Report on Changes to California's Air Toxic Program

Overview

- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - State agency responsible for scientific evaluation of hazardous substances
  - Independent Scientific Review Panel reviews and approves OEHHA work

- OEHHA has proposed changes to the Health Risk Assessment Guidelines

- District uses OEHHA Guidelines for risk management decisions
  - Evaluating our programs to determine whether changes are needed
  - Communicating w/ businesses and other stakeholders
History

- 1987—Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act (AB2588)
  - Required business to inventory air toxic emissions, prepare health risk estimate, and update the information periodically
  - Public notice required for businesses w/ significant risks
- 1992—Amendments to AB2588 (SB1731)
  - Requires risk reduction audit and plan for high risks
- 1999—Children's Environmental Health Protection Act (SB25)
  - Requires OEHHA review of toxics program to ensure children's health is properly protected
- 2014—OEHHA releases draft revised Health Risk Assessment Guidelines (June 20)
  - Increases calculated cancer risk for residential exposure
- Toxic air pollution reduced 80% since 1990
  - Through cleaner fuels, on- and off-road vehicles, and toxic risk reduction rules for industrial/commercial sources
  - While adding 8 million people and 8 million cars

Air Toxics Programs

- Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program
  - Toxics Review at Existing Facilities
    - Review of New & Modified Facilities
      - Facilities < 1,000 Feet from Schools
        - State Air Toxics Standards (ATCMs)
          - Federal Air Toxics Standards (NESHAPs)
            - CEQA
            - Near Roadway

Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD

March 26, 2015
Proposed Changes

- Studies show children affected differently than adults because developing organs/systems more sensitive to effects of toxins
- Proposed Guidelines better characterize exposure:
  - Age specific sensitivity/potency factors
  - Higher breathing rates by children
  - Refines exposure assessment for all ages
- Updates result in different calculations of health risk
- In most cases, although emissions are not increased, calculated risks will be higher, some by as much as 2.6 times higher

Next Steps

- OEHHA
  - Guidelines released March 2015
- California Air Resources Board
  - Updated Hotspots Analysis Reporting Program (HARP) computer model released
  - ARB will update the joint ARB/CAPCOA Hot Spots document in April 2015
- District staff
  - Reviewing permitting, public notice and risk reduction requirements
  - Reassessing California Environmental Quality Act significance thresholds
  - Evaluating risk assessments for facilities subject to Air Toxics Hot Spots Program (AB2586)
  - Communicating with local businesses and other stakeholders