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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

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SUBJECT: The Santa Barbara County's Emission Inventory

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on the Santa Barbara County's Emission Inventory.

DISCUSSION:

The District's Emission Inventory staff will provide a presentation to your Board on the process for preparing the annual inventory and reporting the information to the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Data summaries will also be provided.

Each year, the District compiles an emission inventory for Santa Barbara County. The preparation of a regional emission inventory is a requirement under the California Health & Safety Code¹ and is a critical tool for air quality planning and the development of control measures. It is also used to observe historical trends over time, and to predict future air quality trends. The District and CARB share the role of developing a thorough and accurate inventory; CARB generally focuses on mobile sources, some area sources, and natural sources; the District focuses on stationary sources and some area sources. The emission inventory includes the following pollutants: ozone precursors (reactive organic compounds, or ROC, and nitrogen oxides, or NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), particulates (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and toxic air pollutants. The District can also estimate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for stationary source combustion devices, based on reported operational information.

¹ California Health & Safety Code Sections 39607 and 39607.3 require CARB to compile and update an emission inventory using its and each local district's best estimates of emissions from all sources.

At the beginning of each calendar year, operators of stationary sources are required to submit information such as equipment operating times, material usage, and fuel usage for the previous year to the District for emission inventory purposes. Once the operational information is received, it is reviewed for accuracy and entered into the District's database. Emission calculations are made for each device based on the operational information and applicable methodologies, and the stationary sources are assessed fees based on the total amount of pollution they emit each year.

Once all of the data has been compiled, detailed reports are generated in the required data format and are sent to CARB for review and inclusion in their database. The emission information is made available to the public through the CARB website and the District's air quality planning documents. District staff will present summaries of the most recent inventory that was compiled for the 2016 reporting year.

Large facilities, such as industrial sources, fuel suppliers and electricity importers, operating in Santa Barbara County are required to report their GHG emissions to CARB as specified in the AB 32 Mandatory Reporting Regulation.² A recent piece of legislation, AB 197, requires CARB to provide information to the public about GHG, criteria and toxic pollutants emissions all in one location on their website. In response, CARB staff, in consultation with local air district staff, developed a Pollutant Mapping Tool that currently includes GHG and criteria pollutants.³ CARB plans to add toxic air pollutants to the map tool in January 2018.

Another bill that was recently passed, AB 617, establishes several new requirements for CARB and local air districts. For emission inventories, it establishes a new requirement to develop a uniform statewide reporting system for criteria and toxic air pollutants. How this requirement will be met through state and local programs has yet to be determined, but has the potential to affect the district's emissions inventory process. The District will continue working with CARB and CAPCOA to ensure an efficient process is developed to collect and display emission inventory information to the public.

² More information on the CARB Mandatory Reporting Regulation: www.arb.ca.gov/cc/reporting/ghg-rep/ghg-rep.htm.

³ The CARB Pollutant Mapping Tool is available at www.arb.ca.gov/ei/tools/pollution_map/.