

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
January 4, 2024, 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 – November 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

Southwest Clean Air Agency Office Lease and Potential Relocation

SWCAA's building lease is up for renewal on March 1, 2024. SWCAA has been negotiating a new lease agreement while also exploring options for other more cost-effective and centrally located office space. SWCAA is considering relocating to an office location near the Vancouver Mall which could result in significant cost savings for the agency while providing reduced travel time and better freeway access for conducting fieldwork and responding to air pollution complaints.

- VII. Public Hearing
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Summary – SWCAA’s Chair and Vice Chair need to be elected for each calendar year. The Chair position is currently held by Dr. Alan Melnick and the Vice Chair position is held by Ryan Smith.

Recommendation – Elect the Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2024.

IX. Executive Director’s Report

A. Auto Dealers Call On President Biden To “Tap The Brakes” On What They Call “Electric Vehicle Mandate” In Forthcoming LMDV Rule (November 28, 2023)

A group of nearly 3,900 car dealers from across the country, who say they reflect “the voice of our customers” and represent all major vehicle brands, sent a letter to President Biden asking him to “slow down [his] proposed regulations mandating battery electric vehicle (BEV) production and distribution” because “the reality...is that electric vehicle demand today is not keeping up with the large influx of BEVs arriving at our dealerships prompted by the current regulations.” The group is referring to EPA’s May 2023 proposed regulation for multi-pollutant emission standards for model year 2027 through 2032 light- and medium-duty motor vehicles. The proposed rule, on which EPA expects to take final action in March 2024, does not mandate the use of any specific technology, nor does it mandate that any percentage of vehicle production be zero emission. Instead, each manufacturer may choose what mix of emission control technologies is best suited for its fleet to meet the standards. Nevertheless, the auto dealers tell the President “it’s time to tap the brakes on the unrealistic government electric vehicle mandate. Allow time for the battery technology to advance. Allow time to make BEVs more affordable. Allow time to develop domestic sources for the minerals to make batteries. Allow time for the charging infrastructure to be built and prove reliable. And most of all, allow time for the American consumer to get comfortable with the technology and make the choice to buy an electric vehicle.” For further information: <https://evvoiceofthecustomer.com/>

B. Researchers Quantify “Staggering” Contribution of Individual Coal-Fired Power Plants To Mortality (November 23, 2023)

In a study published in Science, researchers from Harvard, George Mason University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Geneva, Delft University of Technology and University of Texas find that fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions from coal-fired power plants are more than twice as likely as PM2.5 emissions from other sources to contribute to premature death in the U.S. Further, the researchers estimate that from 1999 to 2020 PM2.5 emissions from coal-fired power plants were associated with 460,000 premature deaths of elderly people in the U.S. In a commentary on the study the lead author, Dr. Lucas Henneman, writes, “It’s a staggering number, but the study also has good news: Annual deaths associated with U.S. coal power plants have fallen sharply since the mid-2000s as federal regulations compelled operators to install emissions scrubbers and many utilities shut down coal plants entirely.” In the study, “Mortality risk from United States coal electricity generation,” the authors conclude that their findings “have implications for current air pollution risk assessments, which incorrectly assume equal toxicity for ambient PM2.5 from all sources and for all locations. The research platform that we used to quantify exposure associated with individual coal

EGUs [electric generating units], which accounts for pollution transport and location relative to population centers, can support more efficient regulatory efforts by producing targeted evidence of how individual EGU sources contribute to the existing health burden.” For further information: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adf4915>

C. EPA, Four Federal Agencies Announce MOU And Joint Work Plan On Wildland Fire And Air Quality Coordination (November 9, 2023) EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) “to strengthen their coordination and implementation of policies, communications, and programs that relate to the use of prescribed fire to benefit restoration of forests and other wildlands, while protecting communities from wildfire and smoke impacts and promoting public health and welfare. With respect to air quality impacts specifically, the Agencies seek to reduce the impact of emissions from wildland fires on concentrations of particulate matter, ozone, and other pollutants of concern.” Along with the MOU, the four agencies released a joint work plan in which they outline the wildland fire-related priorities on which they will focus in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, including community preparedness; ensuring that land management and public health goals are address together; data collection and sharing; and interagency communication and messaging. For further information: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/11/09/biden-harris-administration-agencies-sign-interagency-agreement-to-address-wildfire-risk-and-protect-communities-from-smoke/>

D. DOE, China, U.S., Agree to Climate Cooperation (November 15, 2023) In a meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Washington DC, China and the U.S. have pledged to cooperating in accelerating efforts to address climate change. The Presidential meeting included a commitment to reduce emissions of methane and other GHGs. China and the U.S. are the world’s two biggest emitters of greenhouse gases and the commitment comes amid a deterioration in ties between the countries over issues including military provocations, trade, cybersecurity, and Taiwan. Both countries “are aware of the important role they play” and “will work together ... to rise up to one of the greatest challenges of our time,” according to a joint statement reiterating a pledge made by the Group of 20 nations to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030. The U.S. and China will also convene a working group on enhancing climate action in “the critical decade of the 2020s.” This would include exploring efforts to reduce methane emissions in China, which had previously not addressed emissions of this potent greenhouse gas. For further information: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/11/15/readout-of-president-joe-bidens-meeting-with-president-xi-jinping-of-the-peoples-republic-of-china-2/> and <https://www.state.gov/sunnylands-statement-on-enhancing-cooperation-to-address-the-climate-crisis/>

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings
None

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.