

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
November 2, 2023, 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/82154159897>

Meeting ID: 821 5415 9897

Or call in by phone (669) 900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- III. Board of Directors Minutes
Board of Directors Minutes - October Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- V. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Vouchers
 - B. Financial Report
 - C. Monthly Activity Report
- V. Info Items & Public Comment
SWCAA Online Asbestos Tool Update
- VII. Public Hearing
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business

Adoption of SWCAA's Consolidated Fee Schedule - SWCAA is proposing for the Board to increase SWCAA's fees by last year's Western State's CPI which is equal to 7.5 percent and proposes to increase the per capita fee by four cents (from 58 to 62 cents). The three-cent per capita fee increase is equal to 6.9 percent instead of 7.5 percent due to rounding to the nearest cent. The proposed changes to the Consolidated

Fee Schedule are found in Attachment A.

Background –The Board has recommended 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. SWCAA’s Board has been adopting annual CPI fee increases to SWCAA’s fees since 2019.

On September 11, 2023, SWCAA posted its current proposal to increase the fees by last year’s CPI. SWCAA posted the public notice on SWCAA’s website and sent out public notification mailings to over 1,700 affected businesses and local governments. SWCAA also sent digital notifications to interested parties who have signed up on SWCAA’s website to receive such notifications. In addition, SWCAA held a public hearing on the evening of October 17th. SWCAA received one written comment which is summarized in the Public Hearing Officer Report (Attachment B).

Recommendation – Adopt SWCAA Resolution 2023-03 found in Attachment C which adopts the proposed changes to SWCAA’s Consolidated Fee Schedule.

IX. Executive Director’s Report

A. **New EPA Reports on Food Waste Highlight Methane Implications (October 19, 2023)**

Two new reports from EPA identify the methane impacts of food waste in municipal solid waste landfills and identify recommendations for reducing that waste stream. More food reaches MSW landfills than any other material and generates about 58 percent of the methane coming from landfills, according to the reports, and over one-third of the food produced in the United States is never eaten. This effort represents the first time the climate impacts of waste food have been identified. Its analysis estimates annual methane emissions from landfilled food waste from 1990 to 2020 and found that while total emissions from municipal solid waste landfills are decreasing, methane emissions from landfilled food waste are increasing. EPA suggests that addressing this methane source may be a highly cost-effective climate change mitigation strategy, with source reduction being the most environmentally beneficial approach. SWCAA recently permitted a new food waste processor proposed in Longview that will receive approximately 100,000 tons per year of food waste that would have gone to a landfill and converts it to renewable natural gas that can be fed into a nearby natural gas pipeline for downstream uses. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/land-research/quantifying-methane-emissions-landfilled-food-waste>

B. **EPA Makes Endangerment Finding for Aircraft Lead Emissions (October 20, 2023) -**

EPA published in the Federal Register its final action, announced earlier this week, finding that lead emissions from aircraft engines that operate on leaded fuel cause or contribute to lead air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health and welfare under Clean Air Act section 231(a). The basis of this finding is the comprehensive review and consideration by agency experts of extensive scientific evidence that has been accrued over decades and peer-reviewed by EPA’s Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. Among other things, this scientific evidence demonstrates that low levels of lead in

children’s blood can have harmful effects on children’s cognitive function, including reduced IQ and decreased academic performance. As EPA reiterates in the final action, “there is no evidence of a threshold below which there are no harmful effects on cognition from [lead] exposure.” Further, “evidence suggests that while some neurocognitive effects of lead in children may be transient, some lead-related cognitive effects may be irreversible and persist into adulthood, potentially contributing to lower educational attainment and financial well-being.” Although this finding does not prohibit or place restrictions on leaded fuel, or establish new control measures for aircraft lead emissions, it does obligate EPA to fulfill its statutory duty to propose and promulgate federal emission standards, under section 231(a), applicable to covered aircraft, the majority of which are piston-engine powered. Likewise, the Federal Aviation Administration is obligated to fulfill its statutory duty “to prescribe standards for the composition or chemical or physical properties of an aircraft fuel or fuel additive to control or eliminate aircraft emissions which the EPA has found endanger public health or welfare.” For further information: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-10-20/pdf/2023-23247.pdf> and <https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/regulations-lead-emissions-aircraft>

C. DOE Announces Hydrogen Hubs, 16 States to Share \$7 Billion (October 13, 2023)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced seven proposed “hydrogen hubs” in 16 states will share \$7 billion in federal grants to jump-start the emerging hydrogen industry. Funded by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Hydrogen Hubs convene teams of states to deploy projects that are intended to “accelerate the commercial-scale deployment of clean hydrogen helping to generate clean, dispatchable power, create a new form of energy storage, and decarbonize heavy industry and transportation”, according to DOE. The regional hubs responded to a competitive solicitation to propose networks of hydrogen producers and consumers linked with new and existing infrastructure. The goal of the overall program is to increase clean hydrogen output by a factor of five to 10 million metric tons by 2030 and 50 million tons by 2050 and reduce 25 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from end-uses each year. A Pacific Northwest hub that includes Washington, Oregon and Montana were also awarded \$1 billion for projects producing hydrogen exclusively from renewables. The Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub has committed to negotiating Project Labor Agreements for all projects over \$1 million and investing in joint labor-management/state-registered apprenticeship programs. Workforce commitments include priority hiring programs for former coal industry workers and investing more than \$4 million in the Centralia College training center to provide worker training. This Hub notes that attracting, training, and retaining local skilled, qualified, local, and diverse construction and operations workforces begins with leveraging high union density through collaboration with local labor unions and relevant workforce bodies. This H2Hub anticipates creating more than 10,000 direct jobs—8,050 in construction jobs and 350 permanent jobs. For further information: <https://www.energy.gov/oced/regional-clean-hydrogen-hubs-selections-award-negotiations>

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues

As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings

Appointment of Board Officers - January

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.