

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 05-32

April 28, 2005

Agenda Item No.: 05-4-2

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2001, the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) approved "Policies and Actions for Environmental Justice," to promote the ARB's goal of ensuring everyone in California will live, work, learn, and play in a healthy environment;

WHEREAS, one of the policies the Board approved included a specific action to work with local land use agencies, transportation agencies, and air pollution control districts to develop ways to prevent air quality impacts at the community level that are a result of land use decisions;

WHEREAS, the ARB staff developed the guidance document entitled "Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective," using the available scientific information, and held several workshops with interested parties on the Handbook;

WHEREAS, this Handbook highlights the potential health impacts associated with placing sensitive land uses in close proximity to an air pollution source;

WHEREAS, the ARB staff has developed an outreach plan to work with CAPCOA and other stakeholders to communicate this air quality information to land use decision makers so they can consider the air quality impacts along with other factors in the planning process;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that:

- There is a large body of scientific information on the adverse health effects associated with exposure to various air pollutants including, but not limited to, ozone, particulate matter (PM10 and PM 2.5) and toxic air pollutants;
- Recent air pollution studies have shown a strong association between increased cancer risk and non-cancer health effects and proximity to specific air pollution sources, including, but not limited to, high traffic roadways, distribution centers, rail yards, dry cleaners, and chrome plating facilities;
- Despite aggressive emission control programs at the state and local level, adverse human exposure will persist for another decade or more due to the presence of older, less controlled equipment and vehicles;
- The siting of new land uses such as homes, schools, day care centers, playgrounds, and medical facilities, deserves special attention because children, the elderly, and those with existing health problems are especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of air pollution;
- Sensitive land use practices can help reduce the potential health impacts from nearby sources of air pollution;

- The process for approving proposed new sensitive land uses often falls outside the air quality permitting process of the air districts and, therefore, it is especially important that land use agencies be aware of potential air pollution impacts;
- Air quality is just one of several important issues that must be considered in the land use planning and permitting processes, including addressing housing and transportation needs, the benefits of urban infill, community economic development priorities, and other quality of life issues;
- These recommendations are designed to fill a gap where information about existing polluting sources and activities may not be readily available to land use decision makers, but do not substitute for more specific information, if it exists; and
- There is a substantial public health benefit to enhanced communication between air pollution and local land use agencies regarding possible health risks associated with siting sensitive land uses too close to air pollution sources, until such time as those emission sources have been fully controlled and retired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the “Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective,” and directs the Executive Officer to disseminate the document to affected stakeholders and the general public, including local governments and land use planning agencies, the private sector, state, local, and regional transportation and housing agencies, local air districts, environmental groups, and local community groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs ARB staff to implement the outreach plan, working with CAPCOA to communicate the benefits of using the Handbook to local land use agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board strongly encourages land use agencies to consider the air quality information and recommendations in the Handbook along with the other factors that local agencies must consider in their planning and permitting processes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these recommendations are advisory and not regulatory or binding on local agencies, nor are they designed to substitute for more specific information regarding health risk, emission rates or potential incompatible land uses, where such information exists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board appreciates the efforts by all of the stakeholders and participants who helped to develop the “Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective”.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 05-32, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Lori Andreoni, Clerk of the Board