

State of California Air Resources Board Board Item Summary

Item #21-12-3: The 2019 Haagen-Smit Clean Air Awards

Staff Recommendation:

This is an informational item only. No action is required.

Discussion:

Since 2001, the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) has annually bestowed the distinguished Haagen-Smit Awards to extraordinary individuals to recognize significant career accomplishments in air quality and climate change. Due to the pandemic, the usual events (Leadership Talks, Reception, and Board Item) for the 2019 Winners were postponed. In January 2021, The Haagen-Smit Advisory Committee decided to schedule the belated 2019 Haagen-Smit events to coincide with the Dedication of the new Riverside campus in November 2021.

The 2019 Award Recipients Are:

Karl Taylor, Ph.D.

Dr. Taylor's contributions — both in building essential infrastructure to improve climate modeling and through his own far-reaching research exposing differential forcing effects of anthropogenic sulfate aerosols — have helped make it possible for the climate science community to evaluate and improve climate change modeling, to distinguish human impacts on climate, and to estimate uncertainty in projections of future climate change. He is being honored in the Climate Change Science category.

Joy Williams, MPH

Ms. Williams has devoted her career to empowering residents of disadvantaged communities to protect themselves and their environment from toxic pollutants. For more than 30 years, she has taught others how to harness the power of science, community, and advocacy to defend the right of all races, cultures and income levels to fair and respectful treatment in the development and implementation of environmental laws and policies. She is being honored in the Community Service and Environmental Justice category.

Janice E. Nolen, M.A.

Ms. Nolen was a committed educator and advocate for improving the respiratory health of all Americans by implementing and enforcing the Clean Air Act. The creative force behind the American Lung Association's "State of the Air Report" for 20 years, she contributed to several important national health policy victories. She is being honored in the category of Education.

Junji Cao, Ph.D.

At a critical time in China's development, Dr. Cao was assessing and addressing aerosol pollution. He continues to be a prolific contributor to clean air research, policy, science, technology and education. His research focused on airborne particulates in major Chinese cities has helped to drive China's air quality programs, improving the health of millions of people, while also reducing emissions of short-lived climate pollutants. He is being honored in the category of International Leadership.

Stephen O. Andersen, Ph.D.

Dr. Andersen has devoted more than 40 years to protecting the ozone layer and climate. Beyond his central role in establishing the Montreal Protocol's initial protections for Earth's stratospheric layer, he demonstrated courage, foresight and tenacity in realizing that treaty's potential to also control climate-changing emissions. He is known for his optimism, fairness and productivity, inspiring countless others to solve important environmental problems. He is being honored in the Clean Air Award category of Environmental Policy.

William B. DeMore, Ph.D.

The elder statesman of atmospheric chemistry, Dr. DeMore's lifetime contributions to the measurement and modeling of atmospheric ozone cannot be overstated. His comprehensive knowledge of chemical kinetics and cool-headed scientific diplomacy were vital to the resolution of many important problems in analytical chemistry with high stakes for air quality management. He is being honored in the category of Research.

John Birks, Ph.D.

Dr. Birks has advanced our understanding of Earth's atmosphere through more than 40 years of research, teaching and technological innovation. His early work on the chemistry of chlorine helped unravel the complex processes of stratospheric ozone depletion. He is co-developer of the theory of "nuclear winter," and developed a range of portable instruments that dramatically improved scientists' capacity to measure and analyze atmospheric air quality. Dr. Birks is being honored in the Science and Technology category.

Summary and Impacts:

The award presentation does not affect key policy issues or items of public controversy.