

REQUEST FOR EARLY EFFECTIVE DATE

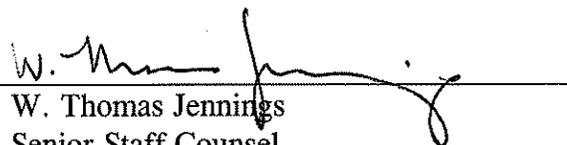
Amendments to the California Cleaner-Burning Gasoline Regulations

Pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(d), the Air Resources Board (ARB) requests that the amendments to sections 2260 to 2262.7, title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR), become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State, whichever occurs later. Good cause for this request exists.

The amendments include a change to the wintertime requirements for oxygenated gasoline in the California Phase 2 reformulated gasoline (CaRFG) regulations. They eliminate in most areas of the state the requirement for at least 1.8 wt.% oxygen in gasoline sold in the wintertime, so that the requirement will remain permanently in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura and Imperial only, and will remain through January 31, 2000, in Fresno and Madera counties and the Lake Tahoe Air Basin only (section 2262.5(a), title 13, California Code of Regulations). Thus refiners will be provided additional flexibility in meeting the CaRFG regulations, and will be able in the areas not subject to the federal RFG regulations to produce gasoline using the predictive model that contains no oxygenates such as methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). The upcoming winter oxygenates season starts October 1, 1998 in most parts of the state. The primary gasoline pipeline carrier in California, Kinder Morgan Energy Inc., is currently requiring all California gasoline shipments to contain at least 1.8 wt.% oxygen in order to assure that all downstream tanks and facilities will comply with the minimum oxygen content requirements by the October 1 implementation date. An early effective date is necessary to assure that refiners have the flexibility* - to not use oxygenates as soon as possible. Both the Western States Petroleum Association and Chevron Products Company have expressly requested that the amendments become effective as quickly as possible.

The ARB will promptly notify all refiners and carriers of the effective date as soon as the amendments are filed with the Secretary of State.

Date: 4 September 1998


W. Thomas Jennings
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