State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 84-53

October 25, 1984

Agenda Item No.: 84-14-4

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code Sections 39600, 39601, 43013 and 43101 authorize the Air Resources Board (the "Board") to implement, interpret, or make specific Health and Safety Code Sections 39000, 39001, 39002, 39006, 43000, 43013 and 43101, and Western Oil and Gas Ass'n v. Orange County APCD, 14 Cal.3d 411 (1975), by adopting regulations governing the composition of motor vehicle fuels as they affect motor vehicle emissions;

WHEREAS, Title 13, California Administrative Code, Section 2252(d) prohibits, beginning January 1, 1985, any person from selling, producing for sale, offering for sale, or delivering for sale in the South Coast Air Basin or Ventura County, diesel fuel for use in motor vehicles which has a sulfur content greater than 500 parts per million, subject to an exemption in Section 2252(h) for specified amounts of diesel fuel produced in the South Coast Air Basin or Ventura County by small refiners and with provisions for variances in Section 2252(j);

WHEREAS, the Board has established ambient air quality standards for particles with an aerodynamic diameter less than 10 microns (PM_{10}) and those standards are estimated to be exceeded in most areas of the state;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed national ambient air quality standards for PM_{10};

WHEREAS, emissions from diesel engines, especially emissions of sulfur dioxide that react in the atmosphere to form secondary particulates, contribute to ambient concentrations of PM_{10};

WHEREAS, the Board's staff has investigated the feasibility of achieving further diesel engine emissions reductions through modifications of motor vehicle diesel fuel specifications, and has prepared a report on this subject for the Board's consideration;

WHEREAS, the Board has held a duly noticed public meeting at which it considered the report prepared and submitted to it by the staff and received public comments; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that:

> Further information on the relationship between the aromatics content and volatility of diesel fuel and diesel engine emissions is necessary before an adequate evaluation can be made of the feasibility of imposing standards for those qualities of motor vehicle diesel fuel as an emissions control measure;

Modification of diesel fuel properties would reduce directly emitted particulate matter but would not reduce visible emissions proportionately;

Reducing the sulfur content of motor vehicle diesel fuel appears to be a feasible control strategy for the reduction of ambient concentrations of PM_{10};

The sulfur content of motor vehicle diesel fuel limits contained in Title 13, California Administrative Code, Section 2252 will provide substantial air quality benefits in the South Coast Air Basin and Ventura County; and

The small refiner exemption from the motor vehicle diesel fuel sulfur content limits in Section 2252 may have a significant adverse impact on the effectiveness of the regulation in reducing ambient concentrations of PM_{10}.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board directs the staff to

1. Investigate the impacts of eliminating or limiting the small refiner exemption in Title 13, California Administrative Code, Section 2252(h) and report to the Board no later than September 1985;

2. Consider a statewide regulation to control the sulfur content of motor vehicle diesel fuel as a strategy in developing a State Implementation Plan to attain the national ambient air quality standards for PM_{10} when those standards are promulgated;

3. Further investigate the relationship between the aromatics content and volatility of diesel fuel and motor vehicle diesel engine emissions as additional information on those subjects becomes available.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 84-53 as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Harold Holmes

Harold Holmes, Board Secretary