AGENDA ITEM#

06-4-1: Health Update: Nitrogen Dioxide Exposure Increases Allergic Asthmatic Responses

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

Staff updated the Board on a recently published study that provides new evidence that nitrogen dioxide can exacerbate asthma. The study examined young adult asthmatics after controlled exposures to nitrogen dioxide and an allergen or filtered air and an allergen over three days. The results suggest nitrogen dioxide interacts with allergens to increase allergic responses in the lungs of asthmatics. This is a biologically plausible explanation for epidemiologic findings, such as hospital and emergency room visits and increased medication use. ARB and OEHHA staff has evaluated the scientific literature on nitrogen dioxide as part of reviewing the current State ambient air quality standard for nitrogen dioxide. This study contributed to staff’s conclusion that the existing California standard has no margin of safety and should be revised.

ORAL TESTIMONY: None
06-4-2: Research Proposals

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The Board considered the following two research proposals.


ORAL TESTIMONY: None

FORMAL BOARD ACTION: Approved Resolution Numbers 06-12 and 06-13.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Research Division

STAFF REPORT: No

06-4-3: Public Meeting to Consider the Emission Reduction Plan for Ports and Goods Movement in California

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM:

The ships, trains, trucks and cargo handling equipment that move international and domestic goods through California generate a substantial amount of air pollution. ARB staff developed the Emission Reduction Plan for Ports and Goods Movement in California (plan) to identify and initiate specific actions to reduce these emissions and protect public health.

The staff presentation explained how the plan relates to other ARB initiatives. Staff also discussed its linkage to the
broader Goods Movement Action Plan being developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency.

Staff estimates that current emissions from goods movement activities cause approximately 2,400 premature deaths annually. The number of annual premature deaths is projected to decline 1,500 by year 2020, despite growth, in response to existing controls and the proposed plan.

Staff identified potential strategies to reduce emissions from the five main sources of goods movement emissions: ships, commercial harbor craft, cargo handling equipment, trucks and locomotives. The basic mechanisms include regulations, incentive programs, lease agreements, careful land use decisions and voluntary actions. The four pollutants targeted by the plan are diesel particulate matter (diesel PM), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), and sulfur oxides (SOx).

Fully implementing the plan will reduce statewide emissions from goods movement well below 2001 levels by 2010. The statewide health risk from diesel PM will be reduced 85% by 2020. The plan also supports attainment of the federal air quality standards for particulate and ozone. The plan will significantly reduce localized risk in communities near ports, rail yards and high traffic corridors, but does not eliminate this risk. Staff proposed a public process to identify additional strategies to further reduce localized risk in these communities.

The estimated, cumulative cost to implement the plan is $6-10 billion between 2006 and 2020. For every dollar invested three to eight dollars in economic benefits would be realized in the form of avoided, adverse health effects.

The Board heard oral testimony from nearly 50 witnesses representing communities impacted by goods movement, environmental organizations, local governments and air districts, affected industries, dockworker unions and others. The vast majority of witnesses recognized the substantial health impacts from goods movement-related air pollution and supported Board approval of the plan.
ORAL TESTIMONY:

Dave Beeman, ILWU Local Union 13
Jack Broadbent, Bay Area AQMD
Sandy Cajas, Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
Richard Cassman, Long Beach Unified School District
Stephen Clark, SSAT Marine
Kim Craft, IBEW Local Union 11
Lena Maun-DeSantis, Port of Los Angeles
Terry Dressler, California Air Pollution Control Officers
Association and Santa Barbara County APCD
Mike Eaves, California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition
Sean Edgar, Clean Fleets Coalition
Mayor Larry Forester, City of Signal Hill
T.L. Garrett, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Elina Green, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma
Peter Greenwald, South Coast AQMD
Janet Gunter, San Pedro Resident
Larry Henderson, IBEW Local Union 11
Bob Hoffman, Dock Watts, LLC
Bonnie Holmes-Gen, American Lung Association
Andrea Hricko, University of Southern California
Fran Inman, Majestic Reality
Ellen Johnck, Bay Planning Coalition of San Francisco Bay
Tom Jordan, San Joaquin Valley APCD
Robert Kanter, Port of Long Beach
Gordana Kidrpeoglou, Coalition for a Safe Environment and American Civil Liberties Union
Marisela Knott, Commerce Resident
Patty Krebs, Industrial Environmental Association
Joe Lyou, California Environmental Rights Alliance
Marie Malahi, Coalition for a Safe Environment
Kirk Marckwald, Association of American Railroads
Jesse Marquez, Coalition for a Safe Environment
Julie Masters, Natural Resources Defense Council
John Miller, M.D.
Bry Myown, Long Beach Citizens for Utility Reform
Danial Nord, San Pedro Resident
Frank O’Brien, Port of Los Angeles Citizens Advisory Committee/Air Quality
Noel Park, San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Coalition
Roy Perez, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Cathy Reheis-Boyd, Western States Petroleum Association
Dawn Sanders, California Manufacturers & Technology Association
Martin Schlageter, Coalition for Clean Air
Julia Scoville, Coalition for a Safe Environment
Lupe Valdez, Union Pacific Railroad
Elizabeth Warren, FuturePorts
Stephanie Williams, California Trucking Association
Kathleen Woodfield, San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Coalition
David Wright, Pacific Energy Partners
Robert Wyman, Maritime Goods Movement Coalition

FORMAL BOARD ACTION:

The Board unanimously approved the proposed goals, the overall emission reduction strategy and the list of near-term action items in the plan and staff presentation. The Board also directed staff to report back in late 2006 and every six months thereafter on progress in implementing the plan.

RESPONSIBLE DIVISION: Planning and Technical Support Division

STAFF REPORT: Yes