

## SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 3:00 PM  
Southwest Clean Air Agency  
5101 NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Ste 102  
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

#### VI. Info Items & Public Comment

None

#### VII. Public Hearing

None

#### VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business

None

#### IX. Executive Director's Report

**A. EPA Transmits Three California Mobile Source Waivers to Congress, Potentially Setting Up CRA Vote (February 18, 2025)** In a letter from Administrator Lee Zeldin to Congress, EPA has transmitted three approved waivers of preemption from California addressing mobile source emissions. Section 209 of the Clean Air Act provides for California to set standards and take actions on reducing emissions from mobile sources, provided that EPA provides a waiver of

preemption. Three approved waivers were named in the EPA's February 18, 2025 transmittal: California's Advanced Clean Trucks (April 6, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 20688), Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II, January 6, 2025, 90 Fed Reg 642) and Heavy Duty Omnibus NOx programs (January 6, 2025, 90 Fed Reg 643). The Agency's announcement said that "Administrator Lee Zeldin announced in the Oval Office, alongside President Donald Trump and the newly created National Energy Dominance Council, that the EPA will be transmitting to Congress the Biden Administration's rules granting waivers that allowed California to preempt federal car and truck standards promulgated by EPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration." Agency actions are not typically transmitted to Congress but are published in the *Federal Register* as a "Notice of Decision", and by transmitting the waivers to Congress as "rules" the Agency arguably opens them to consideration under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), a 2013 law that allows Congress to disapprove regulatory actions and forbids substantially similar future actions.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-transmit-california-waivers-congress-accordance-statutory-reporting>

and

<https://www.epa.gov/state-and-local-transportation/vehicle-emissions-california-waivers-and-authorizations>

and

<https://www.gao.gov/products/b-334309>

**B. EPA Puts EJ Staff on Administrative Leave; Removes EJSCREEN From Website (February 6, 2025)** EPA has placed staff working at its Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) on administrative leave, according to communications with NACAA staff by an affected person on February 6, 2025. News outlets that received official communications from EPA, including a report that "168 staffers were placed on administrative leave as their function did not relate to the agency's statutory duties or grant work. EPA is in the process of evaluating new structure and organization to ensure we are meeting our mission of protecting human health and the environment for all Americans." A January 20, 2025, Executive Order titled "Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing" (E.O. 14151) calls for the Federal Government to "terminate, to the maximum extent allowed by law, all DEI, DEIA, and 'environmental justice' offices and positions". Other efforts are underway in the new Administration to advance the directive in E.O. 14151, for example, EPA's website discontinued access to its EJSCREEN tool (an online screening and mapping tool that enabled the identification of areas with higher environmental burdens on vulnerable communities) on February 4, 2025.

For further information:

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/06/epa-staffers-administrative-leave-00202973>

and

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferencing/>

and

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

**C. EPA Administrator Announces, “Powering the Great American Comeback” Initiative (February 4, 2025)**

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has announced his initiative to align EPA’s work with President Donald Trump’s agenda. The “Powering the Great American Comeback” Initiative is intended to guide EPA actions and consists of five pillars: 1) Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American; 2) Restore American Energy Dominance; 3) Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership; 4) Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World; and 5) Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs.

For further information:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-lee-zeldin-announces-epas-powering-great-american-comeback>

**D. CASAC, Science Advisory Board, and Their Panels Disbanded In “Reset” (January 28, 2025)** EPA has sent an email communicating to the members of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), and the panels that provide expert analysis for these bodies, that these bodies are disbanded and are being reset to reestablish their membership. CASAC and SAB are committees composed of independent scientific experts who provide advice to the EPA administrator on scientific matters related to environmental regulations, particularly focusing on air quality in the case of CASAC, which makes recommendations about the NAAQS, air toxics, and other Clean Air Act-related scientific decisions. Although these committees had not historically been reset during a presidential transition, both faced a similar action at the beginning of both the first Trump administration and the Biden administration. The January 28, 2025 email forwarded to the CASAC, SAB, and other panel members from then-EPA Acting Administrator Jim Payne by EPA staff supporting these bodies says that “EPA is working to update these federal advisory committees to ensure that the agency receives scientific advice consistent with its legal obligations to advance our core mission. A request for nominations to the SAB and CASAC will be announced in the coming weeks, and we encourage all members to reapply. Please thank the current membership for their service.”

For further information:

[https://www.4cleanair.org/wp-content/uploads/CASAC-SAB-Reset-Email-1\\_28\\_25.pdf](https://www.4cleanair.org/wp-content/uploads/CASAC-SAB-Reset-Email-1_28_25.pdf)

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues  
As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings

- Staff COLA Decision (April)
- ED Evaluation (April)
- SWCAA Budget (May)

XII. Adjourn

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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.