

Subject: February 20 Workshop to Discuss Draft 15-day Modifications to the US Forest and Rice Cultivation Offset Protocols

Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) staff is holding a public workshop on Friday, February 20, 2015 to discuss draft 15-day language for a proposed new Rice Cultivation Projects Compliance Offset Protocol and proposed updates to the existing US Forest Compliance Offset Protocol.

DATE: Friday, February 20, 2015

TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: California Environmental Protection Agency

Air Resources Board
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Staff proposed the addition of a new Rice Cultivation Projects Compliance Offset Protocol and an update to the existing U.S Forest Compliance Offset Protocol under the Cap-and-Trade Regulation (Regulation) at the December 2014 Board hearing. The February 20 workshop will address staff's draft 15-day modifications and allow stakeholders an opportunity to provide informal comments on the modifications. The final 15-day modifications to the new Rice Cultivation and updated U.S. Forest Compliance Offset Protocols will be released for a formal 15-day public comment period in advance of the Board item tentatively scheduled for June 25-26, 2015.

A copy of the presentation for the workshop and any proposed draft language will be available the morning of Friday, February 20, 2015 on ARB's Cap-and-Trade Workshops and Meetings webpage at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/meetings/meetings.htm>

All interested stakeholders are invited to attend. A live webcast of the workshop will be available at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/?BDO=1>. Remote participants will be able to submit e-mail questions during the workshop at an address provided in the presentation.

Background

The Regulation was formally adopted by ARB in 2011. In response to continued Board direction and further discussions with stakeholders, staff began a public process to propose a new Rice Cultivation Projects Compliance Offset Protocol and an update to the existing U.S. Forest Compliance Offset Protocol for Board consideration in December 2014. At the December 2014 hearing, the Board directed staff to make appropriate modifications to the protocols and return to the Board at a future date for final consideration. Documents that will be made publicly available prior to the workshop will provide a discussion of draft 15-day modifications to the new Rice Cultivation Projects Compliance Offset Protocol and the updated U.S. Forest Compliance Offset Protocol. These documents will provide the public with the opportunity to discuss staff's draft 15-day modifications prior to staff formally releasing the modifications for the 15-day formal public comment period. The public will have additional opportunities to comment on these protocols during the 15-day formal public comment period and Board hearing.

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