

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 2017 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
- VI. Info Items & Public Comment

None
- VII. Public Hearing

None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business

None
- IX. Control Officer Report
 - A. **Bill in Washington State Legislature to Limit Local Burn Band Authority (February 9, 2017)** - Senate Bill 5658 requires the Washington department of ecology or a local air pollution control authority to: (1) Lift burn bans when the air temperature falls below thirty-two degrees and is forecast to remain below thirty-two degrees for forty-eight hours; and (2) Call a burn ban for the area where the burn ban was lifted when the air

temperature rises above thirty-two degrees for six hours. Requires a person who is in violation of the requirements above to: (1) For the first time, be provided educational materials regarding public health and air quality, information about obtaining or purchasing a certified solid fuel burning device, and provided with public notice twelve hours before an enforcement action for the first offense may be taken; and (2) For the second time in the same calendar month, be subject to a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars. For each subsequent violation, the amount of the civil penalty must be increased by two hundred fifty dollars for each offense. SWCAA has a number of concerns regarding the impacts of this bill and provided testimony to the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee on February 9th. For further information: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5658&Year=2017>

- B. Conservative Group Proposes Carbon Tax and Dividend Plan (February 8, 2017) –** The Climate Leadership Council, a conservative group of officials promoting “effective, popular and equitable” policies to address climate change, released what it is calling a “Carbon Dividends Plan.” The proposal includes four main components: (1) a carbon tax that increases gradually over time; (2) a national dividend check program to redistribute the carbon tax revenues to U.S. citizens; (3) a border fee to account for the carbon content of imports and exports; and (4) a phase-out of EPA’s authority to directly regulate carbon emissions. According to the group, a carbon tax rate of \$40 per ton would provide a family of four with an approximate dividend check of \$2,000. The plan’s authors are comprised of six prominent conservatives, including James Baker, the former Secretary of State under President George H. W. Bush and former Secretary of the Treasury under President Reagan, and Henry Paulson, the former Secretary of the Treasury under President George W. Bush. For further information: <http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/TheConservativeCaseforCarbonDividends.pdf>
- C. Report Finds U.S. Energy Sector Continued to Shift toward Clean Energy in 2016, On Pace to Meet International Climate Targets (February 8, 2017) –** The Business Council on Sustainable Energy (BCSE) has released a report finding that the U.S. power sector continues to shift toward a cleaner, more efficient portfolio of energy generating resources and that the country is well positioned to meet its international climate targets. The study finds significant growth in natural gas and renewable energy between 2007 and 2016. During that period, the share of energy supplied by natural gas increased from 23.5 percent to 29.6 percent while the share for renewables increased from 6.5 percent to 10.4 percent. Coal’s share, in contrast, decreased from 22.5 percent to 14.4 percent over the same timeframe. Regarding GHG emissions, the report finds that the expansion in natural gas and renewables utilization, improved energy efficiency, the deployment of combined heat and power. The U.S. pledged to reduce its total GHG emissions to 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 as part of an international agreement to address climate change. BCSE estimates that the 2016 emissions data for power sector suggest that the U.S. is already 75 percent of the way toward its international goal. The report, entitled The 2017 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook, was produced for BCSE by Bloomberg New Energy Finance. For further information: <http://www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook/#>

D. **Hundreds of Former EPA Employees Urge Senate to Reject Pruitt (February 6, 2017)** – Nearly 800 former EPA employees signed a letter to the U.S. Senate expressing concern that President Trump’s nominee for EPA Administrator, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, does not possess the necessary qualifications or environmental commitment to serve in that role. “Mr. Pruitt’s record and public statements strongly suggest that he does not share the vision or agree with the underlying principles of our environmental laws,” they assert. The letter concludes: “Different administrations have come to different conclusions about how best to apply the law in view of the science... But in the large majority of cases it was evident to us that they put the public’s welfare ahead of private interests. Scott Pruitt has not demonstrated this same commitment.” For further information: http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/EPA_Employees_Letter_2-6-17.pdf

E. **Researchers Link Fine Particulate Matter to Alzheimer’s in Older Women (January 31, 2017)** – Research led by the University of Southern California (USC) has led to the conclusion that older women who reside in areas where levels of fine particulate matter exceed the federal standard are 92 percent more at risk of developing dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease. According to the researchers, if their findings hold up among the general population, air pollution could be responsible for over 20 percent of cases of dementia. USC Professor Caleb Finch explained, “Cells in the brain treat these particles as invaders and react with inflammatory responses, which over the course of time, appear to exacerbate and promote Alzheimer’s disease. Although the link between air pollution and Alzheimer’s disease is a new scientific frontier, we now have evidence that air pollution, like tobacco, is dangerous to the aging brain.” The results of the research are reported in the article, Particulate air pollutants, APOE alleles and their contributions to cognitive impairment in older women and to amyloidogenesis in experiential models, published in the Nature journal 4 Translational Psychiatry. For further information: <http://www.nature.com/tp/journal/v7/n1/pdf/tp2016280a.pdf>

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues

As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings

- A. Merit Pool Decision - April
- B. Executive Director Performance Evaluation - April
- C. Fee Rule Changes - May
- D. Agency Fee Schedule/Proposed Fee Increase - May
- E. Agency Budget - May

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.