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Draft Landscaping Guidance

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SMAQMD proudly presents its [Draft Landscaping Guidance for Improving Air Quality Near Roadways](#). Increased cancer and chronic health risk in land uses near roadways is well-documented, and addressed in SMAQMD publications and the California Air Resources Board’s [Air Quality and Land Use Handbook](#). The Draft Landscaping Guidance provides methods for landscaping to reduce these risks in the Sacramento region, with user-friendly diagrams and descriptions for government agency staff and community stakeholders.

The Draft Landscaping Guidance is the local response to the US EPA’s [Recommendations for Constructing Roadside Vegetation Barriers to Improve Near-Road Air Quality](#) to make the US EPA’s recommendations more useful for Sacramento County’s unique ecosystems. SMAQMD is grateful to the [Sacramento Tree Foundation](#) for its collaboration and technical assistance in developing this guidance.

SMAQMD is requesting comments on the Draft Landscaping Guidance by March 24, 2017. Provide your written comments to Rachel Dubose via email at rdubose@airquality.org.



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PM2.5 Attainment

On December 16, 2016, the US EPA proposed to find the Sacramento Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area attained the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard by the attainment date of December 31, 2015 ([81 CFR 91088](#)). The air districts which make up the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area ([map](#)) will prepare an implementation/maintenance plan and redesignation request for the Sacramento Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area once the proposed rule is finalized.

Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Technology

Many people are aware of the zero-emission passenger cars on the road like the Nissan Leaf and Toyota Mirai. But do you know that heavy-duty trucks and engines account for the majority of smog forming pollution in the Sacramento region? To help spur zero-emission technologies where they are needed most, SMAQMD staff are working with [Nikola Motor Company](#) and several regional fleets to deploy zero-emission technologies in the freight industry.

Nikola Motor Company is developing a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle capable of replacing the diesel-powered semi-trucks found on Sacramento freeways. These new trucks emit water vapor only and are capable of traversing the Sierras year round! Combined with a strong battery, the fuel cell combines hydrogen and oxygen to create electricity to power the truck, eliminating the need for an engine. Regional fleets are very interested in this technology to help reduce their carbon footprint with their many already running clean diesel and natural gas technologies. SMAQMD hopes to make Sacramento a regional hub for the zero-emission technology, paving the way for more fleets to make the clean air choice.

Project Review Principles

SMAQMD staff is updating its Project Review Principles. The Project Review Principles function as the basis for recommendations made to project proponents and jurisdictions with the goal of reducing emissions and advancing public health through the physical design of the built environment. The Principles also provide the context for SMAQMD testimony before planning directors, zoning administrators, planning commissions, city councils, the Board of Supervisors, and other decision-making bodies that can impact air quality in Sacramento County.

The Principles were adopted by the SMAQMD Board on April 28, 2005. Since then, there have been changes in policy and practices in air quality, public health, and land use and transportation planning that collectively have led to the need for an update. Some of the changes include: the adoption of regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; the continual release of new research on air toxics and particulate matter which encourages seeking the maximum level of health protectiveness; the awareness of reducing chronic disease prevalence through the design of compact communities that promote active transportation and access to green space; and the recognition of the need for “complete streets” enabling everyone, with or without a car, to use all streets safely, which assists in meet mobility, public health, and environmental justice goals.

Staff has drafted a 2017 update of the Project Review Principles to reflect these changes. Local agencies were given the opportunity to review and provide suggestions. The updated Principles are scheduled to be reviewed by the SMAQMD Board of Directors on March 23, 2017, and considered for adoption on April 27, 2017. Once adopted they will be posted on the SMAQMD’s website: www.airquality.org/Businesses/CEQA-Land-Use-Planning.

Contact Teri Duarte at tduarte@airquality.org or 916-874-4816 regarding the Principles.

2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan

The 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update (Plan) is being shepherded through the review process by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff. This Plan outlines strategies needed to reach the mandated target of 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2030. Comments on the current draft Plan are being accepted through April 10, 2017. Another round of workshops will be scheduled prior to consideration for adoption by the CARB Board. Originally CARB was anticipating adoption would occur at the April Board meeting, but was recently delayed until the June meeting to allow additional outreach and comment.

Although the Plan is a state level document, CARB identifies the importance of local agencies in the fight against a changing climate and encourages local agencies to expand their work to make additional progress. There is plenty of information in the Plan that local agencies can use, so if you haven't reviewed the document, we encourage you to visit CARB's website and download the document and its appendices: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm>.

Connect Card

Connect Card is the Sacramento region's new way to pay transit fares for both bus and light rail. The Connect Card is a plastic, reloadable smart card with an embedded computer chip that can store cash value, passes and discount fares. Connect Card is set up for use with nine participating transit agencies: Sacramento RT, El Dorado Transit, Etran, Folsom Stage Line, Placer County Transit, Roseville Transit, SCT/Link, YoloBus, and Yuba-Sutter Transit. Be one of the early adopters and provide feedback on your experience – so improvements can be made to the system!

Visit www.connecttransitcard.com to order your card and see how it works! You may also call 916-557-4545 or 916-321-2877 with questions.

Bridging the Gap



The California Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) will be hosting its annual conference, Bridging the Gap, in San Francisco May 18-21, 2017. There are 5 unique session tracks to choose from, including Water, Practitioner's Guide to Environmental Planning, It's All Geek to Me, Intersection of Planning and CEQA, and CEQA Evolution. The conference includes mobile workshops, exhibits, exciting speakers, good food and music. Details on the session tracks, registration information and deadlines can be found on the [AEP website](#).