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# SOUTH CENTRAL COAST BASINWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COUNCIL

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## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Larry R. Allen**, APCO  
San Luis Obispo County APCD

**Michael Villegas**, APCO  
Ventura County APCD

**Dave Van Mullem**, APCO  
Santa Barbara County APCD

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Karen Bright**  
Council Member, City of Grover Beach  
San Luis Obispo County

**Mike Morgan**  
Council Member, City of Camarillo  
Ventura County

**Janet Wolf**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor  
Santa Barbara County

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## MEETING MINUTES October 21, 2015

### Present

Council Members: Janet Wolf, Santa Barbara County  
Mike Morgan, Ventura County

Staff: Larry Allen, San Luis Obispo County  
Dave Van Mullem, Santa Barbara County  
Michael Villegas, Ventura County  
Carolina Guerra, Ventura County (Minutes)

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### 1. **Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2015**

Approved.

### 2. **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

### 3. **New NAAQS for Ozone**

October 1, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a new national ambient air quality standard for ozone at a level of 70 parts per billion (ppb) averaged over eight hours, down from the old standard of 75 ppb, established in 2008. EPA cites a key medical study that shows ozone at a level of 72 ppb results in adverse health effects for a healthy adult exercising. EPA has also determined that studies that show health effects below 72 ppb exhibit greater uncertainty.

As with the old eight-hour standard, the new standard is based on the design value. The design value is the average of the 4<sup>th</sup> highest reading in each of three years. The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District's (VCAPCD) current design value is the average of the fourth highest readings that occurred in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Early next year, VCAPCD will recalculate our design value to include data from 2015, along with 2014 and 2013.

As a “serious” nonattainment area for ozone, Ventura County is mandated to meet the old standard of 75 ppb by 2021. VCAPCD looks to be on pace to attain the old standard, but will obviously have more work to do to attain the new standard of 70 ppb. While VCAPCD is projected to continue the trend of reductions in countywide emissions, the rate of decrease is slowing.

As a result of the new 70 ppb standard, the design value from our Piru monitoring station will no longer be considered “attainment.” It is important to note that Ventura County residents in the Oxnard plain (Ventura, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Camarillo) and the Conejo Valley (Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park) are breathing air that meets the new ozone standard. Of course, a significant amount of work will be required to achieve healthful air for the residents of Simi Valley, Ojai, and parts of the Santa Clara River Valley.

Ventura County will officially be designated as nonattainment for the new 70 ppb standard in 2017. The District will need to submit an updated Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in 2020 or 2021, demonstrating how it will attain the new standard.

#### **4. The Current State of the Climate**

Larry Allen summarized a presentation from the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, given by Dr. Jessica Blendon, Chief Scientist for ERT. The 2015 State of the Climate report is put together by a multitude of scientists from many different disciplines from all over the world, all looking at the different parts of the earth’s climate system and how they interact. They use this information to get a comprehensive picture of what’s going on with the climate by looking at essential indicators such as extreme weather, climate events, historical content, changes in atmospheric temperature, changes in habitat, changes in ocean temperature, changes in glacial melting, sea level rise, etc.

The purpose of the report is not to determine cause-and-effect or make projections on what might happen next year; it simply looks at current data. The report was prepared by 413 authors, in 58 different countries, on three different continents, with 17 editors.

Greenhouse gases reached record highs in 2014. Scientists have identified 400 ppm as the CO<sub>2</sub> level we shouldn’t exceed, but we are hitting it pretty consistently. Methane reached 1823 ppm, a significant increase over last year, while nitrous oxide increased to three times its 1990 levels. Greenhouse gases are not equal in their impact. Methane has a global warming potential (GWP) of 21 to 25 times that of carbon dioxide. Nitrous Oxide has 2,000 to 3,000 the GWP of CO<sub>2</sub>.

January through July were the warmest ever recorded, and 2015 is expected to be the hottest year on record, exceeding the previous record highs set in 2014. The number of extreme warm days is also increasing globally, while extreme cold nights are decreasing, resulting in less relief from the heat in the evening. As a result, energy use has increased as people are now running air conditioners during the day and night. The energy increase is stressing the power plants since they rely on that evening cool down to reduce the load on their equipment.

Sea surface temperatures and sea level rise also reached record highs in 2014. Arctic air is warming and sea ice continues to melt at rapid rates (18% below the 30 year average). Record and near-record high permafrost temperatures were also measured last year, which is causing severe damage to much of the infrastructure (e.g. – pipelines, roads, etc.) built on the permafrost that is now melting. Glaciers continue to melt across the world, and we’re at the 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year of melting. Overall, the report paints an alarming picture of current conditions and what the future holds.

#### **5. U.S. EPA’s Clean Power Plan**

This is a program the Obama administration proposed to reduce the carbon intensity of electrical generation across the United States. Electricity generation is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. What EPA is essentially proposing the rest of the country emulate the California’s energy generation model. Each state is required to develop a plan that shows how they’re going to meet the proposed carbon intensity goals for electricity generation. California already meets the 2030 goals because of its strong programs for

renewable wind and solar energy, coupled with use of gas turbines. Hydro power is a part of this program, but it will be a challenge to continue current power production levels if the drought doesn't turn around. Since wind and solar power are cyclical, conventional power plants are needed that can ramp up and provide power in a short time frame. Mandalay and Ormond Beach in Ventura County are older utility boiler plants that require about a day to ramp up; a newer gas turbine plant can ramp up in about an hour.

## 6. Update on Recent California AQ Legislation

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Legislature adjourned the first year of the two-year session. CAPCOA's Bill, SB 513 (Beall), will expand the universe of projects eligible for funding under the Carl Moyer program and passed the Legislature and signed by the Governor in October.

There was significant controversy regarding SB350 (de León), which represents a dramatic plan to reshape California's energy landscape:

- The bill called for a 50% reduction in petroleum use, increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to 50% and increasing energy efficiency in existing buildings by 50%.
- Moderate Democrats opposed the petroleum reduction provisions and refused to support the bill. Ultimately, the Governor agreed to remove the petroleum piece. With this section removed, the bill passed handily and was signed by the Governor on October 7, 2015.
- The approved 2030 targets for 50% renewable electricity and a doubling in efficiency of electricity and natural gas use are still major accomplishments.

Also drawing a lot of attention was SB 32, which would have required ARB to set new greenhouse gas targets of 40% below the 1990 level by 2030 and 80% below the 1990 level by 2050. The bill fell well short of required votes on the Assembly floor but can be taken up again next year.

Because legislative leadership and the Governor were waiting to resolve SB 350 before addressing cap and trade auction fund allocations for this year, time ran out; thus, how the 40% unallocated portion of funding will be spent was largely deferred to next year.

- The legislature, via SB 101, did appropriate \$90 million to ARB for local assistance for climate change. While the bill language is general, the intention is for the money to go for the following: \$62 million for Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP); \$20 million for Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program (EFMP); and \$8 million for Hybrid & Zero Emission Truck/Bus Incentive Program (HVIP).
- The bill also made the following appropriations: \$103 million for High Speed Rail; \$19 million to the Department of Water Resources for grants for water efficiency programs or projects that reduce greenhouse gases, water, and energy use; \$70 million to the Department of Community Services and development for weatherization and renewable energy projects; and \$40 million to the Department of Food and Agriculture for grants for water efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions.

SB 246 (Wieckowski) established the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to coordinate regional and local efforts with state adaptation strategies.

SB 379 (Jackson) required cities and counties to include climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in their general plans.

AB 1482 (Gordon) required state agencies to consider climate impacts and adaptation strategies to inform planning decisions and investments.

## 7. Update on Well Stimulation

Michael Villegas presented a video which provided a good overview of the hydraulic fracturing process. Public concern with well stimulation is at a heightened level. If we look at the air side of fracking, we've got emissions of NOx and diesel particulate matter from the diesel engines associated with the drilling and pumping of frack fluids. We're pretty well regulated there because of the air toxic control measures under

the California Air Resources Board for portable diesel engines. Silica sand is used as a proppant after the rock is fractured, and it enters the cracks and keeps them open. The South Coast district was looking into the particulate matter emissions when the sand is mixed with the frack fluids. The fluids used in hydraulic fracturing do contain some compounds that are toxic and some that are reactive organic compounds. We're reviewing our rules to determine if the issues related to flow back are covered by our existing rules. The current low crude oil prices have reduced the number of well stimulation operations occurring. We should have time to research this matter before any increase in well stimulation occurs.

8. **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

9. **Confirm Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be February 17, 2016.

10. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.