

“AQMD Must Reassess Its Air Quality Regulations”

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
UCLA and Scientific Integrity Institute
jenstrom@ucla.edu

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The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), one of the most powerful regulatory agencies in the United States, has just proposed tightening its regulations. During the past 40 years it has implemented strong air quality regulations in the 11,000 square-mile South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which includes the 17 million people who live in the populated areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. These increasingly aggressive and costly regulations have impacted all sectors of the economy, from utility power plants, oil refineries, the ports, and all manufacturers to restaurants, dry cleaners, printers, and auto repair shops. While these regulations have improved air quality substantially, they have been excessive and have contributed to the loss of more than half of the manufacturing jobs in Southern California.

The regulation of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), ozone (O₃), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) has been largely justified on a cost-benefit basis by the claim that air pollution causes 5,000 premature deaths per year in the SCAB. This claim relies on the implausible and unproven hypothesis that inhalation over a lifetime of about one teaspoon of PM_{2.5} (particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter) causes premature death. For perspective, inhaling this amount of PM_{2.5} is roughly equivalent to smoking two cigarettes a year, certainly not a lethal dose. Moreover, there is overwhelming epidemiological evidence, including two large 2011 AQMD-funded epidemiological studies, that air pollution does not cause any premature deaths in California. Furthermore, the SCAB has an age-adjusted total death rate that is lower than the death rate in every state except Hawaii. It has a similarly low total cancer death rate.

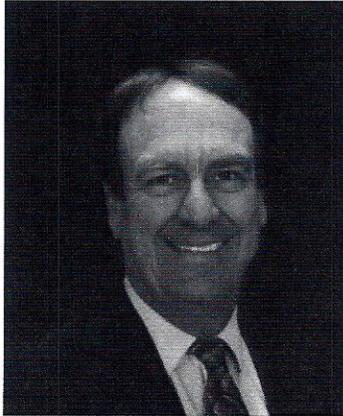
Regarding exposures, the average ambient levels of 8-hour ozone and 24-hour PM_{2.5} in the SCAB, as measured by AQMD monitors, are below the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and PM_{2.5}. Furthermore, the average personal exposures to ozone and PM_{2.5} among SCAB residents are much lower than the ambient levels measured by AQMD monitors. These average personal exposure levels are far below the levels associated with adverse health effects. Air pollutants are now at record low levels and close to natural background levels. The last Stage 3 smog alert was in 1974 and the last Stage 2 smog alert was in 1988. Much of the remaining SCAB pollution comes across the Pacific Ocean from China, which ignores air pollution regulations and which does much of the manufacturing that used to be done here.

Unfortunately, the AQMD staff, led since 1997 by Executive Officer Barry R. Wallerstein, has ignored the extremely positive air quality evidence above. Instead of acting in the best public health and socioeconomic interest of the SCAB residents, AQMD staff has implemented scientifically unjustified regulations in conjunction with the EPA, the California Air Resources Board, and powerful environmental activist groups (like Coalition for Clean Air, American Lung Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club). The AQMD Board justifiably fired Wallerstein on March 4. There is now an opportunity for the remaining AQMD staff to work with numerous qualified experts like myself in order to reassess the scientific validity of all their regulations. The REgional CLean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM), the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES), and the 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) all need to be reassessed. These reassessments must be made before the 2016 AQMP is finalized and, if they are not made, the AQMD Board should not approve the 2016 AQMP. It is time to stop unjustified regulations in Southern California and to bring manufacturing jobs back.

BizFed-Southern California Business Coalition on AQMD and CARB
Tuesday, July 19, 2016
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Southern California Gas Company Energy Resource Center
9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey, CA 90241
HOST: Southern California Gas Company

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| I. Welcome and Introductions | 10:00 a.m. |
| - <i>Peter Whittingham, Joe Hower, and Tracy Hernandez</i> | |
| II. Special presentation and discussion on the 2016 Draft AQMP and Socioeconomic Report with Wayne Nastri, Dr. Philip Fine, and Dr. Elaine Shen | 10:15 a.m. |
| - <i>Introduction by Peter Whittingham</i> | |
| III. Discussion of next steps on AQMP | 11:15 a.m. |
| - <i>Peter Whittingham</i> | |
| IV. Special presentation on air pollution science in Southern California by Dr. James Enstrom | 11:30 a.m. |
| V. Networking Lunch / Break | 12:15 p.m. |
| VI. Board Outreach | 12:30 p.m. |
| - <i>Joe Hower</i> | |
| • CARB | |
| • SCAQMD | |
| i. Recap of conversation with Chairman Dr. William Burke on 7/12 | |
| VII. Legislation | 12:50 p.m. |
| • SB 1387 – <i>Joe Hower and Peter Herzog</i> | |
| • SB 32 and AB 197 – <i>Alene Taber and Kristin Garcia</i> | |
| VIII. SIP Strategy, Freight Action Plan, Shutdown Credits in RECLAIM | 1:20 p.m. |
| - <i>Joe Hower</i> | |
| IX. Wrap Up / Next Steps | 1:45 p.m. |
| - <i>Peter Whittingham</i> | |
| • Next Meeting – Board Member to invite / location | |

Guest Speaker: James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Enstrom is a native Californian who has lived most of his life in Los Angeles County. In 1965 He graduated co-valedictorian of his class at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA, where he obtained a B.S. in physics. In 1970 Dr. Enstrom obtained his Ph.D. in experimental elementary particle physics at Stanford University from Nobel Laureate Melvin Schwartz. During 1971-1973 he worked as a physicist at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in research group of Nobel Laureate Luis Alvarez. He then came to the UCLA School of Public Health as a postdoctoral fellow in cancer epidemiology and received an M.P.H. and postdoctoral certificate in 1976 from renowned public health epidemiologist Dr. Lester Breslow.

He then joined the UCLA School of Public Health faculty as a Research Professor / Researcher and he held that position for 36 years until June 2012. He currently retains a similar affiliation with UCLA, although he is now drawing retirement. He has been a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology since 1981, he has been listed in Who's Who in America since 1990, and he has been President of the Scientific Integrity Institute in Los Angeles since 2005.

During his long career, he has explored many important epidemiological issues, particularly focusing on California. A major theme of his research has been identifying healthy lifestyles. He has shown that it is possible to reduce mortality risk from cancer and heart disease by 70% in the middle age range and to increase longevity by as much as 10 years. Examples of healthy populations that he has examined include religiously active California Mormons, California Cancer Prevention Study subjects, California PREVENTION Magazine Readers, and California and national samples of adults adhering to good health practices.

He has also examined the influence of environmental factors on mortality. In December 2005 he published a major paper on fine particulate matter and mortality in California and he has numerous other fm. Since then he has conclusively documented that fine particulate matter does not cause premature death in California. Since 2013, following the lead of the US House Science Committee, he has been involved with efforts to obtain the access to the "secret science" data that EPA has used to justify its fine particulate and ozone air pollution regulations in California and the United States. These efforts include the August 1, 2013 House subpoena of EPA, as well as the Secret Science Reform Acts of 2014 and 2015.

He is currently conducting important new air pollution epidemiology research that is relevant to the EPA, CARB, and SCAQMD regulations. More information can be found at his Scientific Integrity Institute website (<http://www.scientificintegrityinstitute.org/>).