

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting  
March 7, 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 – February 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 Relocation Update**  
SWCAA is considering relocating 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. SWCAA will provide an update regarding the options and need for relocation.
- VII. Public Hearing  
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business  
None

## IX. Executive Director's Report

- A. Lead is Aviation Fuel ESHB1554 (February 20, 2024)** - ESHB1554 reintroduced in the Washington legislature has passed out of its committee of origin. The bill would require WSDOT to take various actions to address lead in aviation fuel, such as an education and outreach campaign, and development of best practices for airport operators to build awareness with surrounding communities related to lead emissions from aviation fuel. DOH would be required to update its blood lead testing guidance for health care providers related to children living near airports using leaded aviation gas. For more information: <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/1554-S.E.pdf?q=20240229153440>
- B. Senate Bill 6121 Revised (February 13, 2024)** - Senate Bill 6121 in the Washington Legislature is concerning biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass would provide the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) authority to permit and assess permit fees to produce biochar in small units from the burning of clean cellulosic biomass from forestry operations. It would establish permit fees for Ecology for biochar production on from agricultural waste. This bill would address permitting, and fees related to the production of biochar in small units from clean cellulosic biomass from forest and agricultural sources. This bill has been revised after concerns were raised from DOE and local clean air agencies. The bill no longer includes air curtain incinerators which require a Title V air quality permit. The revised bill adds a definition of "flame cap kiln" to the Clean Air Act, which is defined as an outdoor container for the combustion of natural vegetation from silvicultural or agricultural activities. It amends the definition of silvicultural burning to include combustion of natural vegetation from silvicultural activities. It specifies that burning of natural vegetation from agricultural activities in flame cap kilns must obtain a permit and adds combustion of natural vegetation from silvicultural activities in portable flame cap kilns as an activity subject to permit fees by DNR. It adds use of portable flame cap kilns as an activity DNR should encourage as an alternative disposal method to open burning. The title of the bill is amended. For more information <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6121&Year=2023&Initiative=false>
- C. EPA Makes Annual Health-Based PM2.5 Standard More Protective, Issues Memo On Initial Area Designations (February 9, 2024)** EPA announced the Administrator's final decision to revise the annual primary (health-based) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) from 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, thus concluding the agency's reconsideration of the 2020 PM NAAQS decision to retain without revision the standards set in 2015. Based on monitoring data for 2020 through 2022 EPA projects that 119 counties nationwide will exceed the 9.0-µg/m<sup>3</sup> standard; this number includes 59 counties that are already nonattainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and does not take into account data that may be excluded based on exceptional events demonstrations. The agency further projects that 99 percent of the nation's counties will be in attainment by 2032. In a step toward implementing the revised standard, and to help state, local and tribal air agencies recommend area designations and nonattainment area

boundaries, EPA has issued a memorandum, titled “Initial Area Designations for the 2024 Revised Primary Annual Final Particulate National Ambient Air Quality Standard.” Among other things, the memo includes information on the schedule and process for initial designations and identifies factors EPA plans to evaluate when making designation and boundary decisions. This final rule will take effect 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. For more info: <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/final-reconsideration-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-particulate-matter-pm>

**D. Bill To Automatically Exempt Monitoring Data Caused by Wildfires Introduced in House of Representatives (February 1, 2024)** Congressman John Curtis (R-UT) introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would amend the Clean Air Act to allow for air quality monitoring data caused by wildfires to be automatically excluded from use in determinations of exceedances or violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). H.R. 7193, the “Wildfire Air Quality Act,” would amend Section 319 of the Clean Air Act to add the following provision: “In the event of a catastrophic or beneficial use wildfire determined by the [EPA] Administrator to have a significant impact on air quality, the Administrator shall exclude air quality monitoring data that is directly due to such wildfire from use in determinations by the Administrator with respect to exceedances or violations of the national ambient air quality standards.” It would also require EPA to publish a final rule to implement this provision within 30 days of the legislation’s enactment. In a press release, Rep. Curtis described the bill as “legislation to prevent states from being punished for wildfire emissions.” He stated, “Western States are disproportionately affected by wildfires, skewing data that comes from air quality monitors and leading to undo penalties from the federal government... Utah experiences this firsthand and this legislation will remove the bureaucratic red tape to ensure we can focus on recovery and rebuilding, not EPA waivers and legal jargon.” For further information: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7193?overview=closed> and [https://curtis.house.gov/uploadedfiles/curtut\\_021\\_xml.pdf](https://curtis.house.gov/uploadedfiles/curtut_021_xml.pdf)

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings  
ED Evaluation (April)  
Staff COLA Decision (April)  
SWCAA 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.