SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

For Agenda of: April 27, 2006

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
Management District

From: Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Subject: Board Approval authorizing the Air Pollution Control Officer to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of the District with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and Placer and El Dorado Districts to support an interagency land use database and mapping system.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the attached resolution authorizing the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) to sign an MOU on behalf of the SMAQMD with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (Placer County APCD) and the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (El Dorado AQMD).

2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit the fully executed documents to concerned parties.

Purpose

The attached resolution will authorize the Air Pollution Control Officer to enter into a MOU with SACOG, the Placer County APCD and the El Dorado APCD. Under the MOU, the SMAQMD will pay SACOG up to $120,000 for work on an interagency land use monitoring database and mapping system.

The purpose of the land use monitoring database and mapping system is to track the districts' CEQA comments, mitigation measure compliance and implementation of strategies developed for select new land use projects in the six-county region. These air quality mitigation efforts support the State Implementation Plan. The resulting database and mapping system will be the first such system capable of operating on a regional scale and it will serve as a repository of land use development information and air quality mitigation that transcends agency borders. It will also have a Geographic Information System (GIS) component and users will be able to access the program through the internet.

The funding will help offset the cost of designing the hardware and software for the system,

including costs associated with interfacing the mapping program with SACOG's existing GIS databases.

Benefits

The interagency land use monitoring database and mapping system will allow users to review descriptions of projects as well as the various comment letters, notes, and other documents related to specific projects. The database will also provide calculations on air quality emissions from projects and emissions projected to be reduced through mitigation programs. Tracking of project specific emission benefits is critical if the District is to receive credit for land use emission benefits in the new 8-hour attainment plan. The GIS component of the database will allow users to understand the spatial relationships of projects and it will allow users to compare proposed land uses with the land uses proposed by The Blueprint preferred scenario. In addition, the internet-based platform of the new database will allow several air districts or other future users to access their own data.

Background

The land use emission tracking database currently used by SMAQMD will be the springboard for the new regional interagency land use monitoring database and mapping system. The SMAQMD database has proven to be a powerful tool in allowing air district planners to better follow and comment on projects. While its functionality has been continually improved over a number of years, it still has shortcomings. The database tracks only projects reviewed by the SMAQMD, it does not have a GIS component and is not internet-based. The lack of a GIS component has lead to problems in the review of projects. For example, the name of a project may change, making it difficult to determine if the newly named project is the same as a project already in the database. In addition, without a mapping system, it is difficult to discern if a project is a sub-set of a larger Plan Area like a Specific Plan or Community Plan, which may already have mitigation measures associated with it.

Fiscal Impacts

The SMAQMD has committed $120,000 toward this project, pending Board approval. This is roughly seventy-six percent of the anticipated cost of the project. The Placer APCD and El Dorado APCD have committed to funding amounts which are proportionate to the populations they serve. SMAQMD funds for this project will come from Measure A Funds allocated to Mobile Source Control Evaluation.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Reviewed by:

Kathrine Pittard
District Counsel