

Northern Sacramento Valley Representation on California Air Resources Board

The Northern Sacramento Valley is classified as a moderate nonattainment area for State 1 hour ozone standard. The Sacramento Valley Air Basin is comprised of the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta and the northern portions of Yuba and Sutter. The Basin is generally rural in nature with low populations dominated mostly by agriculture and its support operations. Some small industry exists.

To help meet the Northern Sacramento Valley's Attainment Plan goals, and to keep control measures uniform throughout the air basin, as required by the Health and Safety Code, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Sacramento Basinwide Control Council (BCC) was established.

The BCC has expressed concern lately with some of the rules coming forth from CARB and their effect on the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin. At times it appears that the Sacramento Valley Air Basin is thought of as one with the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (extreme nonattainment) when in fact they are quite separate and distinct. The BCC's goal is to ensure equal representation on CARB. At the April 6, 2007 meeting of the BCC a motion was made for the TAC to explore and provide options for representation on the CARB, including legislative and appointment to the "at large" district seat. A sub-committee of the TAC has developed the following information and options that are available to the BCC.

First, it is important to remember that the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), of which all Sacramento Valley Air District Air Pollution Control Officers are members of, has represented the Sacramento Valley on many occasions. Second, a possible option is: CARB is made up of eleven members, all appointed by the Governor with consent of the Senate. Two members are public members, one shall be a board member of any other district ("at large"), five are from specific districts, requirements for the remaining members are expertise and/or experience in specific fields. Communication with CARB Board members should be explored to increase their awareness of the BCC concerns.

A third option is to explore the possibility of having a Sacramento Valley representative appointed to the CARB "at large" district seat.

A fourth option is to initiate and support legislation that will add another seat to CARB to represent Northern California.

A fifth option and a relatively expensive one is to hire a lobbyist.

A sixth option is to become active in the Governor's appointment process, through CSAC or RCRC or CAPCOA, to help assure regional representation on the Board. Any one of the above options will all require considerable work on the TAC and BCC's part to implement. Additional strategies will need to be developed to consider implementation of most of the above options.

(BCC rep 8 3 07)