

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

For Agenda of February 28, 2008

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

From: Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Subject: Approve Changes to: *2008 Board Directives for State and Federal Legislation and Regulation*

Recommendation

Approve modified policy item pertaining to Complete Streets (vote required)

Complete Streets policy item

Item #6 six on the district's policy platform currently reads as follows:

6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Project/Programs – Support improvements in policies pertaining to nonmotorized transportation, increasing funding for bicycling or walking capital or maintenance projects and increasing biking and walking safety.

Staff recommends modifying this item as follows:

6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Project/Programs – Support improvements in policies pertaining to nonmotorized transportation, including: Complete Streets and increased funding for bicycling and walking infrastructure, safety and promotion.

Background

The Sacramento Air Quality Management District has long supported improvements in alternative transportation access as a means to reduce the impacts of motorized vehicles on the air quality of the Sacramento region. Improved access to walking, biking, and transit offers residents of the region alternatives for trips they must take in their daily lives, and provide many co-benefits such as improvements in personal health, increased recreational opportunities, and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

A program called “Complete Streets” captures the concept of improved street design that incorporates all modes of travel in initial street planning so that biking, walking and transit access is planned into designs when it is most cost effective, when projects are initially constructed. This program has a wide range of supporting organizations including America Bikes, AARP, Smart Growth America and even the Institute of Transportation Engineers. *Caltrans Directive 64* states that the Department of Transportation “fully considers the needs of non-motorized travelers (including

pedestrians, bicyclists, and persons with disabilities) in all programming, maintenance, construction, operations, and project development activities and products.” Both the City and County of Sacramento have included Complete Streets concepts in their general plans and this is a Transportation Control Measure in the Final Draft MTP that will go before the SACOG Board within the month.

Given the Board’s previous support for bills that advocate Complete Street designs for California communities (AB 1358, Leno), staff proposes to formally include the concept into the 2008 Board Directives for State and Federal Legislation and Regulation.

Fiscal Impact

None

Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer/Executive Director

Reviewed by,

Katherine Pittard
District Counsel