Proposed Amendments to Ag Burn Guidelines

On July 20, the California Air Resources Board held the most recent in a series of workshops on proposed amendments to the Agricultural Burning Guidelines in Title 17.

The workshop was held in Fresno and was transmitted via video-teleconference in the Northern and Southern Regions. The agricultural community was represented at the workshop, as were representatives from public agencies including the US Park Service, US Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry.

The proposed guidelines will focus on the development of smoke management programs at the different air basins within the state. The Sacramento Valley Air Basin currently has a smoke management program in place that utilizes an allocation system and limits the amount of burning daily to minimize smoke impacts. The Title 17 amendments propose similar procedures that will be implemented by the air districts within the State.

The proposed amendments will require the District to develop a smoke management program that will allocate the amount of agricultural and prescription burning daily. If adopted, the smoke management program will include:

- A daily allocation system that limits the amounts, timing and locations of burning in order to minimize smoke impacts
- Procedures for issuing notices of permissive burn or no-burn days, including coordination with the fire protection agencies
- Meteorological and air quality monitoring networks used to provide data for determining basin-wide meteorological and air quality conditions
- Burn authorization procedures
- Method for acquiring information on the progress of burning during each day, air quality impacts, and for updating the amounts of burning allowed on each day
- Procedures for reporting information on amounts of material burned on each day, on planned and unplanned wildland fires, and other information needed to establish the allocation for the following day
- Coordination with neighboring districts, regions, or states
- Resources for meteorological support and burn coordination

See TITLE 17, page 3

Calendar Contest Extension

The deadline for entries in the calendar contest has been extended to September 30, 1999!

The District's 2000 calendar will feature drawings from elementary school children who use their artistic ability to depict clean air messages. School districts throughout the Valley are encouraged to use the contest as a fun educational tool to teach children about air pollution.

Children in grades K thru 6 are encouraged to enter. Winning entries will be chosen from three categories. The winning artists will receive a calendar featuring their work, as well as other clean air prizes. Encourage someone you know to enter!

For more details about the contest, call (559) 230-5800.

The 1999 calendar cover was drawn by Irene Medina, age 8 of Hamilton Elementary School in Stockton, CA.
Following is a summary of actions taken at the August 19 Governing Board meeting:

- Adopted proposed amendments to Rule 7011 (Hexavalent Chromium-Decorative and Hard Chrome Plating, Chrome Acid Anodizing Facilities)
- Approved recommendation of the Phase VI - 1998 REMOVE Program Evaluation Committee for motor vehicle emission reductions to fund 37 projects for a specified amount
- Approved and authorized the formation of a REMOVE Program Governing Board Review Committee to evaluate existing procedures

The Board also approved a number of items on the consent calendar, including:

- Approved Amendment #1 to agreement with Kiernan Business Center Partners for three month lease extension for Modesto regional office
- Approved renewal of contract with the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to maintain District owned monitoring equipment, provide laboratory analysis, and operate Kern County Air Monitoring Stations not to exceed a specified amount
- Approved and authorized the Chair to execute Amendment #1 to the REMOVE Program Contract with the City of Selma to extend the term of the contract

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel in Modesto
**New 8-hour Ozone Standards**

In July 1997, the EPA promulgated a new health standard for ozone based on eight-hour averages. This standard, which considers the health effects of prolonged exposure to ozone, is currently under scrutiny and its fate is uncertain. The previous standard, however, still applies to the District. It is based on short-term ozone exposure for one hour. The eight-hour standard for ozone is .085 parts per million. This may be compared to the one-hour standard of 0.125 parts per million.

In the San Joaquin Valley, the characteristics of ozone concentrations result in the eight-hour standard being more stringent than the one-hour standard. Preliminary evaluation shows that controls required to achieve this standard will be more rigorous than the one-hour standard. Violations of the eight-hour standard occur much more frequently in the Valley than the one-hour standard. The table below shows the number of days where the one-hour and eight-hour health standards were violated in the San Joaquin Valley.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1/30</td>
<td>14/55</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

**Spare the Air Update**

We are well into the Spare the Air season and due to the public’s collective efforts, air pollution levels have been minimal. Below is an update of the number of Spare the Air days as of August 15, 1999.

- Northern: 5
- Central: 8
- Southern: 8

**Clean Air Trivia**

Gasoline would be saved each day if the U.S. had 40 million gallons of.

**Answer**

In the U.S., 40 million gallons of gasoline would be saved each day.