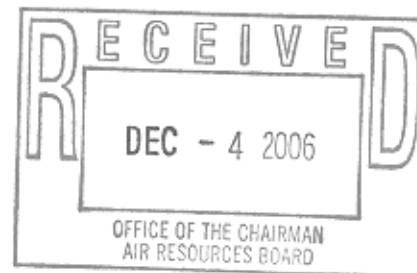




Via Facsimile, Mail and E-Mail

December 1, 2006



Dr. Robert F. Sawyer,  
Chairman  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Agenda Item 6-8-3  
Proposed Amended ATCM for Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations

Dear Dr. Sawyer:

The Metal Finishers Association of Southern California ("MFASC") and the Surface Technologies Association ("STA")(collectively, the "Associations") write you to request that the December 7, 2006 hearing for the Proposed Amended ATCM for Chrome Plating and Chromic Acid Anodizing Operations ("PAATCM") be postponed.

We received the latest revision ("Version #3") to the PAATCM by email at 5:03 PM yesterday and spoke today with Ms. Carla Takemoto and Dr. Bob Barham of the CARB Staff. Written comments are due by noon December 6, 2006. The receipt of the newly revised PAATCM with only a five and one-half day window for comment makes meaningful response by the public and industry impossible. The 60 page PAATCM has several hundred changes. While many of those changes were made in the original version of the PAATCM ("Version #1"), many more changes have occurred in Version #3.

We briefly reviewed Version #3 of the PAATCM and note that it still fails to address the three points members of the Associations identified at the September 28, 2006 hearing as necessary for industry to embrace Version #1 of the PAATCM presented. We discussed with Ms. Takemoto and Mr. Barham these concerns, which are:

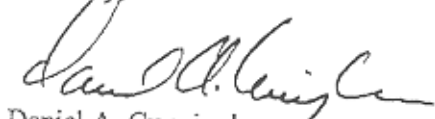
1. **An alternative to mandatory prescribed controls ("technology neutral").** All drafts of the PAATCM apply window dressing that an actual technology neutral alternative is available because EPA concurrence is required on a case-by-case basis. Difficulty in obtaining EPA concurrence is something that we have experienced. Four hard chrome platers sought concurrence with EPA, which took about four years to obtain. The language offering an alternative is not an alternative at all, but a repackaging of the existing ATCM, which already has the concurrence requirement. Dr Barham told us one EPA staffer indicated that a concurrence review could be turned around in 45 days, but given our experience, we have no confidence that a large federal agency such as EPA will be timely on up to 75-100 individual concurrence requests. As we see it, the technology neutral alternative may be the only way for many of our members to stay in business. Without a real alternative, they will be forced to close.

2. **Certification of foam blanket technology.** Version #3 does not change this issue at all. The failure to change this issue is more troubling considering that CARB Staff at the September 28th hearing indicated its acceptability when used with other certified chemical fume suppressants. (See statement of Mr. Robert Fletcher, CARB Staff, Hearing Transcript, Page 138).

3. **Compliance with the chemical fume suppressant threshold for smaller facilities that have cancer risk of one per one million risk.** The facilities described (less than 200,000 ampere-hours per year) do not have large emissions and at greater distances their risk is at or less than one per one million. These facilities also are likely to have the greatest economic impact from mandatory technology prescriptions and therefore, will be affected the most. Version #3 does not address this issue at all. We believe that placing in the rule a simple screening method of determining equivalent risk for one in one million would demonstrate the risk at these facilities is minimal and the rule is health protective.

We do not believe the current version of the PAATCM addresses our three issues and reiterated that comment to Ms. Takemoto and Dr. Barham. Once again, given the extreme time constraints to adequately address the further revisions within this latest version of the PAATCM, we ask that the matter be postponed until the January 2007 CARB meeting. We are hopeful this additional time will allow our issues to be resolved.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Cunningham  
MFASC Executive Director  
STA Executive Director