


## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 20, 2024

**TO:** Community Advisory Council (CAC) Members

**FROM:** Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

**SUBJECT:** Community Advisory Council - Quarterly Update

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The last meeting of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) occurred on July 8, 2024. Per the CAC By-Laws, District staff will provide a quarterly update to the CAC to maintain continuity during periods when there are no planning or rulemaking matters to discuss. The item below is provided as a quarterly status update, and a listing of the previous status updates can be found [here](#) on our website.

### **Rule Development for Asbestos Demolition and Renovation**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral used in building materials such as pipe insulation, floor tiles, and roofing materials. Disturbance of asbestos-containing materials during demolition or renovation activities can release asbestos fibers into the air, risking public health. Inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious health problems including chronic lung disease and cancer. There is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos, and so it is vitally important to protect workers and the public from its effects through safe handling operations.

Asbestos is federally-regulated through the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), which requires the identification and removal of asbestos-containing materials under controlled conditions prior to demolition or renovation activities so that asbestos fibers are not released into the air. Since 1973, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated the authority to implement the NESHAP in Santa Barbara County to the Air Pollution Control District (District). The District enforces this federal regulation through existing Rule 1001, which incorporates the NESHAP by reference.

Over the last 30 years, the EPA has made numerous supplemental determinations and memorandums to try and clarify the federal regulation. However, these piecemealed determinations have resulted in confusion to the regulated community. To rectify this issue, the District is working on a rulemaking to incorporate federal updates into a consolidated local rule. This rulemaking would more clearly define terms, clarify when a demolition or renovation is subject to the rule, further explain inspection requirements, and specify work practice standards to limit asbestos exposure. These rule modifications would result in a better understanding of the

requirements by the regulated community, thereby improving compliance rates and reducing public exposure to asbestos.

Additionally, to better protect public health and to align with the Cal/OSHA<sup>1</sup> regulations, the rule applicability threshold may be decreased from 160 to 100 square feet of regulated asbestos-containing material. The lower applicability threshold is already in place in similar rules in other California Air Districts, and it is beneficial in reducing the risk of public exposure to harmful asbestos fibers. The District anticipates this rule project to be ready for public workshop during the Spring or Summer of 2025, and CAC presentation closely following.

## **2025 Ozone Plan**

Every three years, the District is required to update our plan to attain and maintain the state 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards. The 2025 Ozone Plan will be the eleventh triennial update to the initial state Air Quality Attainment Plan adopted by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) Board of Directors in 1991.

We anticipate the 2025 Ozone Plan will be composed of seven chapters that address air quality trends, the emission inventory, stationary source control measures, transportation control measures, voluntary incentive programs, and attainment strategy. District staff plans to hold the next CAC meeting in the Spring of 2025 to begin the review process and discuss the 2025 Ozone Plan. District staff intend to take the 2025 Ozone Plan to the District Board for a public hearing and adoption in the Fall of 2025.

This concludes the status update for this quarter. We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and thank you for the time and dedication you provided to the District in 2024. We look forward to working with you in 2025. If you have any questions, please contact me ([aag@sbcapcd.org](mailto:aag@sbcapcd.org)) or Alex Economou ([aje@sbcapcd.org](mailto:aje@sbcapcd.org)).

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*The CAC's charter is to consider issues related to air pollution planning and rulemaking for which the District has jurisdiction, and to render advice to the District Board and the APCO. The CAC serves an important function by providing expertise and representation of community interests during planning and rulemaking. The CAC's advice has helped the District Board adopt plans and rules, which have contributed to improving air quality in our county, and District staff appreciate the care and consideration you show in carrying out your service. These updates are also be posted to our website at [www.ourair.org/community-advisory-council-info](http://www.ourair.org/community-advisory-council-info).*

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<sup>1</sup> The California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), better known as Cal/OSHA.