

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting  
September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 - August Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda  
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- 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
- VI. **Addition of Fees to SWCAA's Consolidated Fee Schedule** - SWCAA is proposing to add new fees in SWCAA's Consolidated Fee Schedule to align with the newly adopted fee categories in the SWCCA 400 Rules.

**Background** – On August 2021, SWCAA’s Board of Directors approved revisions to SWCAA 400 rules which included two new fee categories. SWCAA 400-109(2)(f) established a fee category for “Administrative Amendments” and SWCAA 400-109(2)(a) (viii) established a fee category for “Permit Extensions.” SWCAA 400 rules establish fee authority for new fee categories, but the actual fees are adopted by the Board of Directors through the adoption of SWCAA’s Consolidated Fee Schedule (SWCAA 400-098). SWCAA is proposing to add the following fees to the Consolidated Fee Schedule:

Fee Categories	Work* Hours	Fee	Fee Applicability
(xx) Administrative Amendment			
	4	\$360	Per Application
(xxi) Permit Extension			
1 <sup>st</sup> Extension	5	\$450	Per Application
2 <sup>nd</sup> Extension	10	\$900	Per Application

\* If the staff time required exceeds the number of work hours associated with the applicable fee the applicant will be invoiced for each additional work hour at the rate specified for additional work hours.

**Recommendation** - Approve SWCAA to public notice and gather public comment on a revised Consolidated Fee Schedule that includes new fees for Administrative Amendments and Permit Extensions authorized under SWCAA 400 rules.

## VII. CPI Fee Increase Proposal

**Issue** – SWCAA’s Board of Directors has requested SWCAA bring a CPI fee increase to the Board for consideration on an annual basis.

**Background** - On May 4th, 2017, SWCAA’s Board of Directors approved a 20% fee increase. Fees had not been previously raised since 2008. The Board recommended SWCAA consider revising fees on an annual basis equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep up with inflation. The purpose of incremental CPI fee increases is to avoid having to do larger (catch-up) fee increases every several years. Beginning in 2019, SWCAA’s Board started adopting annual CPI fee increases to SWCAA’s fees. Last year the Board adopted a 2.8 percent increase to SWCAA’s fees and a one cent increase to the per capita fees paid by local governments. The Per Capita increase was rounded to the nearest cent and went from 53 to 54 cents, resulting in an increase equal to 1.89 percent instead of 2.8 percent.

**Recommendation** - Approve SWCAA to public notice and collect public comment related to raising SWCAA’s 2022 fees by last year’s Western State’s CPI which is equal to 1.3 percent and raising the per capita fee by one cent (from 54 to 55 cents). The one cent per capita fee increase would be equal to 1.85 percent instead of 1.3 percent.

## IX. Control Officer Report

### **A. Researchers Report on Study to Quantify Degree to Which Increases in PM2.5 from Wildfires Contribute to COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in U.S. (August 13, 2021)**

– Using a statistical model that they built and validated, a team of researchers quantified, for the first time, the extent to which wildfire smoke may have contributed to “excess” COVID-19 cases and deaths in California, Oregon and Washington from March through December 2020. The researchers examined the correlation between county- and daily-level monitoring data on PM2.5 concentrations, wildfire days from satellite data and the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in 92 counties representing 95 percent of the population across the three states, accounting for such factors as weather, size of population and societal patterns of social distancing and mass gatherings. Their work allowed them to estimate the association between daily changes in PM2.5 levels and the percentage increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths for the counties they studied. They further estimated, for each county, the percentage of the total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths that were attributable to exposure to high levels of PM2.5 during the wildfires. In their report on the study, the researchers write, “While pooling across all counties, we found strong evidence of a positive associations between daily increases in PM2.5 and increased risks of COVID-19 cases and deaths, cumulatively up to 4 weeks. We found that, in some of the counties, the percentage of the total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths attributable to the high levels of PM2.5 was substantial. However, we also found evidence of large heterogeneity across counties, including evidence of protective effects in a small number of counties. These results provide strong evidence that, in many counties, the high levels of PM2.5 that occurred during the 2020 wildfires substantially exacerbated the health burden of COVID-19.” The study, titled “Excess of COVID-19 cases and deaths due to fine particulate matter exposures during the 2020 wildfires in the United States,” was published in the August 13, 2021, edition of Science Advances. For further information: <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/advances/7/33/eabi8789.full.pdf>

**B. IPCC Releases First Installment of Sixth Assessment Report on Climate Change (August 9, 2021)** – The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the United Nations’ body of 195 member states charged with assessing the science related to climate change – kicked off the preparation of its Sixth Assessment Report (to be issued in 2022) with the release of the first installment. The installment, from Working Group I, is titled Climate Change 2021: The Physical Basis. At a high level, the nearly 4000-page report focuses on the current state of the climate, possible climate futures, climate information for risk assessment and regional adaptation and limiting future climate change and offers many conclusions. With respect to the current state of the climate, the IPCC members write, “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land” and “human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years.” Further, they find that “global surface temperatures will continue to increase until at least the midcentury under all emission scenarios considered. Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.” The authors emphasize that many changes in the climate system – such as extreme heat, marine heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, tropical cyclones and reductions in Arctic sea ice, snow and permafrost – will increase in frequency and intensity “in direct relation” to

intensifying global warming, They report that under scenarios in which CO2 emissions increase, ocean and land carbon sinks are anticipated to be less effective at slowing the accumulation of CO2 in the atmosphere and, moreover, that many changes attributable to past and future greenhouse gas emissions “are irreversible for centuries to millennia,” particularly those in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level. No region of the world appears to be immune from these future increases in climate change. According to a press statement, the Sixth Assessment Report will be the first to provide a more detailed regional assessment of climate change, offering “useful information” to inform risk assessments, adaptation and other decisions as well as “a new framework that helps translate physical changes in the climate – heat, cold, rain, drought, snow, wind, coastal flooding and more – into what they mean for society and ecosystems.” Working Group I Co-Chair Valérie Masson-Delmotte calls the report a “reality check,” stating, “We now have a much clearer picture of the past, present and future climate, which is essential for understanding where we are headed, what can be done, and how we can prepare.” In November, world leaders will convene in Scotland for the 26th Conference of the Parties to continue discussions related to the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. For further information: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

**C. NASA Creates Interactive Map of Sea-Level Rise Due to Climate Change (August 9, 2021)** – The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released an online visualization tool that illustrates projections of sea levels in the coming decades. Using data compiled for the recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I report (see related article in this Washington Update), NASA’s Sea Level Change Team created the maps to allow users to select locations and any decade between 2020 and 2150 and obtain visualizations and information based on projections in the IPCC report. The maps include information about different processes that affect sea level, including melting of ice sheets and glaciers and the extent to which circulation patterns of ocean water shift and expand as they warm, thus affecting sea level. For further information: <https://sealevel.nasa.gov/ipcc-ar6-sea-level-projection-tool>

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues  
As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings  
Decision on SWCAA’s annual adjustment to the Consolidated Fee Schedule for 2022 based on the Consumer Price Index.

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.