

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
March 3, 2016
3:00 PM
Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 NE 99th St. Suite 1294
Vancouver, Washington

Optional Conference Call Number for Board of Directors 1-800-356-8278 Code: 576617

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
SWCAA Chair Don Jensen
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
SWCAA Chair Don Jensen
- III. Board of Directors Minutes
Board of Directors Minutes – February Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda
SWCAA Chair Don Jensen
- V. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Vouchers
 - B. Financial Report
 - C. Monthly Activity Report
- V. Info Items & Public Comment
None
- VII. Public Hearing
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business
None
- IX. Control Officer Report
 - A. **Portland Air Toxics Concerns (February 17, 2016)**
A U.S. Forest Service sponsored Portland area moss study discovered alarmingly high levels of heavy metals arsenic and cadmium in some southeast neighborhoods. Subsequent air quality testing by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality found the primary source of the metals may be two colored glass manufactures, Bullseye and Uroboros. Both of these companies have since halted the use of toxic metals during production. Oregon Governor Kate Brown has called for DEQ to take action and asked for an inventory of other facilities where

there may be significant risks from air toxics emissions with localized or ‘hot spot’ effects. The agency has held public meetings and been heavily criticized for being slow to respond when the heavy metals issue was discovered. Members of Oregon’s Congressional delegation describe this as a public health emergency and called for EPA’s involvement along with stronger federal regulations of air toxics. There are no commercial glass facilities of this type in SWCAA’s jurisdiction. There is a flat glass plant in Lewis County and wine bottle manufacturer in Cowlitz County. However, both facilities are well controlled and have been tested for heavy metals. Several news articles have been published about Portland’s cadmium, arsenic, and other air toxic concerns. For further information:

<http://topics.oregonlive.com/tag/cadmium%20pollution/>; <http://portlandtribune.com/pt/9-news/293471-170846-brown-neighborhoods-need-fast-action-as-pollution-raises-health-concerns>

B. Supreme Court Stays Clean Power Plan (February 9, 2016) – The U.S. Supreme Court issued an order staying EPA’s Clean Power Plan (CPP). The decision to stay the rule was made by the full Court in a 5-4 vote with Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Scalia, Kennedy, Thomas and Alito voting to grant the stay and Justices Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan voting to deny it. The order effectively reverses a January 21, 2016 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit denying a stay. Twenty-seven states and numerous industry groups have challenged the CPP’s legality in the D.C. Circuit, and many of those petitioners sought to stay the rule until the legal proceedings are complete. The stay will remain in effect until the D.C. Circuit resolves the legal challenges to the CPP and either the Supreme Court decides not to review the D.C. Circuit’s decision or the Supreme Court issues its own opinion. The D.C. Circuit previously granted a motion to consider the challenges on an expedited basis and will hear oral arguments on June 2, 2016. For further information: http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/SCOTUS_CPP_Stay_Order.pdf

C. President Proposes FY 2017 Budget, Includes Air Grant Increases (February 9, 2016) – President Barack Obama announced the Administration’s proposed federal budget for FY 2017, which includes \$268.2 million for state and local air agency grants. This is the same amount as requested by the President for FY 2016 and \$40 million more than Congress appropriated. Of the \$40-million increase, \$25 million was intended as a set-aside for state and local agencies to implement the Clean Power Plan; \$15 million is intended for continuing air quality implementation activities. The total request for EPA is \$8.27 billion, which is \$127 million above the FY 2016 appropriation. The proposed budget does not include the \$20-million Targeted Airshed Grants (a competitive grant program for the most polluted nonattainment areas) or the \$21-million Multipurpose Grant program, both of which Congress included in the FY 2016 appropriations bill. Grants for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program are requested at \$10 million, which is \$40 million less than appropriated for FY 2016. For further information: <http://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/fy2017>; <http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/fy17-budget-in-brief.pdf>; <http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/fy17-congressional-justification.pdf>

D. Study Links Exposure to Traffic-Related Pollution During Pregnancy to Risk of Childhood Development of Asthma (February 9, 2016) – A study published in the European Respiratory Journal reports that babies born to mothers who are exposed to traffic-related air pollution during pregnancy are at increased risk of developing asthma during early childhood. In Perinatal air pollution exposure and development of asthma from birth to age 10 years, researchers from the University of British Columbia report on their study of more than 65,000

children in the Vancouver metropolitan area. The children were followed from birth to the age of 10 with researchers monitoring cases of physician-diagnosed asthma and assessing the mothers' exposure to air pollution during pregnancy with a focus on traffic-related pollutants such as black carbon, fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide. The researchers' findings include that children born to mothers who lived close to highways during their pregnancy had a 25-percent increased relative risk of developing asthma before the age of five. The researchers also found that low-birth-weight babies and those born to older mothers were more susceptible to the respiratory impacts associated with air pollution. For further information: <http://erj.ersjournals.com/content/early/2016/02/08/13993003.00746-2015.full?ijkey=0A2UtMrDSDY22&keytype=ref&siteid=ersjnl>

E. House Science Committee Reviews Paris Climate Deal (February 2, 2016) – The House Science, Space and Technology Committee held a hearing, entitled Paris Climate Promise: A Bad Deal for America, to review the international climate agreement negotiated in Paris this past December. The agreement includes a pledge from the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. At issue is the extent to which the agreement is considered a treaty requiring Senate approval. The Obama Administration has argued that since the greenhouse gas reduction pledge is non-binding, it is not a treaty and should not require Senate approval. Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) criticized this view stating that “the president’s pledge creates an international agreement that binds the United States for decades to come, but lacks constitutional legitimacy since it has not been ratified by the Senate.” For further information: <https://science.house.gov/legislation/hearings/full-committee-hearing-paris-climate-promise-bad-deal-america>

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues

As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings

- A. Employee Consumer Price Index Wage Adjustment Decision (April 7, 2015)
- B. Employee Merit Pool Decision (April 7, 2015).
- C. Executive Director Performance Evaluation (April 7, 2015)
- D. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget. (May 5, 2015)
- E. Public Hearing and Rule Adoption of SWCAA 400 Updates - (TBD)

XII. Adjournment

Notes:

- (1) Served by C-TRAN Routes: 7, 72 and 76.
- (2) Accommodation of the needs for disabled persons can be made upon request. For more information, please call (360) 574-3058 extension 110.