

SUMMARY OF BOARD ITEM

ITEM # 02-6-1: HEALTH UPDATE

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Informational Item

DISCUSSION: Staff will update the Board on a published paper on ozone and health effects.

SUMMARY AND IMPACTS: The impact of exposure to ambient concentrations of ozone on public health is of serious concern to health officials. In the ARB/OEHHA 2000 review of state ambient air quality standards, ozone was ranked as having the second highest priority for formal review and possible revision. ARB scientists are beginning to evaluate the scientific literature on ozone health impacts in preparation for the formal ozone ambient air quality standard review in 2003. A large body of controlled human exposure literature will form the primary basis for the ozone standard, with a secondary role for epidemiological studies. This is in contrast to the particulate matter standards where epidemiological data provided almost all of the scientific data available. The paper to be presented reports on the responses of young adults who underwent controlled exposures to ozone that simulated those experienced by people who work or exercise outdoors during multi-day episodes of elevated ozone concentration. The study has implications for standards setting because of its evidence for both short- and long-term health impacts of ozone exposure.

