average weight differs by six pounds in sprawl and non-sprawl areas. The Fruitvale model in California, with its emphasis on designing transit oriented development, should be carefully studied and advocated. There are excellent air quality reasons, even as there are sound mental and physical reasons, to create healthy living environments.

### **AIR DISTRICT OVERVIEW:**

#### **3. Report of the Executive Officer/APCO.** Jack P. Broadbent, Executive Officer/Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), stated:

- a) This year's smog season registered one federal and seven state ozone exceedances. One Spare the Air Day was called, and no ozone exceedances were registered on that day.
- b) In July the Board adopted a flare control rule, which is the first of its kind in the country. Four additional regulations are scheduled to be heard in a public hearing before the Board. These concern pressure relief valves, wastewater systems, tanks and marine vessels.
- c) The District has completed its update of the Ozone Control strategy and will bring this document before the Board for adoption later this year.
- d) The District recently issued a report on potential control measures for particulate matter, in conformity with SB 656.
- e) Public Information & Outreach Director Teresa Lee has announced her retirement at the end of this month after 31 years of service at the Air District.

- f) Information on toxic emission inventories for the Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) program will be presented at the next joint meeting of the Advisory Council Air Quality Planning and Technical Committees.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4. **Joint Technical & Air Quality Planning Committee Meeting of August 16, 2005.** Dr. Holtzclaw stated the Joint Committee received a presentation from Diane Wittenberg of the California Climate Action Registry on the Registry's purpose and work. The Joint Committee will next review the CARE program and the environmental review documentation for the District's Ozone Strategy.
- 5. **Public Health Committee Meeting of August 15, 2005.** Mr. Torreano presented the Committee's recommendations on Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), stating the Committee re-affirmed its previous recommendations and has added several new ones. MR. Bramlett moved the Council adopt the Committee's recommendations for forwarding to the Board Executive Committee; seconded by Dr. Holtzclaw; carried unanimously.
- 6. **Executive Committee Meeting of July 13, 2005.** Chairperson Zamora stated the Standing Committees provided reports on their current work plans and future agenda items.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 7. **Report of Advisory Council Chair.** Chairperson Zamora stated application period for the "Regional Park District" and "Public Health Agency" categories on the Council will close today.
- 8. **Council Member Comments/Other Business.** Ms. Drennen recommended that the categories of gender and racial diversity be looked to in selecting new Council members. Mr. Dawid expressed interest in receiving a report on the proliferation of hybrid and diesel cars, as well as on remote sensing emissions monitoring the South Coast AQMD. Chairperson Zamora suggested that become a part of the Council's work plan for the next year, starting at the Air Quality Planning Committee level.
- 10. **Time and Place of Next Meeting.** 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 14, 2005, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.
- 11. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

*James N. Corazza*

James N. Corazza  
Deputy Clerk of the Boards