State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Resolution 90-61

October 11, 1990

Agenda Item No.: 90-16-2

WHEREAS, sections 39600 and 39601 of the Health and Safety Code authorize the Air Resources Board (the "Board") to adopt standards, rules and regulations and to do such acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to and imposed upon the Board by law;

WHEREAS, section 39605 of the Health and Safety Code authorizes the Board to provide assistance to air pollution control and management districts;

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted the California Clean Air Act of 1988 (the "Act"; Stats. 1988, ch. 1568) and declared that it is necessary that the state ambient air quality standards be attained by the earliest practicable date to protect the public health, particularly the health of children, older people, and those with respiratory diseases;

WHEREAS, in order to attain these standards, the Act in section 40910 of the Health and Safety Code mandates a comprehensive program of emission reduction measures and planning requirements for the state and local air pollution control districts ("districts") in areas where the standards are not attained;

WHEREAS, the Act in section 40910 of the Health and Safety Code directs districts to endeavor to attain and maintain state ambient air quality standards by the earliest practicable date;

WHEREAS, the Act in section 40911 of the Health and Safety Code requires each district that is nonattainment for ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide or sulfur dioxide to prepare and submit to the Board by no later than June 30, 1991 a plan for attaining those standards;

WHEREAS, the Act in section 40913(a) of the Health and Safety Code requires each district plan to consider present and projected maximum ambient contributions, the distribution and frequency of violations, and the anticipated effectiveness of available and potential control measures;

WHEREAS, the Act in section 40914(b) of the Health and Safety Code allows the districts to employ an alternative emission reduction strategy upon an adequate demonstration that the alternative strategy is more or as effective as districtwide five percent annual reductions;

WHEREAS, the Act in sections 40918, 40919 and 40920 of the Health and Safety Code requires the Board to determine the date by which districts are expected to attain standards so that they can be classified as having moderate, serious or severe air quality problems;

WHEREAS, the Board is required to review district attainment plans pursuant to section 41500 and must determine whether the attainment date specified in

the plan represents the earliest practicable date and whether the measures contained in the plan are sufficient to achieve and maintain state and national ambient air quality standards;

WHEREAS, the Act in section 41503(c) of the Health and Safety Code requires the Board, where a district is unable to specify an attainment date, to concur that projecting an attainment date is not feasible, and to determine whether the plan contains every feasible control strategy or measure to ensure progress toward attainment;

WHEREAS, the Act in section 41503.1 of the Health and Safety Code allows the Board to approve an attainment plan which achieves less emission reductions than five percent per year, if the Board determines that the equivalent air quality improvement will be achieved through an alternative level of emission reductions;

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Quality Act and Board regulations require that no project which may have significant adverse environmental impacts be adopted as originally proposed if feasible alternatives or mitigation measures are available to reduce or eliminate such impacts;

WHEREAS, a public workshop was held on September 7, 1990, to assist staff in developing the guidance document for estimating emissions reductions needed for attainment and determining area classifications;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the guidance document prepared by staff and of the written comments and the testimony presented by the public and the staff, the Board finds that:

1. District plans must, to the extent feasible with existing resources and technical tools, provide an estimate of the emission reductions needed to attain and maintain state and national ambient air quality standards;

2. District plans need, to the extent feasible with existing resources and technical tools, identify the time needed to attain state and national ambient air quality standards;

3. Many districts will not have adequate models available in time for inclusion in their 1991 plans and need guidance on how to address the requirements of the Act regarding attainment demonstrations;

4. Districts with adequate modeling capabilities will benefit from additional guidance on how to use those models to make attainment demonstrations;

5. Districts may desire to use an alternative emission reduction strategy in lieu of reducing districtwide emissions by an average of five percent per year, and will benefit from guidance on how to determine if an alternative emission reduction strategy is equal to or more effective as the reduction of districtwide emissions by an average of five percent per year;

6. The 1991 plans must identify the date by which the district expects to attain state and national ambient air quality standards, or must identify the work that will be performed to provide this information on an expeditious schedule;

7. The proposed guidance identifies methods that districts can employ to meet the requirements of the Act related to attainment demonstrations, but does not prevent the districts from employing alternative techniques that are equally valid and consistent with the requirements of the Act; and

8. Approval of the guidance document will not have adverse impacts on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the guidance document "Guidance on Estimating Emission Reductions Needed to Attain State Standards and for Determining Area Classifications in Response to the California Clean Air Act" and directs the Executive Officer to transmit the document to districts and other interested parties for their information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will rely upon the guidance document, in addition to other relevant information provided by districts and interested parties, when evaluating district plans for compliance with the requirements of the California Clean Air Act.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 90-61, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Judith M. Lounsbury

Judith M. Lounsbury, Board Secretary