

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION No. 2015-04

A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Amending Regulation 3 – Fees

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been properly noticed in accordance with the provisions of Health & Safety Code sections 40725;

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (“District”) retained the accounting firm of Stonefield Josephson, Inc. to conduct a study of the District’s fee structure for permitted and non-permitted sources in order to determine whether or not fee revenue from these regulated sources was sufficient to pay for the costs of those regulatory activities and services;

WHEREAS, Stonefield Josephson, after a thorough analysis of the District’s fee structure, revenues and associated costs, found that District fee revenue have not been sufficient to offset the costs of associated regulatory activities and reported this and other findings in *Bay Area Air Quality Management District Cost Recovery Study, Final Report; March 30, 2005* (“2005 Cost Recovery Study”);

WHEREAS, Stonefield Josephson also found that: (1) despite an across-the-board fee increase of 15 percent in fiscal year ending (FYE) 2000 and adjustments during the subsequent 5 years for inflation, a significant cost recovery gap still exists; and (2) for FYE 2004, fee revenue covered only about 60 percent of direct and indirect program activity costs, leaving a gap of approximately \$13 million to be filled with property tax revenue;

WHEREAS, Stonefield Josephson, based on its findings, recommended that, if the identified revenue gap was to be reduced, fees should be increased by more than annual cost of living adjustments over a period of time;

WHEREAS, in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, the Board approved amendments to Regulation 3 – Fees to increase fees to address this revenue gap and to move toward full alignment between permit fee revenues and associated District permit-related activities and services;

WHEREAS, in September 2010, the District contracted with Matrix Consulting Group to complete an updated Cost Recovery and Containment Study (“2011 Cost Recovery and Containment Study”) based on cost and revenue data for FYE 2010;

WHEREAS, the 2011 Cost Recovery and Containment Study indicated that a significant cost recovery gap continued to exist, with fee revenues for FYE 2010 covering only 62 percent of the direct and indirect costs of program costs;

WHEREAS, in the 2011 Cost Recovery and Containment Study, Matrix Consulting Group recommended that the District adopt a Cost Recovery Policy to guide future fee amendments;

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2012, the Board adopted a Cost Recovery Policy (“2012 Cost Recovery Policy”) that provides as a general policy that the District should fully recover the costs of regulatory program activities by assessing fees to regulated entities, that the District should amend Regulation 3 – Fees in order to increase the overall recovery of the District’s direct and indirect costs of program costs to 85 percent by the end of FYE 2016, and further, that the District should continue to amend specific fee schedules in consideration of cost recovery analyses conducted at the fee schedule level, with larger increases adopted for schedules with larger cost recovery gaps;

WHEREAS, in 2015, District staff prepared an update of the 2011 Cost Recovery Study using the methodology established by Stonefield Josephson, Inc. and updated by Matrix Consulting Group based on cost and revenue data for FYE 2014 (“2015 Cost Recovery Study”);

WHEREAS, the 2015 Cost Recovery Study indicates that a significant cost recovery gap continues to exist with fee revenues for FYE 2014 covering only 80 percent of the direct and indirect costs of program costs;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined for FYE 2016 there is a need to increase fees to further reduce the misalignment between permit fee revenues and associated District permit-related activities and services and to further reduce the misalignment between fee revenues for non-permitted sources and associated District activities and services related to those sources;

WHEREAS, District staff proposed increased fees based in part on the magnitude of the cost recovery gap for certain non-permitted sources and existing fee schedules as identified in the 2015 Cost Recovery and Containment Study and in accordance with the 2012 Cost Recovery Policy;

WHEREAS, District staff discussed the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 – Fees at a public workshop and simultaneous webcast on February 17, 2015;

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled public meeting on March 25, 2015, at which the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 were discussed and at which oral or written presentations could be made on the subject of the proposed amendments;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2015, District staff published in newspapers the notice of public hearings required by Health and Safety Code sections 40725 and on that date also distributed and published on the District’s website a request for public comments and input on the proposed amendments to Regulation 3;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District held a public hearing on April 15, 2015, to consider the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 in accordance with all provisions of law;

WHEREAS, an additional public hearing is required by Health and Safety Code section 41512.5 for fees applicable to sources not included within the District’s permit system, specifically, the proposed amendment of the following fee schedules: Schedule L: Asbestos Operations, Schedule Q: Excavation of Contaminated Soil and Removal of Underground Storage Tanks,

Schedule R: Equipment Registration Fees, Schedule S: Naturally Occurring Asbestos Operations and Schedule V: Open Burning;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District held a second public hearing on June 3, 2015, to consider the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 related to non-permitted sources in accordance with all provisions of law;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors obtains its authority to adopt, amend or repeal rules and regulations from sections 40702, 42311, 42311.2, 41512.7, 42364 and 40725 through 40728 of the Health & Safety Code and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 70.9;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 are written or displayed so that its meaning can be easily understood by the persons directly affected by it;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 are in harmony with, and not in conflict with or contradictory to, existing statutes, court decisions, or state or federal regulations;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 do not impose the same requirements as any existing state or federal regulation and are necessary and proper to execute the power and duties granted to and imposed upon the District;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors by adopting the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 is implementing, interpreting and making specific the provisions of Health & Safety Code section 42311 (fee schedule for district programs), section 41512.7 (allowable increases to authority to construct and permit to operate fees), and section 42364 (fees schedule for hearing board review of permit appeals);

WHEREAS, District staff has evaluated the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 and has determined that the proposed rulemaking project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subparagraph (b)(8) (the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares or other charges by public agencies); and CEQA Guidelines section 15273 (statutory exemption for rates, tolls, fares and charges);

WHEREAS, District staff has determined that a socioeconomic analysis of the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 40728.5 is not required because the amendments will not significantly affect air quality or emissions limitations within the meaning of that section;

WHEREAS, District staff has determined that an incremental cost-effectiveness analysis of the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 40920.6 is not required because the amendments do not impose best available retrofit control requirements;

WHEREAS, District staff has prepared and presented to this Board, a detailed staff report relative to the subject matter of the proposed amendment which is incorporated by reference and attached hereto;

WHEREAS, District staff recommends adoption of the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 and its associated fee schedules; and

WHEREAS, this Board concurs with District staff's recommendations and desires to adopt the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 and associated schedules as described above and set forth in Attachment A hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District does hereby adopt, pursuant to the authority granted by law, the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 – Fees as set forth in Attachment A hereto and discussed in the staff report with instructions to staff to correct any typographical or formatting errors before final publication of the text of the proposed amended rule as adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the effective date of the proposed amendments attached hereto shall be July 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District does hereby approve the filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the proposed amendments to Regulation 3 – Fees.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the Motion of Director MITCHOFF, seconded by Director SINKS, on the 3 day of JUNE, 2015 by the following vote of the Board:

AYES: **AVALOS, BARRETT, BATES, CANEPA, CHAVEZ, FUJIOKA, GROOM, HUDSON, KIM, MITCHOFF, RICE, ROSS, SINKS, SPERING, WAGENKNECHT, ZANE**

NOES: **NONE**

ABSTENTIONS: **NONE**

ABSENT: **GIOIA, HAGGERTY, KNISS, MAR, MILEY, PEPPER**

Carole Groom

Carole Groom
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Liz Kniss

Liz Kniss
Secretary of the Board of Directors

ATTACHMENT A

[PROPOSED AMENDED RULE]

Regulation 3: Fees