

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

For the Agenda of: January 24, 2008

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

From: Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Subject: Convert Five Existing Limited Term Positions to Permanent in the Land Use and Mobile Source Division

Recommendation

Approve the attached resolution for the requested changes in the Land Use and Mobile Source Division:

1. Convert four existing limited term Assistant/Associate Air Quality Specialists to permanent status to manage the increased inspection and audit workload in the Inspections Section.
2. Convert one existing limited term Program Coordinator to permanent status to oversee the Inspections Section.
3. Delete one unfunded limited term Air Quality Engineer and one unfunded limited term Air Quality Specialist
4. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Directors to sign the resolution on behalf of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (District).

Background

In 2005, the legislature authorized and Governor Schwarzenegger approved funding for the Transportation Congestion Relief Fund (TCRF) which included \$34.5 million for the Sacramento Emergency Clean Air and Transportation (SECAT) Program. In September 2005, your Board approved a resolution allowing the addition of seven (7) limited term positions in the Mobile Sources Division to help allocate the SECAT funding. Only five of the seven positions were funded and filled, but staff were still able to meet the District's goals for encumbering the \$34.5 million in funding, along with approximately \$22 million in Moyer, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Construction Mitigation, ARB Lower Emission School Bus, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Measure A funding within a two-year window. The term of these positions was to be three years, ending December 2008, to allow time for performing post-inspections and audits.

Changes in Programmatic Requirements

Since September 2005, several significant program changes have occurred that will permanently increase the staff work load. These changes include:

- Additional requirements in the Carl Moyer Program Guidelines;
- Increased complexity in project assessment relative to multiple CARB regulations;
- Significant increases in CARB-mandated project documentation and auditing requirements;
- Increased workload in special projects and community outreach;
- Increased long-term grant funds for Moyer, SECAT, School Bus and Goods Movement.

Changes to Funding Streams

The Carl Moyer Guidelines were modified significantly in January 2006 requiring additional surveys, audits and reporting not previously required. These changes also impact the SECAT Program and in order to maintain the integrity of the SECAT Program, the District has incorporated the Carl Moyer Program measures into the SECAT Program.

Surveys and audits of existing projects are critical to ensure that air quality benefits are actually achieved. The District is now required to survey all projects annually. Currently the number of projects surveyed is approximately 1,700, but this number is increasing by several hundred per year due to the significantly increased funding levels received over the past few years. Typically, 80 percent of survey recipients respond, but there is a significant amount of follow-up work to address the 20% that do not respond. Finally, the ARB now requires more project reports summarizing our program activities to ensure the integrity of the program.

The new Moyer Guidelines also require the District to randomly inspect 10 percent of the projects. The District must also inspect program participants that are not meeting their usage commitments under the contracts & implement steps to bring them into compliance. All of these additional inspections results in thousands of additional hours per year.

Moyer dollars have more than tripled from the historical levels of about two million dollars annually to about six million annually. In addition, over the last two years the District has received over two million dollars annually in Moyer Inter-District funds bringing the Moyer funding total to over eight million dollars annually. The District anticipates that it will continue to receive similar amounts of the Moyer Inter-District funds over the coming years. The District has added one permanent full time air quality engineer but no permanent full time inspectors to manage the projects that will be associated with these additional funds.

Staff analyzed the additional amount of funding expected to be received from all sources through 2015 and reviewed the historical information in the mobile source database to estimate the number of projects that can be implemented for these funding levels. Our analysis indicates that with the increase in SECAT funds, along with the estimated \$11 to \$12 million currently received from sources such as Moyer, DMV, Measure A, and Construction Mitigation, the Mobile Source Division will annually do about 550 Heavy-Duty projects. In addition to the project estimate, staff anticipates doing about 1,750 inspections and 275 audits per year. To manage this additional workload, the Land Use and Mobile Source Division will need four Assistant/Associate Air Quality Specialists on an on-going basis to do inspections, surveys and audits, along with a Program Coordinator to oversee the Mobile Source Inspections Section.

Recruitment Issues

The Limited Term positions have led to a high turnover of staff, nearly 100% in the last two years. Converting the positions from Limited Term to Permanent should reduce the turnover and improve efficiency due to the reduction in recruiting and training costs.

Fiscal Impact

There is no change to this year's fiscal budget for the conversion of the limited term positions to permanent status because these positions are currently funded through the end of this fiscal year. The fully loaded cost for these five positions going forward is \$454,158. There are sufficient program support and outreach funds allowed from the various incentive programs to fund these positions on a permanent basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Reviewed By:

Kathrine Pittard
District Counsel