

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
October 7th, 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 Vice Chair Ryan Smith
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
SWCAA Vice Chair Ryan Smith
- III. Board of Directors Minutes
Board of Directors Minutes – September Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda
SWCAA Vice Chair Ryan Smith
- 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
None
- IX. Control Officer Report
 - A. EPA Administrator Signs HFC Drawdown Final Rule (September 23, 2021) –**
EPA Administrator Michael Regan has signed a final rule establishing a phase down in the

production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in the U.S. HFCs are greenhouse gases (GHGs) commonly used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, as well as foams and many other applications. A global phasedown of HFCs is expected to avoid up to 0.5 °C of global warming by 2100. This final rule, “Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Establishing the Allowance Allocation and Trading Program under the AIM Act” will phase down the U.S. production and consumption of HFCs by 85% over 15 years, as mandated by the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act enacted by Congress on December 27, 2020. The AIM Act directs EPA to implement an allowance allocation and trading program that results in a phase down of the production and consumption of HFCs by 85% below baseline levels by 2036. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/final-rule-phasedown-hydrofluorocarbons-establishing-allowance-allocation>.

B. WHO Tightens Global Air Quality Guidelines (September 22, 2021) – Citing “a much stronger body of evidence to show how air pollution affects different aspects of health at even lower concentrations than previously understood,” the World Health Organization (WHO) updated the Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) for the first time since 2005. The AQG levels are WHO’s quantitative, health-based recommendations for air quality management, expressed as long- or short-term concentrations for six air pollutants: particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide. WHO adjusted almost all of the AQG levels downwards, emphasizing that the health risks associated with PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ are of particular public health relevance. It also set several interim targets for each pollutant that move progressively downward; these are intended to help authorities in highly polluted areas develop pollution reduction policies that are achievable within realistic time frames. “These guidelines are not legally binding standards; however, they do provide WHO Member States with an evidence-informed tool that they can use to inform legislation and policy,” WHO states. “Ultimately, the goal of these guidelines is to provide guidance to help reduce levels of air pollutants in order to decrease the enormous health burden resulting from exposure to air pollution worldwide.” In addition to the AQG levels, WHO’s updated guidelines provide qualitative statements on good practices for the management of types of particulate matter for which available information was deemed insufficient to derive AQG levels, including black/elemental carbon, ultrafine particles and particles originating from sand and dust storms. For further information: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/345329/9789240034228-eng.pdf>

C. South Coast AQMD Publishes Air Sensors Guidebook (September 21, 2021) – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) published a guidebook to help community members use air quality sensors to better understand their local air quality and take action to reduce emissions and exposure to pollution. The guidebook, entitled *Community in Action: A Comprehensive Toolkit on Air Quality Sensors*, covers a wide range of topics, including basic information about air quality and monitoring, project planning, operating air sensors and understanding the data. It is accompanied by four training videos that provide background information on air quality monitoring and sensor installation. The guidebook was produced as part of a project funded by an EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant awarded to SCAQMD in 2016. The purpose of the project is to provide California communities with the knowledge necessary to appropriately select, use and maintain low-cost air quality sensors and correctly interpret sensor data.

SCAQMD has been collaborating on this project with Sonoma Technology, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and 14 California community groups, which collectively have deployed nearly 400 sensors under the grant. For further information:

<https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/aq-spec/star-grant/community-in-action-a-comprehensive-guidebook-on-air-quality-sensors.pdf?sfvrsn=10>

D. Researchers Conclude Urgent Action Needed to Reduce Risk of Mortality from Increasing Wildfires (September 8, 2021) – In a paper published in Lancet Planetary Health a group of researchers report the results of their assessment of the association, across various regions of the world, between short-term exposure to PM2.5 from wildfires and death. In “Mortality risk attributable to wildfire-related PM2.5 pollution: a global time series study in 749 locations,” the authors explain that although more frequent and “unprecedentedly large” wildfires are occurring in many regions of the world the association between fire-related PM2.5 and mortality has not been well characterized. To conduct their time series study, the researchers collected data from 2000 through 2016 on daily death counts from 749 cities in 43 countries and regions for all causes, cardiovascular causes and respiratory causes and used a three-dimensional chemical transport model (GEOS-Chem) to estimate daily concentrations of wildfire-related PM2.5. Using a quasi-Poisson time series model to examine the association between fire-related PM2.5 exposure and mortality in each city the researchers then pooled the effect estimates using a random-effects meta-analysis to calculate the population attributable factor and relative risk of annual mortality due to wildfire-related PM2.5. Their analysis included a total of 65.6 million all-cause deaths, 15.1 million cardiovascular deaths and 6.8 million respiratory deaths. Based on their research, they concluded that an estimated 33,510 all-cause deaths, 6,993 cardiovascular deaths and 3,503 respiratory deaths were attributable to acute wildfire related PM2.5 exposure annually on average. Moreover, they concluded, “This study provides robust epidemiological evidence for acute effects of wildfire related PM2.5 exposure on mortality, based on a large multi-country dataset. Policy makers and public health professionals should raise awareness of wildfire pollution to guide prompt public responses and take actions to reduce exposure. Effective wildland management policies and practices should be implemented to manage vegetation and mitigate climate change as far as possible.” For further information:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(21\)00200-X/fulltext?source=email](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00200-X/fulltext?source=email)

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 – November

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.