

SUMMARY OF BOARD ITEM

ITEM NO. 01-5-4: PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER SMOKE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None. Staff will present a progress report.

DISCUSSION: In March 2000, the Board adopted amendments to California's Agricultural Burning Guidelines and established the Smoke Management Guidelines (Guidelines) for Agricultural and Prescribed Burning.

The amendments place primary emphasis on: improved smoke management planning; better communication among burners, air quality management agencies, and the public; a requirement for air district burn authorizations for all agricultural and prescribed burns; and provisions for the use of a "marginal" burn day.

The Guidelines require that air districts implement the prescribed burning elements of the regulation by March 14, 2001. In addition, they must adopt smoke management programs that meet all applicable requirements of the regulation by July 1, 2001. By April 1, 2003, air districts must have enforceable rules and regulations in place.

At the March 2000 meeting, the Board directed staff to work with stakeholders on the development of program implementation tools. The Board also directed staff to report back with recommendations on how to address residential burning.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS: Over the past year, ARB staff has been working with the air districts on program submittal requirements. 34 of the 35 air districts have submitted documentation on the prescribed burning components of their programs. Programs meeting the July 1, 2001 requirements have been submitted by the North Coast Air Quality Management District and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and they have been approved by ARB. ARB staff is also implementing program requirements related

to the designation of marginal burn days and revised meteorological criteria for burn day authorizations.

In addition to these efforts, nine working groups have been established in cooperation with the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association to assist with implementation of the Guidelines. Members include ARB, air districts, State and federal land managers, and private industry. These working groups have met collectively over thirty times to discuss issues of concern and develop program support materials.

Products that are being developed by these working groups include: 1) a uniform smoke management plan that will be used as a burn planning and registration tool; 2) a prescribed fire reporting and tracking system; 3) a web-based map of alternative uses for biomass; 4) public information fact sheets; and 5) guidance for air districts on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements as they pertain to smoke management programs.

In addition, although outdoor residential burning is not part of the Guidelines, a working group has assessed the magnitude of outdoor residential burning in California and prepared recommendations on further work that is needed to address this issue. The working group recommends that the following actions be pursued: 1) educate residents about the health risks of residential burning; 2) work with the Integrated Waste Management Board to develop improved collection and disposal infrastructure; and 3) coordinate with the California Department of Forestry on permit and enforcement issues.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER THE STATUS OF THE SMOKE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

The Air Resources Board (Board or ARB) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider the status of the smoke management guidelines program implementation.

DATE: June 28, 2001
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: California EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room, Second Floor
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, California 95814

This item will be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., June 28, 2001, and may continue at 8:30 a.m., June 29, 2001. This item may not be considered until June 29, 2001. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before June 28, 2001, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

The facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accommodation is needed, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-5594, or TDD (916) 324-9531 or (800) 700-8326 for TDD calls from outside the Sacramento area by June 13, 2001, to ensure accommodation.

In March 2000, the Board adopted amendments to California's Agricultural Burning Guidelines and established the Smoke Management Guidelines for Agricultural and Prescribed Burning. The Board directed staff to work with air districts and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Guidelines, including development of a uniform smoke management plan template, program costs, and other program tools. The Board also directed staff to report back with recommendations on how to address backyard residential burning. Staff will summarize the status of air district program implementation, report on the activities of the nine program implementation working groups, and provide recommendations for addressing residential burning. This item is non-regulatory.

Copies of this notice may be obtained from the ARB Public Information Office, 1001 "I" Street, 1st Floor, Environmental Services Center, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990, or on the ARB internet site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/activity/activity.htm> prior to the scheduled meeting (June 28, 2001).

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing at the meeting, and in writing or by e-mail before the meeting. To be considered by the Board, written submissions not physically submitted at the meeting must be received **no later than 12:00 noon, June 27, 2001**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail is to be sent to:

Clerk of the Board
Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street, 23rd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

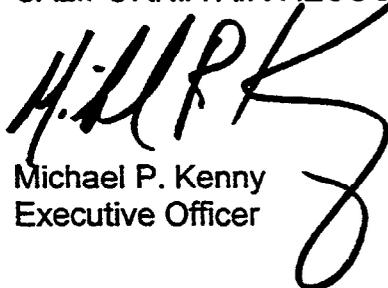
Electronic mail is to be sent to smp01@listserv.arb.ca.gov and received at the ARB **no later than 12:00 noon, June 27, 2001**.

Facsimile submissions are to be transmitted to the Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-3928 and received at the ARB **no later than 12:00 noon June 27, 2001**.

The Board requests but does not require 30 copies of any written submission. Also, the ARB requests that written and e-mail statements be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board members have time to fully consider each comment.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Bruce Oulrey, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, by phone at (916) 322-6155, or in writing at 1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD



Michael P. Kenny
Executive Officer

Date: June 7, 2001

"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.arb.ca.gov."