To: Board of Directors  
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

From: Larry Greene  
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Subject: Cap-to-Cap Air Team Topics for 2015

Recommendation: Receive and file

Discussion: The SMAQMD has participated in the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Cap-to-Cap trip for many years and will again participate as a key partner on the Air Quality Team. The District contracts with Valley Vision to manage the Cleaner Air Partnership and, under that contract, Valley Vision also manages the Air Quality Team for Cap-to-Cap. This allows thoughtful linkage of Cap-to-Cap paper topics with strategic needs for improving air quality in the Sacramento Region. Topics for this year’s trip are as follows:

BUSINESS RESILIENCY - A KEY TO SUSTAINING REGIONAL ECONOMIC VITALITY

Requested Action: Support the pilot California Capital Region Business Resiliency Initiative (BRI) program focused on increasing the resilience of small businesses in the face of regional disaster(s) and replicate nationwide.

Summary of Background: Natural disasters are increasing in frequency and severity. 40-60% of small businesses never reopen after a major disaster, and nearly 60% do not have a disaster recovery plan in place. The BRI is the first regional small-business-focused resiliency initiative to prevent business interruption in the face of extreme weather events.

FEDERAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: A KEY ELEMENT IN AIR QUALITY ATTAINMENT

Requested Action: Include incentive-based funding solutions to reduce transportation-related emissions in the next transportation bill.

Summary of Background: The Sacramento region does not meet federal air standards. Mobile sources contribute 89% of the NOx pollution contributing to ozone formation. Incentive-based approaches are both economical and effective.
FEDERAL FUNDING AND GRANT PROGRAMS: SUSTAINING AIR QUALITY PROGRESS

Requested Action: Maintain the funding level in the 2016 President’s Budget for grants to state and local air quality agencies. Maintain the EPA’s 2015 DERA funding level.

Summary of Background: The Federal Clean Air Act mandates activities to protect the public from air pollution. The Federal government should meet their share of costs for cleaning the air and avoid fee increases to local businesses.

HARMONIZE CLEAN POWER PLAN WITH CALIFORNIA’S EXISTING GHG REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Requested Action: Ensure the EPA’s proposed Clean Power Plan allows flexibility and recognizes a broad range of GHG-reducing activities.

Summary of Background: California’s comprehensive approach to GHG emission reduction within the electricity sector should be recognized in the final Clean Power Plan.

Fiscal Impacts: Actions proposed or supported during this trip would either fiscally support current District programs or other programs that have positive impacts on air quality in the Sacramento Region. Expenses associated with Cap-to-Cap 2015 are covered in the current operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Approved as to form:

Kathrine Pittard
District Counsel