



Air Pollution Control Board

San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

GOVERNING BODY

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

KRISTIN GASPAR
Third District

NATHAN FLETCHER
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: October 16, 2019

AP01

TO: Air Pollution Control Board

SUBJECT

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING – 2018 AIR TOXICS “HOT SPOTS” PROGRAM REPORT FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The California Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act was enacted by the State Legislature in 1987. It requires industrial facilities and other businesses that emit air pollutants to quantify emissions of toxic air contaminants, conduct public health risk assessments for the emissions of concern, notify the affected public if there is a significant health risk, and reduce emissions to required levels, when necessary, in order to reduce public health risks. The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (District) is the implementing agency for the region and is required to publish an annual report summarizing efforts and results of the Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program (Program). The District reviews the data submitted by facilities, determines what actions the facilities must undertake, and ensures those facilities fully comply with the requirements of the Program.

The 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County summarizes the Program elements and the results from the latest program year, including stationary and mobile source emission estimates, results of local Health Risk Assessments, the current status of public notifications, and presents conclusions drawn from the Program to date. In 2018, five sources were required to notify the public of their toxic air contaminant emissions, and one source was required to provide public notification and to implement a risk reduction plan to reduce toxic air contaminants and increase public health protection. Stationary sources have greatly reduced their toxic emissions since this Program started. In 2018, stationary sources were estimated to emit less than 3% of the toxic emissions in the region, while mobile sources and area sources emit approximately 42% each. The remaining 13% of emissions come from natural sources. While mobile and area source emissions are the region’s largest contributors to air quality degradation, continued collaboration with State and local partners on implementation of measures such as enhanced energy conservation to reduce fuel usage, improvements in fuel burning equipment and home appliances, and consumer product improvements will reduce health risks and clean up the air we breathe.

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Today’s requested action is to approve the public distribution of the 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County.

**RECOMMENDATION
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER**

Consider the 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County and approve the report for public distribution.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

At its meeting on September 11, 2019, with two members voting in favor and one member abstaining, the Air Pollution Control District Advisory Committee voted in support of the District’s recommendation to approve the 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County.

BACKGROUND

The California Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act was enacted in 1987 to address public concerns over toxic air contaminant emissions. The act requires local air pollution control districts to evaluate toxic air contaminant emissions from various businesses and determine which emissions present public health concerns. Next, it mandates facilities to develop and implement strategies to reduce the potential risks to public health due to peoples’ exposure to their emissions of toxic air contaminants when the health risks are elevated above specified levels. The Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program (Program) is implemented by the local air pollution control districts using guidance developed by the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Under the Program, facilities emitting toxic air contaminants are required to provide the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (District) with information to update the facilities’ toxic air contaminant emissions inventories at least once every four years. The District then reviews and verifies data submitted by facilities, compiles an inventory of emissions, and publishes an annual program report on the toxic air contaminant emissions. The report includes the results of the Health Risk Assessments (HRA) conducted for those facilities required to conduct public notifications, provides updates on the public notifications made, and discusses which facilities must undertake risk reduction measures.

Facilities that emit toxic air contaminants in amounts potentially posing a public health risk must submit to the District a site-specific Health Risk Assessment (HRA) that examines the possible public health risks posed to their neighbors. The HRA incorporates pollutant dispersion estimates, human exposure assumptions and health effects information. Each HRA is reviewed by the

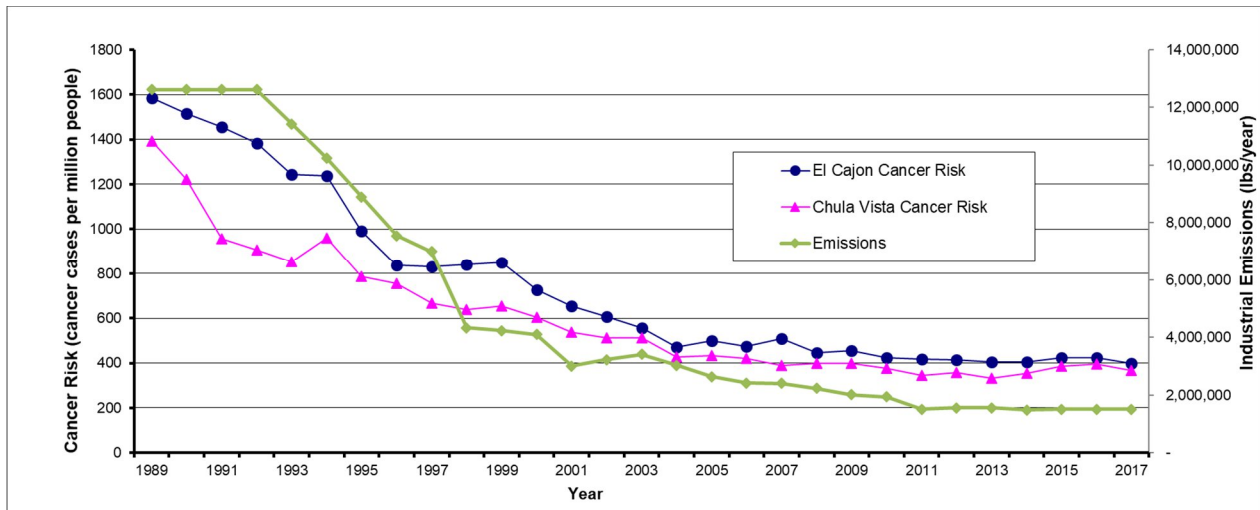
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District and OEHHA to ensure that it does not underestimate the risks and follows the most recent State guidelines. Once an HRA has been approved, the Program requires facilities with risks greater than specified levels to provide public notice to all persons in the affected area. In addition, facilities with significant risks are also required to reduce those risks to below the District’s significance threshold within five years. For facilities required to distribute a public notice, the results of the approved HRAs are included in the report. Additionally, the approved HRAs are made available by the District for public review upon request.

In order to implement an efficient and effective program, the District worked with subject facilities to develop various streamlined procedures, including online data reporting capabilities, customized inventory forms and automated record keeping tasks that reduce the workload for businesses. The District also provides one-on-one assistance for facilities required to comply with the Program.

Results

Since the beginning of the Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program in 1989, the emissions of industrial toxic air contaminants have been reduced by a total of 88% (11 million pounds annually) within the region. Although the current emissions reduction trend is not as significant as in the early years of the Program, from 2009 to the present the annual emissions of industrial toxic air contaminant emissions have been reduced in the region by approximately 25%, or 500,000 pounds. The emissions of toxic air contaminants shown in the graph have leveled out because the subject facilities have made the legally required emissions reductions of those air pollutants.



Most significantly, the human cancer risk levels from these air pollutants have declined from an estimated 1,383 excess cancer cases per million people in Chula Vista in 1989 to the current 356 cases per million people. For El Cajon, the risk has dropped from an estimated 1,574 excess cancer cases per million people in 1989 to the current 389 cancer cases per million people.

The cities of Chula Vista and El Cajon were chosen by CARB because they are representative locations for the purpose of calculating the public health risk from toxic air contaminants within

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the region. For example, Chula Vista represents upwind locations because it is located near the ocean and is therefore upwind of the majority of the county due to the prevailing winds blowing east from the ocean toward the inland areas. El Cajon represents downwind locations of the county because it is located inland and is therefore affected by a large part of the region’s air contaminants from upwind areas. The estimated human cancer risks from the emissions of toxic air contaminants are based on ambient air monitoring data for 25 compounds in those areas.

While progress has been made in reducing the emissions of toxic air contaminants, further reductions are needed. For stationary source emissions, OEHHA occasionally refines its risk calculation methodology to be more protective of human health, as it did in 2015 by incorporating the latest science in exposure duration, age-based sensitivity factors and the varying breathing rates of different age groups, and these changes may estimate a higher risk than previously estimated. This may result in stationary sources reducing their emissions to either not be subject to program requirements (health risk assessment, public notification, risk reduction) or to comply with these requirements in order to reduce health risks.

On May 22, 2019 (AP01), the Air Pollution Control Board approved Supervisor Fletcher’s recommendation to evaluate the existing cancer risk reduction threshold the District uses to see if it should be lowered. As part of the rule making process, a public workshop was held on August 15, 2019 to gather comments, and a second public workshop is scheduled for November 2019. The District will present options to the Board for reducing this threshold in early 2020.

On August 15, 2019, the District held a public workshop to present the 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County and receive feedback. All public comments that were received are included in a report of the results of that workshop, as well as District responses, provided as Attachment B.

If approved by the Board, the 2018 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program Report will be distributed to city councils, local health officials and other stakeholders as required by State law and will be made available on the District’s website.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Pursuant to Section 15060(c)(2) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, CEQA applies only to government actions that will result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The consideration and approval for dissemination of the 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County is not a project subject to CEQA; CEQA does not apply to this action.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed action to approve the 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County supports the Sustainable Environments/Thriving Initiative in the County of San Diego’s 2019-2024 Strategic Plan by focusing on sustainability, pollution prevention, and strategic planning. Approval and distribution of the 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County will help ensure public awareness and participation in the Program.

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Respectfully submitted,



SARAH E. AGHASSI
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer



ROBERT J. KARD
Air Pollution Control Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A – 2018 Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Program Report for San Diego County

Attachment B – Workshop Report

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION
NUMBER(S):**

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): None

CONTACT PERSON(S):

ROBERT KARD

Name

(858) 586-2700

Phone

Robert.Kard@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail

ARCHI DELA CRUZ

Name

(858) 586-2732

Phone

Archi.delaCruz@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail