

# **BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **RESOLUTION No. 2013 -**

### **A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District**

#### **Resolution Adopting a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal and Commitment to Develop a Regional Climate Protection Strategy**

WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated in its recently released 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*, that “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal,” and “It is *extremely likely* that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century”; and,

WHEREAS, Conservative estimates by the world’s climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Area Air Quality Management District launched a Climate Protection Program in 2005, and through this program works with the State of California, regional agencies, and city and county governments throughout the Bay Area region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thus providing a national model for climate leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 commits the State of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and the Governor’s Executive Order S-3-05 establishes as State policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, The Air District's 2010 Clean Air Plan set performance objectives to “Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to 1990 levels by 2020 and 40% below 1990 levels by 2035”; and

WHEREAS, The Air District has invested in the development of local climate action plans throughout the Bay Area through its Climate Protection Grant Program, and nearly 50 Bay Area local governments have developed and adopted climate action plans; and

WHEREAS, The counties of Alameda and San Francisco have adopted goals of reducing GHG emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and many other jurisdictions, including Contra Costa County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, and the cities of Berkeley, Burlingame, Daly City, Hayward, Millbrae, San Jose, San Mateo and San Rafael, have adopted goals of reducing GHG emissions 80% below 2005 levels by 2050, through their adoption of the Sierra Club Cool Cities and Cool Counties resolutions; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that the increased temperatures and extreme weather events that are anticipated to be caused by climate change will likely create a number of health threats; and

WHEREAS, The CDC states that “heat exposure has a range of health effects,” including “increasing ground level ozone concentrations, causing direct lung injury and increasing the severity of respiratory diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,” and states that “higher temperatures and heat waves increase demand for electricity and thus combustion of fossil fuels, generating airborne particulates and indirectly leading to increased respiratory disease;” and

WHEREAS, The CDC states that “increased concentrations of ground-level carbon dioxide and longer growing seasons could result in higher pollen production, worsening allergic and respiratory disease;” and

WHEREAS, Climate change may increase the occurrence and severity of wildfires in and around the Bay Area, resulting in increased PM2.5 exposure and associated negative health impacts, including respiratory and cardiovascular effects; and

WHEREAS, Measures to reduce Bay Area GHG emissions often would also result in reductions in emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants and support the goals of the Air District’s *2010 Clean Air Plan*; and

WHEREAS, Reducing greenhouse gas emissions can achieve co-benefits for disproportionately impacted communities by reducing exposure to particulate matter and air toxic pollutants and thereby reducing the negative health impacts in those communities; and

WHEREAS, Greenhouse gas reduction policies that achieve energy and resource savings can yield economic co-benefits to residents and businesses within the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, Regional Agencies in the Bay Area are actively engaged in climate action planning, through efforts such as *Plan Bay Area*, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s *Adapting to Rising Tides Project*, and the Air District’s development of the *2014 Clean Air Plan*, and are coordinating these planning efforts through the Joint Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to California Clean Air Act and Amendments (HSC Section 40910 et seq) and the Federal Clean Air Act and Amendments (42 U.S.C. Section 7401 et seq.), the Air District has authority to regulate emissions from non-vehicular sources of air pollution, including GHGs, and to enact more stringent requirements than federal or State law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Directors seeks to build on local, regional and state climate protection planning efforts by leading a regional climate protection planning process to include:

- Setting a goal for the Bay Area region of reducing GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and developing specific performance objectives to track progress in achieving the goal; and
- Developing a Regional Climate Action Strategy to guide and document the Air District's work towards achieving the 2050 goal for GHG emission reductions that complements existing planning efforts at the state, regional and local levels, utilizing the Air District's 2014 Clean Air Plan to coordinate the planning and outreach processes; and
- Directing staff to develop a work program to guide and document the Air District's climate protection activities in the near term, to be approved by the Board of Directors in the first quarter of 2014.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the Motion of Director \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, by the following vote of the Board:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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Ash Kalra  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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Carole Groom  
Secretary of the Board of Directors

## 10-POINT CLIMATE ACTION WORK PROGRAM FOR THE BAY AREA

10/28/13

This 10-Point Climate Action Work Program represents the focus and direction of the Air District's Climate Protection Program in 2013-2015. This Work Program reflects the Air District's strength in playing a coordinating role for policy implementation at the federal, state, regional and local levels. The actions described below will serve as the Air District's priorities for the next two years as it continues to work with many stakeholders to reduce the Bay Area's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

1. **Set GHG Reduction Goal** – Set a goal to reduce GHG emissions in the Bay Area 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 to align the Air District with Executive Order S-3-05, and develop performance objectives to support this goal.
2. **Update GHG Inventory and Forecasting** – Update the Air District's regional GHG emissions inventory for the Bay Area. Conduct GHG emissions forecasts for 2020, 2035 and 2050 based on different GHG emission scenarios, which will lay a foundation for the development of the Regional Climate Action Strategy described below. Seek to incorporate effects of state (Scoping Plan), regional (Plan Bay Area and 2014 Clean Air Plan), and local (local climate action plans) initiatives. Identify gaps between forecast reductions from existing and proposed plans and measures, and the 2050 goal.
3. **Implement GHG Emissions Monitoring** – Initiate local monitoring of certain greenhouse gases, including methane and carbon dioxide. The Air District will integrate monitoring of methane within its current air toxics monitoring network. The Air District will work with UC Berkeley researchers to collect local CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data through a university-led network of local CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring stations. Data collected will help develop a better understanding of ambient concentration, variability and trends over time, as well as provide more specific local data for the regional GHG inventory.
4. **Develop Regional Climate Action Strategy** – Identify policy gaps between the 2050 GHG goal and local climate action plans, Plan Bay Area, and State regulations and policies where the Air District has authority to control GHG emissions. These potential Air District actions could be included in the 2014 Clean Air Plan and serve as a Regional Climate Action Strategy. Explore relationships between the Joint Policy Committee and its member agencies to support regional planning efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Work with local researchers, representatives of affected industry, commercial interests, governing bodies, environmental organizations and community groups to engage them in discussion about the need, and path forward, for significant GHG reductions.
5. **Support and Enhance Local Action** – Increase the local implementation of GHG-reducing policies and programs through enhanced technical assistance to cities and counties and special districts in preparing and implementing local Climate Action Plans. Expand technical assistance to local governments through development of incentive programs and CEQA mechanisms:
  - Support local climate action planning through data delivery, technical tools, providing a clearinghouse of information and promoting best practices
  - Explore funding sources for incentives to improve energy efficiency;
  - Update CEQA thresholds for GHGs and update CEQA Guidelines to assist cities, counties and other lead agencies;

- Work with lead agencies to use the CAPCOA GHG Exchange for offsite mitigation under CEQA (e.g., work with organizations such as the Marin Carbon Project to develop protocols for GHG reduction credits).
6. **Accelerate Rule Development** – Initiate rule development to advance GHG reduction in sources subject to Air District regulatory authority. Examples may include:
    - Reduce methane emissions and other short-lived climate pollutants, such as black carbon;
    - Enhance and/or backstop upcoming federal requirements to control GHG emissions from new and existing power plants;
    - Increase deployment of heat mitigating technologies and policies, such as cool roofing and cool paving;
    - Explore opportunities to reduce energy use in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.
  7. **Expand Enforcement** – Expand enforcement of statewide regulations to reduce GHGs, especially short-term climate pollutants. Continue working with the Air Resources Board (ARB) to enforce existing Scoping Plan regulations addressing landfills, semiconductors and refrigerants. Work with ARB to explore further opportunities through the development of the Scoping Plan Update.
  8. **Launch Climate Change & Public Health Impacts Initiative** – Collect and synthesize information, reports and data on the climate change impacts related to air quality, public health and disproportionate impacts. Work with state and local public health professionals to identify policies and programs targeting impacts that affect air quality and public health, including wildfires and extreme heat.
  9. **Report Progress to the Public** – Select indicators to measure, track and report on progress toward the 2050 goal and related performance objectives. Report this information publicly, presented in a manner that informs and engages the public, such as Berkeley's Climate Action Plan Results web page.
  10. **Explore the Bay Area's Energy Future** – Assign the Air District's Advisory Council the role of investigating technical issues related to the Air District's Climate Protection Program. Initially focus on the energy future of the Bay Area.