

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., Tuesday, June 13, 2005

1. **Call to Order – Roll Call.** Chairperson Torreano called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.  
Present: Victor Torreano, Chairperson, Elinor Blake, Jeffrey Bramlett, Linda Weiner. Absent: Cassandra Adams.
2. **Public Comment Period.** There were no public comments.
3. **Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2005.** Chairperson Torreano moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Mr. Bramlett; carried unanimously.
4. **Discussion of Recommendations Regarding the District’s Role in Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Management.** Chairperson Torreano briefly reviewed the chronology of the Committee’s discussion on IAQ and distributed his memorandum entitled “Air District’s Role in Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)” dated June 13, 2005. It set forth the following:
  - A. The District develops a relationship with applicable crafts through State Registered training facilities where registered apprentices and service technicians:
    - are trained to assist schools and homeowners to perform District approved IAQ assessment when on site for “best practice” in repair, maintenance or construction of building systems.
    - Are educated to the health risks related to poor indoor air quality and their role in identifying, reducing and removing indoor contaminant sources and emissions.
    - Work from a District endorsed standard for the commissioning of mechanical system in schools and homes. Approach school districts on developing and requiring new building practice and requiring new building commissioning and retro commissioning.
  - B. Have the Air District publicly endorse a list of acceptable and unacceptable portable indoor air cleaners/filters.
  - C. Concentrate on homes and schools for “high priority, high benefit” action.
  - D. Form a summit/workshop with university/industry researchers to legislatively develop IAQ standards and regulations through state and local government. Addressing product labeling requirements with manufacturers held responsible to test products and publish the data on labels.
  - E. Partner with labor organizations and management associations to create a viable supply source of certified contractors and technicians for school districts and housing authorities to measure CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, radon, ozone, VOC and airborne particulates.

In discussion of the foregoing memorandum, the following comments were raised:

### Pending Legislation

- Pending state legislation would provide the California Air Resources Board (CARB) with more authority over IAQ. Efforts to regulate IAQ were made by CARB and several air districts in the 1980s but were successfully opposed by the business community. The District has a brochure on radon, but it has not adopted a program on IAQ. (Jean Roggenkamp, Deputy APCO) Were California to adopt an IAQ program, the District could move forward with an IAQ program that would supplement a state's program. (Peter Hess, Deputy APCO)
- The Committee should hear about the state legislation that is currently proposed and avoid recommendations that go ahead of the proposed bills, especially if home servicing or home ownership standards are being contemplated in the legislation. (Bramlett)

### Committee Recommendations from 2004

- Recommendations from 2004 should be combined with those that are adopted today. (Weiner)
- The Committee's previous recommendation that the District hire a graduate student to work on IAQ issues was intended primarily to establish a liaison with academic researchers. (Blake)
- The Committee's previous recommendation that the District hold an IAQ workshop can also be used as a survey tool of community needs as well as a forum within which to obtain and discuss ideas. (Weiner) Information from future meetings should be combined with data gathered at previous community meetings which were the context from which this referral to the Council originated. The extent to which state and local health departments and CARB have already gathered such information should be assessed to avoid duplicating completed surveys. (Blake)

### Regulatory Jurisdiction and Available Information

- The District has jurisdiction over exposure to outdoor air but people spend nearly 90% of their time indoors. Since the District has received numerous questions on IAQ from the public at community meetings, the issue concerns whether the District should respond and, if so, in what manner. The District should improve its ability to redirect or refer questions to the agencies that have set pieces of this issue and also be prepared to answer such questions. (Bramlett) The District does refer some questions to other agencies but also has IAQ information available that could be added to a larger mission statement. (Roggenkamp)
- The American Lung Association (ALA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the California Department of Health Services (SHSD) have developed considerable information on IAQ, which could be distributed by the District.
- Effective development of educational materials could be achieved by market research of the target audience, and addressing specific areas for action, and examining additional channels of dissemination beyond the more standard public workshops. (Weiner)

### Focusing on IAQ in Residences

- Residential IAQ assessment at the time of appliance change-out or retrofit by a technician mirrors a PG&E energy audit. The deeper question is how to make IAQ a priority in a residence. (Roggenkamp) The graduate student recommended by the Council could develop the informational materials on how individual citizens affect IAQ in the home. (Bramlett)
- District inspectors can inspect facilities with operating permits and conduct odor nuisance abatement visits at residences, but they may not inspect homes for IAQ. (Roggenkamp)

- Owners of larger buildings might be concerned over liability for sick building syndrome. Therefore, residences are a better starting point from which to address IAQ. At the time homes are repaired or modified, a technician could conduct an IAQ assessment. A list of things that the homeowner or resident would look out for could be provided by the District to renters, homeowners, and the various trades crafts. Union locals could have IAQ training as part of their apprenticeship training, and this could be applied to any contractor who wants training. Addressing the larger building facilities would be a next step in the IAQ process. (Torreano)
- The District's role in IAQ must be defined before home assessment can be recommended. It is unclear that homeowners could afford such assessments. (Blake, Weiner)
- EPA provides an extensive check list in its informational materials. (Bramlett) Then it is more of a distribution issue, and dissemination issue at the time of repair or retrofit. (Torreano) The type of asthma programs administered by local health departments would have to first be assessed and local planning departments accessed for residential permit data. At this point information could be provided to homes and also advertise the District. (Blake)

#### Focusing on Schools

- The District does conduct public outreach on air quality in general to students in schools. Barbara Spark of EPA indicated California has taken up the "Tools for Schools" program less robustly than other states. (Roggenkamp)
- The ALA "Open Airways for Schools" teaches about asthma in schools. Educational materials were developed in an incremental manner, starting with small, doable steps. The same could be distributed to home owners, renters, and environmental justice groups. (Weiner)

#### Future Focus on Collaboration with Labor Crafts

- The District could collaborate with applicable labor crafts to ensure consistent training and testing of indoor environments. A technician could volunteer to assess the home for appliance efficacy, pesticide and chemical use indoors and walk through the home. (Torreano)
- Hard copy materials could be developed for distribution, addressing how District programs influence IAQ, thus initiating the documentation and distribution process. Distribution should begin through local channels and work outward toward unions and other groups. (Bramlett)
- Training the trades' technicians in the field of IAQ and providing them with information from the District, ALA, CARB and EPA's check list is a potentially fruitful idea for long-term, future development, but this entails a massive program beyond the District's present capability. The extent to which such associations would like to become distributors of such information should be ascertained, and if they would like to do so, they should be encouraged. (Blake)
- Trades craft training involves approximately two evenings a week with a five-year program, and IAQ could be incorporated into the curriculum. A pilot program targeted only toward specific locals cannot be considered because such training should be consistent throughout all the locals of the Central Labor Councils. (Torreano)

Other Areas of Future Focus

- Interview health department staff that operate asthma programs and also check in with planning departments and ascertain if the District could supply something that is missing. (Blake)
- There are large mailing lists for community forums. A lot of information has already been gathered by the District and other agencies on IAQ and the District should evaluate recent material to make sure there is no duplication. Such meetings should reach more than the traditional attendees with which the District has had a long-standing relationship. (Blake)

The Committee reached consensus that the District's IAQ focus should initially be on residences, followed by schools. It should involve developing materials on IAQ awareness that identify the issues of concern, sources of available information, and accesses a larger distribution network. Both the EPA and ALA have considerable IAQ information for schools and it is best to refer others to such information. However, there are academic studies on IAQ to which additional reference would need to be made in the District's IAQ awareness documentation. Representatives from CARB, EPA and the SHSD all strongly suggested the District disseminate information on IAQ.

Regarding the issue of ozone-generating residential air cleaners, CARB indicated this is an issue of false advertising and the state Attorney General is investigating the matter. However, the Council could consider recommending the District indicate that its ambient program aims to reduce ozone, and that residents that add ozone to the indoor home environment refute the District's efforts.

5. **Committee Member Comments/Other Business.** There was none.
6. **Time and Place of Next Meeting.** 1:30 p.m., Monday, August 15, 2005, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.
7. **Adjournment.** 3:03 p.m.

*James N. Corazza*

James N. Corazza  
Deputy Clerk of the Boards