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February 10, 2009

AB 32 - California Global Warming Solutions Act Feebate Research Contract Public Consultation Meeting

Invitation to Attend Public Consultation on Feebate Research Contract

The Air Resources Board (ARB) staff invites you to participate in a public consultation meeting to discuss progress on ARB's research contract titled "Potential Design, Implementation, and Benefits of a Feebate Program for New Passenger Vehicles in California." This consultation will focus on reviewing and discussing the proposed policy scenarios for evaluation.

Where and When is the Public Consultation Meeting?

The consultation meeting will be held at Cal/EPA Headquarters in Sacramento and will also be webcast.

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2009
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Sierra Hearing Room, 2nd Floor
Address: Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 32 Background & Event Details

AB 32 specifically states that if the Pavley regulations do not remain in effect, ARB shall implement alternative regulations to control mobile sources to achieve equivalent or greater reductions of greenhouse gas emissions (HSC §38590). ARB is currently evaluating the use of a feebate program as the mechanism to secure these reductions should that be necessary. A feebate regulation would combine a rebate program for low-emitting new vehicles with a fee program for high-emitting new vehicles. This program would be designed in a way to generate equivalent or greater cumulative reductions of greenhouse gas emissions compared to what would have been achieved under the Pavley regulations.

ARB has approved a research contract for a team from the University of California to analyze the implementation of feebates for new vehicles in California both in place of and in addition to the Pavley standards. The study will assess elements of program design including fee and rebate levels, point of regulation, implementation strategy, consumer response, and interaction with other AB 32 programs. Work on this contract began January 2009.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

This consultation will provide an opportunity for the UC Research team to present policy design options for evaluation as part of Policy Formulation task. The researchers will discuss the pros and cons of different options for each of the following feebate program design elements: specification of benchmark(s); magnitude and functional form of the feebate rate; domain of vehicles included in the program; point of regulation; and implementation and management. Based on input from stakeholders and ARB staff, the research team will then combine these elements to develop a set of feebate program design scenarios to model and evaluate.

Consultation Materials

Materials and an agenda will be posted prior to the consultation meeting at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/econprog/feebates/feebates.htm>. At this website, you may also join our electronic mailing list to receive further notices of ARB activities and public meetings related to the implementation of AB 32.

Cannot Make it to the Consultation Meeting?

This consultation will be webcast, and viewers can email questions during the session to sierrarm@calepa.ca.gov. Webcast links are posted at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast>. ARB recommends that you do not run other programs while viewing the webcast, as it may interrupt or lower the quality of the signal. Written questions and comments can be submitted at any time to ffeizoll@arb.ca.gov.

Directions to Cal/EPA

There are many ways to arrive at Cal/EPA Headquarters Building but we encourage you to take public transportation or drive low emission/high efficient vehicles whenever possible. Use the following link for directions and information on public transit: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>

Special Accommodations or Language Assistance

To place your request for disability services, please contact ARB's Disability Coordinator at 916-323-4916 by voice or through the California Relay Services at 711. For interpreter services, please contact ARB's Bilingual Manager at 916-323-7053.

We welcome and encourage your participation in this important effort. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Fereidun Feizollahi, Manager of the Economic Studies Section in ARB's Research Division, at (916) 323-1509 or ffeizoll@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

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Research Division

cc: Richard Corey, Assistant Chief
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