State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 86-86

September 25, 1986

Agenda Item No.: 86-11-1

WHEREAS, on November 22, 1985, the Board established a committee of three of its members to gather information pertinent to the setting of Board policy regarding visibility;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Visibility ("the Committee") held three public meetings:

On February 27, 1986, the Committee met for the purpose of establishing a plan for future public meetings or colloquia;

On April 30, 1986, the Committee sponsored a colloquium on issues affecting the State's visibility regulatory policy and the relationship between state visibility regulation and the federal requirement for visibility protection in national parks and wilderness areas in California;

On June 10, 1986, the Committee sponsored a colloquium to address technical issues regarding measurement, modeling of visual air quality and identification of sources of visibility-degrading pollutants;

WHEREAS, the Committee has completed its formal review of the technical and policy issues associated with California visual air quality;

WHEREAS, the Committee has submitted its report to the Board regarding the management of visual air quality; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the recommendations of the Committee present an appropriate course of action for the staff to follow regarding protection of visibility in California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby directs the staff as follows regarding the federal visibility protection program:

1. Continue to monitor U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rulemaking for visibility and comment on all relevant draft regulations and propose an appropriate course of action to the Board after EPA has promulgated draft State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions for California;

2. Continue to support and actively coordinate with EPA and the other participating agencies in the development of the IMPROVE monitoring network, specifically in the selection of monitoring sites and technologies;

3. Compile a review of current information about air quality in the Class I areas in California, and promote the exchange of research and monitoring data among all interested parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board hereby directs the staff as follows regarding the State standard for visibility-reducing particles:

1. Develop and present to the Board for adoption an instrumental monitoring method for measurement of visibility degradation, and a restatement of the current statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin visibility standards in terms of that measurement;

2. Develop and present to the Board for consideration a non-degradation policy for areas where visual air quality is currently better than required by the statewide standard;

3. When sufficient monitoring data are available, characterize California's visual air quality and begin an air basin-by-air basin review of the standard; when possible, data from major research programs such as the upcoming South Coast Air Quality Study and the proposed San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Study should be integrated into the process of evaluating individual air basin standards;

4. Develop criteria for providing variances or special protection for certain activities within each air basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board hereby directs the staff as follows regarding monitoring:

1. Install visibility monitoring instruments alongside existing PM_{10} monitors at as many sites as feasible;

2. Continue to assist and to coordinate with locally operated visibility monitoring and research programs such as the Department of Defense RESOLVE program and the cooperative private-public SCENES program;

3. Include visual air quality analysis as an explicit goal of major research projects such as the upcoming South Coast Air Quality Study and the San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Study;

4. Identify any highly sensitive Class I areas not included in the federal IMPROVE monitoring network and, to the extent resources allow, assume responsibility for monitoring visual air quality at those locations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board hereby directs the staff as follows regarding other State programs:

1. Continue the program of dynamic allocation of agricultural burning rights, which has dramatically reduced the impact of agricultural burning in the Sacramento Valley;