

heller.txt

Subject:
Help Protect California's Air Quality
From:
"M.L. Heller" <mlheller@earthlink.net>
Date:
Mon, 09 Aug 2004 22:22:40 -0500
To:
Deborah Drechsler <ddrechsl@arb.ca.gov>

Monday, August 9, 2004

Deborah Drechsler
California Air Resources Board
Research Division
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Deborah Drechsler,

I am writing to express my strong support of the proposed 8-hour average standard for ozone and for taking an important step toward establishing adequate air quality standards.

In order to protect public health, the standard should be set at 0.070 parts per million level, not to be exceeded. Additionally, I support keeping the 1-hour average ozone standard of 0.09 parts per million, not to be exceeded. This standard will offer protection against short-term peak concentrations of ozone that are also prevalent in California.

Neither the 1-hour nor the 8-hour standard can stand alone. Both are required to provide adequate protection against short-term peaks and also against longer-term exposure that contribute to respiratory irritation and reduction in lung function.

Research clearly shows that the current California Ambient Air Quality Standards are insufficient to protect public health, particularly sensitive populations, with an adequate margin of safety, as required by the Children's Environmental Health Protection Act. Substantial evidence exists of both short- and long-term deleterious health effects at levels meeting the current standards.

Millions of Californians are at risk of impaired lung function, irritating respiratory symptoms, increased hospitalizations for heart and lung problems and increased emergency room visits for asthma at current concentrations of ozone. Children, seniors, people with lung diseases such as asthma and those working or exercising outdoors are especially susceptible to respiratory problems triggered by ozone.

I also support California Air Resources Board recommendations for state funding of research on the effects of multi-hour concentrations of ozone at lower concentrations than the proposed standards.

Sincerely,

M.L. Heller
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