

MEETING  
BEFORE THE  
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

ORIGINAL

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD  
BOARD HEARING ROOM  
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Nadine J. Parks  
Shorthand Reporter

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1 MR. LAGARIAS: Here.

2 MS. HUTCHENS: Parnell?

3 MR. PARNELL: Here.

4 MS. HUTCHENS: Riordan?

5 SUPERVISOR RIORDAN: Here.

6 MS. HUTCHENS: Vagim?

7 SUPERVISOR VAGIM: Here.

8 MS. HUTCHENS: Wieder?

9 Chairwoman Schafer.

10 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: Here.

11 Before taking up the first agenda item, which is  
12 94-11-1, I would like to remind those of you in the audience  
13 who'd like to present testimony to the Board on any of  
14 today's agenda items to please sign up with the Board  
15 Secretary.

16 If you have a written statement, please give 20  
17 copies to the Board Secretary.

18 The first item on the agenda today is No. 94-11-1,  
19 a public hearing to consider amendments to the area  
20 designations for the State ambient air quality standards.

21 This item is for the Board to consider the staff's  
22 recommendations for designating areas of the State with  
23 respect to the attainment status of the State ambient air  
24 quality standards.

25 I understand that the proposed changes are

1 relatively routine; that the staff will be making just a  
2 short presentation on this item, in recognition of the full  
3 agenda facing us today and tomorrow on the main item before  
4 us.

5 At this point, I'd like to ask Mr. Boyd to  
6 introduce this item and to begin the staff's presentation.

7 Mr. Boyd?

8 MR. BOYD: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Good  
9 afternoon, Board members, and good afternoon to the vast  
10 audience out there. And we will try to be brief with this  
11 first item.

12 As you mentioned, we are proposing amendments to  
13 what are known as area designations for the State's ambient  
14 air quality standards. Our own State Clean Air Act requires  
15 that your Board establish and periodically review the  
16 criteria for designating areas with respect, again, to our  
17 own State standards.

18 As indicated, we are not proposing any amendments  
19 to the designation criteria today. As you know, the Act  
20 requires the Board to use these criteria to designate each  
21 area of the State as either attainment, nonattainment, or  
22 unclassified for the pollutants for which we indeed have  
23 State standards.

24 The Board must review these area designations each  
25 year and update when new information indicates its

1 appropriate, and this is the annual review.

2 We initially designated areas of the State in  
3 1989, and your Board has amended these regulations every  
4 year since then. Today, the staff proposes that the Board  
5 update the designations based on our review of air quality  
6 data for the years '91 through '93. And for a second year  
7 in a row, our proposal's one of what we see as good news.  
8 All the proposed amendments are either a change to  
9 attainment or a change in the direction of attainment.

10 In other words, the air in California continues to  
11 get cleaner.

12 With that, I'd like to introduce Debora Popejoy,  
13 who's Manager of the Air Quality Analysis Section of the  
14 Technical Support Division, to present the staff report.

15 She is substituting for Cynthia Garcia, who's  
16 sitting next to her mute because she has laryngitis and  
17 can't make her own staff proposal.

18 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Go right ahead, Ms. Popejoy.

19 MS. POPEJOY: Thank you, Mr. Boyd.

20 Good afternoon Madam Chairwoman and members of the  
21 Board.

22 As Mr. Boyd has said, we are proposing changes to  
23 the area designations. These changes are all good news.  
24 The proposed changes are either a change to attainment or a  
25 change in the direction of attainment. We are not proposing

1 any new nonattainment areas today.

2 Before I go into the details of the proposed  
3 amendments, I'll summarize briefly the key provisions  
4 of the designation criteria, and go over some of the more  
5 important terminology.

6 First, the designation criteria require the Board  
7 to use only data for record. The criteria also specify the  
8 size of the designation areas, which depends on the nature  
9 of the pollutant.

10 In addition, the criteria require the Board to  
11 review the designations on an annual basis and to update as  
12 new information become available.

13 Finally, the criteria specify the requirements for  
14 three major categories and one subcategory.

15 Now, let me explain some important terms. First,  
16 there are two terms that are very similar and may cause some  
17 confusion. These terms are "exceedance" and "violation."

18 An exceedance is a measurement that is higher than  
19 the State ambient air quality standard. However, an  
20 exceedance is not necessarily a violation.

21 In contrast, a violation is an exceedance that is  
22 not affected by a highly irregular or infrequent event. One  
23 or more violations in a given area would be the basis for  
24 designating an area as nonattainment.

25 Now then, what is a highly irregular or infrequent

1 event? It can excuse an exceedance from being considered as  
2 a violation.

3 There are two types of these events. The first  
4 type is the exceptional event, which is patterned after the  
5 concept developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection  
6 Agency for purposes of the national standards.

7 The US EPA defines an exceptional event as an  
8 event that is not likely to recur at a given location or is  
9 possibly uncontrollable. It is tied to a specific,  
10 identifiable cause, such as a chemical spill or forest fire.

11 The second type of highly irregular or infrequent  
12 event is the extreme concentration event. The concept of an  
13 extreme concentration event was defined by the Board, and is  
14 used only when designating areas for the State standards.

15 The extreme concentration event refers to an event  
16 that is expected to occur less frequently than once every  
17 year, and is not influenced by controls. The difference is  
18 that an extreme concentration event is not necessarily tied to  
19 a known cause or event, but rather is determined by a  
20 statistical calculation.

21 Now that we have reviewed these terms, we can look  
22 at the four designation categories.

23 The first category is nonattainment. An area is  
24 designated as nonattainment if there is at least one  
25 violation in the last three years.

1           As you may recall, violations are those  
2 exceedances that are not affected by highly irregular or  
3 infrequent events.

4           The second category is nonattainment/transitional.  
5 This is actually a subcategory of the nonattainment  
6 category. It signifies that an area is close to attainment  
7 and that the area may need to reassess whether control  
8 measures scheduled for future adoption are still needed.

9           The third category is attainment. An area is  
10 designated as attainment if there were no violations in the  
11 last three years. An area that has exceedances may still  
12 qualify for attainment if these exceedances are the result  
13 of highly irregular or infrequent events.

14           Finally, the last designation category is  
15 unclassified. This is a default category. That is, if data  
16 are insufficient to designate an area in any of the first  
17 three categories, then the area would be designated as  
18 unclassified.

19           For areas with no or incomplete data, we have  
20 screening procedures which provide a basis to designate an  
21 area as attainment for the pollutants listed on this slide.  
22 There are a number of screening parameters, which may  
23 include population and emissions, that vary depending on the  
24 pollutant.

25           Now, I will move on to the proposed area

1 redesignations.

2           Our proposed changes are based on the staff's  
3 review of air quality data for the three-year period of 1991  
4 to 1993. As shown in this slide, we are proposing to change  
5 the designations of seven areas and four pollutants. We  
6 propose to redesignate one area for ozone, four areas for  
7 carbon monoxide, one area for sulfur dioxide, and one area  
8 for sulfates.

9           The one change in ozone is the designation for  
10 Mono County in the Great Basin Valley Air Basin. This  
11 county was previously designated as nonattainment. This  
12 area has been redesignated nonattainment/transitional by  
13 operation of law. That is, it is done automatically without  
14 the Board's decision.

15           There was a violation in 1992, but no exceedances  
16 in 1993. Therefore, the staff concludes that Mono County  
17 satisfies the criteria and is now nonattainment transitional  
18 by operation of law.

19           The first area that we are proposing to  
20 redesignate for carbon monoxide, or CO, is the San Jose  
21 Urbanized Area of Santa Clara County in the San Francisco  
22 Bay Area Air Basin.

23           This area's currently designated as  
24 nonattainment/transitional, while the remainder of the  
25 county is designated as attainment.

1           During 1991, there were four exceedances, which  
2 were effected by extreme concentration events. Therefore,  
3 the staff recommends the entire county be designated as  
4 attainment for CO. With this redesignation, the entire San  
5 Francisco Bay Area Basin is attainment for the State CO  
6 standards.

7           The second area we are proposing for CO  
8 redesignation is the San Joaquin County in the San Joaquin  
9 Valley Air Basin. Currently, San Joaquin County is divided  
10 into two designation areas for CO.

11           It is divided into the Stockton Urbanized Area,  
12 which is designated as nonattainment, which is designated as  
13 unclassified.

14           During 1991, there were two exceedances in the  
15 Stockton Urbanized Area, which were effected by extreme  
16 concentration events. Although there is no CO monitoring  
17 site outside the Stockton area, the staff believes the CO  
18 concentrations in the Stockton area reflect the highest CO  
19 concentrations in the county.

20           Therefore, we conclude: The entire San Joaquin  
21 County qualifies to be redesignated as attainment for CO.

22           The next CO redesignation is for Stanislaus  
23 County, also in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.  
24 Stanislaus County is also divided into two designation  
25 areas: Modesto Urbanized Area, which is designated as

1 nonattainment, and the remaining part of the county, which  
2 is designated as unclassified.

3           During 1991, there were two exceedances in the  
4 Modesto Urbanized Area, which were effected by extreme  
5 concentration events. There were no exceedances in the  
6 remaining portion of the Stanislaus County.

7           Therefore, staff recommends that the entire  
8 Stanislaus County be redesignated as attainment for CO.

9           The last area for CO redesignation is Orange  
10 County in the South Coast Air Basin. Currently, all of  
11 Orange County is designated as nonattainment.

12           In 1992, three sites each had one exceedance, all  
13 being effected by extreme concentration events. Therefore,  
14 we propose that Orange County be redesignated as attainment  
15 for CO.

16           That was the last redesignation proposed for CO.  
17 Now, I will continue with the next pollutant, sulfur  
18 dioxide.

19           Kern County in the Southeast Desert Air Basin is  
20 the only area in the State that is not designated as  
21 attainment for sulfur dioxide. That portion of Kern County  
22 is currently designated as unclassified.

23           The emissions of oxides of sulfur in the Southeast  
24 Desert portion of Kern County satisfy the screening  
25 parameters contained in the designation criteria for areas

1 with no or incomplete air quality data.

2           Therefore, Kern County in the Southeast Desert Air  
3 Basin qualifies for redesignation as attainment for sulfur  
4 dioxide.

5           The last redesignation proposed today is for  
6 sulfates. The South Coast Air Basin, which includes Orange  
7 county, and portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San  
8 Bernardino Counties, is currently designated a nonattainment  
9 for sulfates.

10           There were no exceedances of the sulfate standard  
11 at any site in the South Coast during the last three years.  
12 Therefore, we recommend the entire South Coast Air Basin be  
13 redesignated as attainment for sulfates.

14           Before I end, I would like to acknowledge that  
15 there was one exceedance of the State lead standard in the  
16 Los Angeles County portion of the South Coast Air Basin in  
17 1993.

18           This exceedance was determined to be effected by  
19 an exceptional event, which is one type of a highly  
20 irregular or infrequent event. As a result, this exceedance  
21 is not considered a violation.

22           Staff does not recommend any change to the lead  
23 attainment designation for Los Angeles County.

24           In summary, we are proposing changes to the  
25 designations that either bring areas into attainment or move

1 them in that direction.

2 We have not received any comments on these  
3 proposals. So, that concludes my presentation.

4 If you have any questions, we'd be happy to answer  
5 them.

6 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Thank you very much, Ms.  
7 Popejoy.

8 At this point, do any of the Board members have  
9 questions for the staff on this presentation?

10 Okay. At this point, I'd like to give witnesses  
11 an opportunity to comment on this item before the Board  
12 takes action. However, I understand that there is no -- no  
13 one who has signed up to be a witness on this item.

14 Therefore, I'd like to ask the staff -- although I  
15 think I know the answer to this -- to summarize any written  
16 comments that the Board may have received.

17 MS. POPEJOY: There have been none.

18 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: No written comments.

19 Okay. Mr. Boyd, does the staff have any further  
20 comments on this item?

21 MR. BOYD: No, Madam Chair, no further staff  
22 comments.

23 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: And I'm correct in believing  
24 there's no one in the audience that wants to speak on this  
25 item?

1           Since all testimony, written submissions, and the  
2 staff comments for this item have been entered into the  
3 record and the Board has not granted an extension of the  
4 comment period, I want to officially close the written  
5 record on this portion of the agenda item, No. 94-11-1.

6           Any written or oral comments received after this  
7 period will not be accepted as part of the official record  
8 on this item.

9           This is a reminder to Board members. At this  
10 point, we normally identify any ex parte communications on  
11 this item, but I suspect there are none on this matter.

12           And we should have a resolution before us shortly.

13           MR. BOYD: It's coming right now. Just like it  
14 mysteriously appeared, it mysteriously reappeared, thank  
15 goodness.

16           CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: I'll ask the Board members to  
17 take a moment to look over the resolution before we consider  
18 a motion to adopt it.

19           (Thereupon, the Board members perused the  
20 document.)

21           CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFER: Do I have a motion to adopt  
22 the staff proposal?

23           SUPERVISOR RIORDAN: Madam Chair, I would move to  
24 adopt the proposed resolution in front of us, which is 94-  
25 59.

1 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Thank you very much,  
2 Supervisor Riordan?

3 Do I hear a second?

4 MR. LAGARIAS: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Mr. Lagarias, thank you.

6 If there's any further discussion among the Board  
7 on this item, this might be the time to accommodate that.

8 If not, I will call for a vote on Resolution No.  
9 94-59, and ask the Board Secretary to take the roll.

10 MS. HUTCHENS: Boston?

11 DR. BOSTON: Yes.

12 MS. HUTCHENS: Calhoun?

13 MR. CALHOUN: I.

14 MS. HUTCHENS: Edgerton?

15 MS. EDGERTON: Aye.

16 MS. HUTCHENS: Hilligoss?

17 MAYOR HILLIGOSS: Aye.

18 MS. HUTCHENS: Lagarias?

19 MR. LAGARIAS: Aye.

20 MS. HUTCHENS: Parnell?

21 MR. PARNELL: Aye.

22 MS. HUTCHENS: Riordan?

23 SUPERVISOR RIORDAN: Aye.

24 MS. HUTCHENS: Vagim?

25 SUPERVISOR VAGIM: Aye.

1 MS. HUTCHENS: Chairwoman Schafer.

2 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Aye.

3 MS. HUTCHENS: Passes 9-0.

4 CHAIRWOMAN SCHAFFER: Thank you very much.

5 The second item before the Board this afternoon is  
6 Item No. 94-11-2. Again, I'd like to remind any of you in  
7 the audience who would like to testify on the next agenda  
8 item to please sign up with the Board Secretary. I know  
9 you're in the process of doing that.

10 And I know this is a very large audience, and many  
11 people will want to testify, so we'll try to keep it in as  
12 orderly a fashion as possible.

13 This next item is a public hearing to consider  
14 approval of a revision to the California State  
15 Implementation Plan. The remainder of today's meeting --  
16 and I know we will go on to tomorrow -- will be the  
17 consideration of amendments to the California State  
18 Implementation Plan that demonstrates how California will  
19 meet the national ozone standard.

20 We are considering this item today in order to  
21 comply with the Federal Clean Air Act, which requires  
22 California and many other states to submit ozone attainment  
23 plans by November 15, 1994.

24 California has six such areas. We will be  
25 considering the plans for all six of these areas as well as