

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
March 4, 2021 at 3:00 PM
Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 NE 99th St. Suite 1294
Vancouver, Washington

This meeting will be held by video conference using Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81677716119>

Meeting ID: 816 7771 6119

Or call in by phone (669) 900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- III. Board of Directors Minutes
Board of Directors Minutes – February Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- 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. New DOJ Memo Withdraws Bans on SEPs, Settlement Limits (February 4, 2021)**
Citing a day-one Executive Order from the Biden Administration, the U.S. Department of

Justice (DOJ) has withdrawn a series of policies limiting the Department's environmental enforcement tools. In a memorandum to DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD), Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jean E. Williams withdrew memoranda that blocked supplemental environmental projects (SEPs), narrowed ENRD's enforcement priorities, and blocked the use of mitigation measures in environmental settlements reached with DOJ. "Because these memoranda are inconsistent with longstanding Division policy and practice and because they may impede the full exercise of enforcement discretion in the Division's cases, I have determined that withdrawal is appropriate pursuant to Executive Order 13,990," Williams wrote. President Biden's January 20, 2021 executive order directed all federal agencies to "immediately review" regulations and other agency actions that conflict with the new administration's commitment to addressing climate change and environmental justice. "After further assessment, the Division may issue new guidance regarding matters addressed in the now withdrawn documents", the memorandum reads. For further information:

<https://www.justice.gov/enrd/page/file/1364716/download>

B. Federal Court Vacates and Remands EPA's "Science Transparency" Rule

(February 1, 2021) – The U.S. District Court for the District of Montana granted a motion by EPA to vacate and remand the January 6, 2021 rule, "Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information," also known as the "Science Transparency" or "Secret Science" rule promulgated by the Trump Administration. The rule, "Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information," would have limited EPA's discretion to consider, in its regulatory decision-making, scientific research for which underlying data are not publicly available. For further information: http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/EDF-v-EPAD_Mt_Motion_to_Vacate_1-31-21.pdf (EPA motion for vacatur and remand) and <http://www.4cleanair.org/sites/default/files/Documents/EDFvEPA-DMtOrder02012021.pdf> (U.S. District Court order dated February 2, 2021)

C. New Administration Withdraws Previous Administration's Proposed FY 2021 Budget Cuts (January 31, 2021)

– President Biden sent a letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and the President of the Senate Kamala Harris officially withdrawing 73 proposed rescissions to the recently adopted FY 2021 budget that the previous Administration sent to Congress on January 14, 2021. The proposed rescissions would have resulted in decreases of \$27.4 billion to federal programs, including EPA. Specifically, they would have reduced approximately half of the funds appropriated for state and local categorical grants (the account that includes Section 103/105 funding) and cut the funds for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) from \$90 million to \$10 million. Reductions were also proposed for EPA's Office of Research and Development and environmental education and environmental justice programs. For further information: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statementsreleases/2021/01/31/letter-from-president-joe-biden-to-the-speaker-of-the-houseof-representatives-and-the-president-of-the-senate/>

D. Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion Responsible for Nearly One in Five Total Global Deaths in 2018 (February 9, 2021) – Researchers released a study in which they estimate that "exposure to particulate matter from the burning of fossil fuel accounted for

18 percent of total global deaths in 2018 – a little less than 1 out of 5.” In “Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion: Results from GEOS-Chem,” published in Environmental Research, researchers from Harvard and the three British institutions, the University of Birmingham, University of Leicester and University College of London, report on their use of the chemical transport model GEOS-Chem, a 3-D global model of atmospheric chemistry that has a high special resolution allowing for the globe to be divided into a grid with boxes as small as 50 kilometers (km) x 60 km so that air pollution levels can be viewed box by box. Among their findings are an estimated annual 8.7 million premature deaths globally; although the majority of these deaths were in China and India parts of the eastern U.S., Europe and Southeast Asia were also flagged. The researchers conclude that their study “demonstrates that the fossil fuel component of PM2.5 contributes a large mortality burden. The steeper concentration-response function slope at lower concentrations leads to larger estimates than previously found in Europe and North America, and the slower drop-off in slope at higher concentrations results in larger estimates in Asia. Fossil fuel combustion can be more readily controlled than other sources and precursors of PM2.5 such as dust or wildfire smoke, so this is a clear message to policymakers and stakeholders to further incentivize a shift to clean sources of energy.” For further information:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0013935121000487> and <https://www.seas.harvard.edu/news/2021/02/deaths-fossil-fuel-emissions-higherpreviously-thought>

E. Washington State Legislature Introduces a Bill Concerning Long-Term Forest Health and the Reduction of Wildfire Dangers (January 13, 2021). The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has direct charge and responsibility over all matters pertaining to forest fire services in the state. The forest fire-related duties of the DNR include enforcing all forest fire-related laws, investigating the cause of forest fires, and directing fire suppression efforts. In 2007 the Legislature designated DNR as the state lead in developing a comprehensive forest health program for the state. As part of that designation, DNR was directed to gather and disseminate forest health information, to coordinate forest health monitoring activities, and to coordinate with universities and other agencies to provide landowners with technical assistance regarding forest health. House Bill 1168 creates a wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience account, and requires DNR to submit a biennial report to the legislature on expenditures and progress towards implementing the wildland fire protection strategic plan and forest health strategic plan. The bill requires DNR to develop a mapping tool to identify small forestland owners within wildfire risk areas, adds provisions regarding coordination, including with Indian tribes and with the US Forest Service, adds provisions to expand workforce development and training, and adds provisions to seek to accelerate NEPA for forest health and resiliency projects. A substitute bill introduced on February 2nd requires DNR to coordinate to develop the small forest landowner forest health program and to develop and implement a wildland fire aviation support plan. For further information:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1168&Year=2021&Initiative=false>

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues

As Necessary

- XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings
- A. Cost of Living Adjustments - April
 - B. Merit Pool - April
 - C. ED Performance Evaluation - April
 - D. Budget - May

XII. Adjourn

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.