



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Chairman

1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

DATE: January 26, 2004
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
SUBJECT: WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE REGULATIONS FOR MOBILE SOURCES

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) invites you to participate in a public workshop to discuss the development of our climate change regulations for motor vehicles. This workshop is specifically designed to address the issues and concerns of the environmental justice (EJ) communities. Staff has been working with representatives of the EJ communities and is very interested in getting your input early in the process. We will provide you with background information, receive questions, and welcome your comments on our efforts.

The workshop will be held at the time and location shown below:

Workshop Date: February 18, 2004
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Huntington Park Oldtimers Foundation
3355 East Gage Avenue
Huntington Park, California 90255

It is estimated that passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks are responsible for about 40 percent of the total climate change emissions in the state. The control and reduction of climate change emissions are critical to slow the effects of global warming, which is a matter of increasing concern for public health and the environment within the state.

As a result of global warming, we can expect to see worsening air quality. This is because high temperatures, strong sunlight, and a stable air mass are ideal for the formation of ground-level ozone, the most health-damaging constituent of smog. We would also see an increase in the number of weather-related deaths, and a possible increase in infectious diseases.

As the average temperature of the Earth increases, weather is affected. Rainfall patterns change. Droughts and flashfloods are likely to become more frequent and intense. Climate change and the resulting rise in sea level are likely to increase the threat to buildings, roads, power lines, etc. Agricultural patterns will change as crops

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

To All Interested Parties

and productivity shift along with the climate change. Physical changes such as these impact California's public health, economy and ecology.

To begin to address climate change, Assembly Bill (AB) 1493 (Pavley, Chapter 200, Statutes of 2002) requires ARB to develop and adopt, by January 1, 2005, regulations that achieve the maximum feasible and cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases emitted by noncommercial passenger cars and light-duty trucks. These regulations would apply to vehicles manufactured in the 2009 model year or later. The Board will consider the proposed regulations in September 2004.

To specifically address potential impacts to the EJ communities, ARB staff is evaluating how the regulations may impact jobs and businesses in your communities. We are also working with experts to understand how the effects of climate change would impact EJ communities. Results of these studies will not be available in time for this workshop, however we are interested in sharing our approach and getting your input.

Since the adoption of AB 1493, ARB staff has evaluated ongoing improvements in vehicle technology that could provide significant reductions in climate change emissions without unduly inhibiting performance or other desirable attributes. The ARB staff evaluation of vehicle technology will be a key component in the eventual development of climate change emission standards. Staff will describe some of these technologies and outline our assessment of various ways in which the emission standards can be expressed and their implications.

Flexibility is also required by the bill and will be provided for auto manufacturers subject to the standards. Staff is currently considering flexibility provisions including banking and trading, credit for early action, and allowing alternative compliance strategies that do not reduce the effectiveness of the climate change regulations. Staff will describe the proposed flexibility provisions being considered.

In addition to exploring the technologies and addressing flexibility, ARB staff is working to provide a more complete understanding of the emission benefits of the regulations. To do this, staff is not only looking at the emission reduction potential of new technologies but is also evaluating the potential impact of changes in consumer behavior brought about by the regulations. It is likely that regulated vehicles may be priced higher than they would be without the regulations, and it is also likely that regulated vehicles will be less expensive to operate. Consumers may respond to higher prices by purchasing fewer new vehicles (referred to as fleet turnover effect), and may respond to lower operating costs by driving more (referred to as the rebound effect). ARB staff will update you on our efforts to evaluate the impact of the potential fleet turnover and rebound effects on emissions.

Page 3

To All Interested Parties

You can find additional information on the workshop as well as staff's efforts to reduce climate change emissions by going to the ARB climate change web site (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/climatechange>). This web site will be updated regularly with information pertinent to this workshop. Attendees should check this web site prior to attending to keep updated on substantive information about this workshop.

If you wish to receive e-mail notification of updates on the workshop and ARB's climate change regulations, please register for our Climate Change list serve at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/cc/cc.htm>.

If you have questions about the workshop or need additional information, please call Ms. Lisa Kasper, Air Pollution Specialist, Zero-Emission Vehicle Implementation Section, at (916) 327-2932 or e-mail her at lkasper@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Catherine Witherspoon
Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Lisa Kasper
Zero-Emission Vehicle Implementation Section