Report of AQAC Findings

June 20, 2002

California Air Resources Board Meeting

Michael T. Kleinman, Chair

Air Quality Advisory Committee

AQAC Review Process

- Review draft “Review of the California Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and Sulfates” and determine that:
  - Relevant studies were identified and appropriately interpreted.
  - Critical studies were not omitted from consideration
  - Recommendations were consistent with best available scientific evidence

Other factors considered in the review

- Susceptible populations were appropriately identified and addressed.
- Whether there were other populations that should have been considered.
- Data on infants and children were appropriately considered?
- Uncertainties were adequately described and addressed.

Comment Period

- Draft document was posted and disseminated.
- Written comments from AQAC and public comments were reviewed by ARB and OEHHA staff.

AQAC Public Meeting January 23 and 24, 2002

- AQAC reviewed written public comments, heard oral public statements and were briefed by ARB and OEHHA staff.
- AQAC endorsed:
  - Lowering PM10 annual average standard to 20 $\mu g/m^3$ and revising averaging method to annual mean.
  - Retaining the current PM10 24-hr standard.
  - Establishing a PM2.5 annual average arithmetic mean standard at 12 $\mu g/m^3$.
  - Retaining the current 25 $\mu g/m^3$ sulfate standard.
- AQAC disagreed that evidence was insufficient to establish a 24-hr PM2.5 standard.

AQAC Public Meeting April 3, 2002

- A 24-hr PM2.5 standard was proposed, disseminated and reviewed.
- AQAC heard public comments, reviewed and endorsed the recommended 25 $\mu g/m^3$ PM2.5 standard.

Sequellae

- Subsequent review of NMMAPS studies established possible errors in some data used to establish the 24-hr PM2.5 standard.
- The scientific data base related to the short-term standards are being investigated by ARB and OEHHA scientists.
- Proposed PM2.5 short-term standard was withdrawn and will need to be reassessed.

Next Steps

- The investigation of PM2.5 time-series analysis studies will be conducted and reported.
- AQAC will have an opportunity to review and comment on the findings.
- AQAC wants to thank and congratulate the scientific staff at OEHHA and ARB that contributed to the Report on the excellent and detailed review of the scientific evidence used as a basis for the California PM standards.