



NEWS

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Contact: Teresa Lee 415.749.4905

Regional Agencies Seek Input for New Reduction Strategies

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is requesting the public's input and participation in drafting new air quality strategies to meet state and national health standards for ground-level ozone.

The Air District with its co-lead agencies, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), is looking for suggestions, ideas and strategies to reduce emissions of ozone-forming pollutants - reactive organic gases and oxides of nitrogen - from transportation sources, industrial facilities, commercial and other processes.

"We are interested in hearing from all sectors," said Air District Executive Officer William C. Norton. "Every suggestion, whether from an environmental or community group, scientific lab, industry or from an individual, will be weighed for its effectiveness and feasibility."

The Bay Area is mandated to develop the **2004 Ozone Attainment Strategy** to meet the national 1-hour ozone standard and the **2003 Clean Air Plan**, to meet the more stringent California 1-hour standard. This will update the 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan and 2000 Clean Air Plan, respectively. The public can learn more about the current versions of these documents at <http://www.baaqmd.gov/planning/cap/agp.htm>.

Suggestions can be submitted:

- In writing to Jean Roggenkamp, Planning & Transportation Manager, BAAQMD, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109,
- By e-mail to jroggenkamp@baaqmd.gov or
- Faxed to (415) 749-4741, attn: Jean Roggenkamp.

Ozone Working Group

To assure an effective public process and to involve interested parties in the development of both documents, the regional agencies will convene an Ozone Working Group to receive strategy suggestions and to engage the public in the ongoing planning process. The Ozone Working Group will also be a forum for disseminating information about the progress of the planning process.

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"The objective of the Ozone Working Group is to ensure an open and participatory process that will allow for the development of the most effective strategies for reducing ozone levels while incorporating the best ideas from our community," said Henry Hilken, a Principal Environmental Planner at the Air District.

The Ozone Working Group will hold its first meeting on Thursday, March 27, from 10:00 AM until noon at the MetroCenter Auditorium at 101 Eighth Street in Oakland, located across the street from the Lake Merritt BART station. More information about the Ozone Working Group is posted on the Air District's website at www.baaqmd.gov/planning/2004sip/2004sip.htm.

The Ozone Working Group is expected to meet every other month into early 2004. Requests for additional information on the Ozone Working Group can be e-mailed to Mr. Hilken at hhilken@baaqmd.gov.

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