

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A MODIFICATION TO THE CURRENT SIP COMMITMENT FOR PESTICIDE EMISSION REDUCTIONS IN THE VENTURA COUNTY NONATTAINMENT AREA

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) will conduct a public hearing to consider the approval of a proposed modification to the current State Implementation Plan (SIP) commitment for pesticide emission reductions in the Ventura County nonattainment area. This item was originally considered at a public hearing held on July 22, 2007. In response to public comments, ARB staff has revised the original proposal released on May 7, 2007, and has also prepared a new environmental analysis for the revised proposal. At the same hearing, ARB will also consider staff's proposed State Strategy to attain the national ambient air quality standards for 8-hour ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

DATE: September 27, 2007

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: South Coast Air Quality Management District
Auditorium
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765

This item will be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., September 27, 2007, and may continue at 8:30 a.m., September 28, 2007. This item may not be considered until September 28, 2007. Please consult the agenda for the meeting, which will be available at least 10 days before September 27, 2007, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, audiocassette or computer disk. Please contact ARB's Disability Coordinator at (916) 323-4916 by voice or through the California Relay Services at 711, to place your request for disability services. If you are a person with limited English and would like to request interpreter services, please contact ARB's Bilingual Manager at (916) 323-7053.

BACKGROUND

In the 1994 Ozone SIP, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) committed to obtain Reactive Organic Gas (ROG) emission reductions from pesticides in five nonattainment areas. For the Ventura County nonattainment area (Ventura), the target, a 20 percent ROG emission reduction from the 1990 base year emissions by 2005, has not been achieved. The difficulty in reaching the target is due in part to the very large increase since 1990 in the amount of acreage under cultivation with crops requiring fumigation. As a result, the 2004 pesticide emission levels in Ventura were about

4.8 tons per day (tpd), as compared to 3.7 tpd in 1990. The near-term fumigation measure commitment in DPR's proposed 2008 Pesticide Plan will be considered as part of the proposed 2007 State Strategy at the September 27, 2007 Board Hearing. The proposed control measures will achieve reductions from the current pesticide emission levels in all 1-hour nonattainment areas by imposing a pesticide emission cap. For all 1-hour ozone nonattainment areas except Ventura, application of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) would achieve the ROG reductions from pesticides that are required by the 1994 Ozone SIP. Application of BACT in Ventura County will achieve reductions from the current pesticide emission levels, but not enough to meet levels required by the 1994 Ozone SIP.

On May 7, 2007 ARB staff published a proposal to substitute 1.0 tpd of surplus ROG emission reductions from California's on-going mobile source emission control program for 1.0 tpd of the ROG emission reductions SIP commitment for pesticides in Ventura. Based on public comment, ARB staff now understands that in Ventura, the near-term measures in DPR's proposed 2008 Pesticide Plan would achieve reductions in 2008 that are 1.3 tpd short of the ROG reduction commitment in the 1994 SIP.

Ventura is also designated as nonattainment for the newer federal 8-hour ozone standard, and is classified as a "moderate" nonattainment area with an attainment date of June 15, 2010. Effectively this means that Ventura must attain the standard in 2009, since nonattainment areas must show attainment for a complete ozone season prior to the attainment date. Because a 2009 attainment requirement allows little time for the implementation of new controls for ozone-forming emissions, attainment by 2009 is largely dependent on reductions from the existing control program. Preliminary photochemical modeling results indicate that Ventura will not attain the standard in 2009. Under the federal Clean Air Act the State can request reclassification to a higher classification. Reclassification as a "serious" ozone nonattainment area would give the area a June 15, 2013 attainment deadline, requiring the reductions that will result in attainment to be in place by 2012.

The Board will also be considering approval of the proposed State Strategy for California's 2007 State Implementation Plan (State Strategy) at its September 27-28, 2007 public hearing. Preliminary photochemical modeling indicates that attainment of the 8-hour federal ozone standard in Ventura County may be possible by 2012. The additional emission reductions for attainment would be provided by the proposed State Strategy, the upwind reductions from the proposed State Strategy and local controls adopted in the South Coast Air Basin, and additional local stationary source controls.

PROPOSED ACTION

ARB staff is proposing to revise the 1994 Ozone SIP to substitute 1.3 tpd of ROG emission reductions from California's on-going mobile source emission control program for 1.3 tpd of the ROG emission reduction commitment for pesticides in the 1994 Ozone SIP in Ventura in 2008. In addition, staff is proposing that this substitution be phased out over time; the amount of surplus non-pesticide ROG emission reductions used to

meet the 1994 SIP pesticide reduction commitment would be reduced by approximately 1/3 ton per day each year after 2008, as shown in the following table.

**Proposed Commitment for
Surplus Emission Reductions
Used to Meet the 1994 Pesticide SIP Commitment**

Year	ROG (tons per day)
2008	1.3
2009	1.0
2010	0.6
2011	0.3
2012	0.0

This proposed SIP revision will ensure that all of the pesticide reductions required under the 1994 SIP commitment will be achieved by 2012, as a result of the pesticide use and application controls included in the proposed 2007 State Strategy. This proposal will encourage reduced pesticide usage and better pesticide application practices, while providing growers with additional time to identify and implement alternatives. The revised proposal for Ventura differs from staff's original proposal released on May 7, 2007, which was to substitute 1.0 tpd of ROG emission reductions in Ventura (instead of 1.3 tons). Staff's original proposal also differs in that the 1.0 tpd substitution was a long-term substitution with no termination date and no phase-out schedule.

Staff has also prepared a new environmental analysis for the revised proposal. Both the proposed SIP revision and the new environmental analysis are available for public comment as described below.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

This notice is available on the ARB website at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/sip.htm>.

The proposed revision to the pesticide commitment in the 1994 SIP, and the new environmental analysis for this proposed revision, are available at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/sip/2007sip/2007sip.htm>, or from the Public Information Office, Air Resources Board, 1001 I Street, Visitors and Environmental Services Center, 1st Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990.

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

The public may present comments relating to this matter orally or in writing at the meeting, and in writing or by email before the meeting. To allow for full consideration of comments received, the Board strongly encourages that all comments be submitted to the Clerk of the Board by September 26, 2007, but the Board will accept written submissions physically submitted at the September 27, 2007, hearing or received by

other means by **no later than 12:00 noon, September 26, 2007**, and addressed to the following:

Postal mail: Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Electronic submittal: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bclist.php>

Facsimile submittal: (916) 322-3928

The Board requests, but does not require, that 30 copies of any written statement be submitted and that all written statements be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that ARB staff and Board Members have time to fully consider each comment. The board encourages members of the public to bring to the attention of staff in advance of the meeting any suggestions for the proposal.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

Further inquiries regarding these items should be directed to Jeff Weir, Staff Air Pollution Specialist, at (916) 445-0098 or Ravi Ramalingam, Manager, Transportation Strategies Section at (916) 322-2085.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD



for Tom Cackette
Acting Executive Officer

Date: August 13, 2007