

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN  
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

For Agenda of July 27, 2006

**To:** Board of Directors  
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

**From:** Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer  
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

**Subject:** Sacramento Regional Nonattainment Area 8-Hour Ozone Attainment  
Demonstration Plan Schedule and Funding

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**Recommendation**

None. This item is for information only.

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**Status of 8-Hour Attainment Demonstration Plan Schedule**

The air districts of the region are embarking on an aggressive schedule to prepare our regional plan for achieving the federal 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone. The deadline for submitting the plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is June 15, 2007.

The plan schedule also attempts to align more closely the Blueprint and State Implementation Plan (SIP) schedules. This poses some unique challenges and possible consequences in completing and submitting the plan to EPA by the June 15, 2007 deadline. The final draft Blueprint Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is not expected to be approved by Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Board of Directors until February 2007 and if the final MTP is substantially different from that envisioned this fall by SACOG staff (in consultation with local jurisdictions), then the SIP and environmental documents may need to be recirculated for public review. This may result in delays in the SIP approval process and potentially submitting the SIP to EPA after the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. That recirculation could also extend a conformity lockdown, which will begin July 1, 2007, for two to four months longer than currently anticipated. See attached SACOG memo for additional details about Blueprint/SIP alignment and discussion of the lockdown.

Earlier this month, as authorized by the Board in June, a contractor was selected to assist the region in preparing the necessary environmental documents required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Environmental Audit, Inc. will prepare

an Initial Study outlining the 8-hour Attainment Demonstration Plan, its environmental setting, and the potentially affected environmental factors. The results of the Initial Study will be used to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), if appropriate, or other environmental review document.

The regional air districts must propose local control measures that, when combined with state and federal control measures, will meet the emission reduction targets established with photochemical modeling. Updated targets are expected soon, but a precise schedule has not been provided by ARB. Public workshops to discuss the local control measures are expected to be held this September. State-wide control measures will be developed by CARB, and workshops for those measures will be held throughout the state this fall.

After taking public comment on proposed control measures we will work with members from EPA Region 9, CARB, SACOG, federal transportation agencies, various contractors, and the other air districts of the region, to draft a comprehensive plan to attain the federal 8 hour ozone standards by the attainment deadline. That plan may propose to "bump-up" our classification and extend the current deadline of 2013. The individual tasks and milestones outlined in the schedule can only be met through the active participation and cooperation from all the involved agencies.

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### **Funding for the Plan**

Earlier this year, the Board authorized accepting Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grant funding to support the development of the SIP. The \$705,975 grant, which includes \$80,975 regional local matching funds, will be used for the development and analysis of local control measures, preparation and analysis of the environmental documents, conducting workshops, and public outreach. Authorization to proceed from CalTrans is anticipated to be received by the end of the month for this grant. On July 11, 2006 we completed the process to establish Memorandum of Understanding with the other air districts to provide the required matching funds.

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### **Conclusions**

The federal air quality planning process requires the preparation of the 8-hour ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan, which is required to be submitted to EPA by June 15, 2007. This plan will define how the region will achieve the federal air quality standards by prescribed deadlines. To accomplish this task, an aggressive and comprehensive schedule was developed identifying key participants, deadlines, and milestones. Additional efforts to align the Blueprint and SIP approval timelines have been taken however, if the final Blueprint MTP approved by SACOG is different than SACOG estimates provided this fall, it may result in the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to be missed and potentially extending the transportation conformity lapse that will begin July 1, 2007. Staff has completed the process to establish necessary funding to accomplish the tasks

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outlined in the schedule through the use of a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement grant and regional local matching funds and will continue to work closely with SACOG, the other air districts and our oversight agencies to complete this work.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer

Reviewed by:

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Kathrine Pittard, District Counsel

Attachments