

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 23, 2012
MAG Office
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Oddvar Tveit, Tempe, Chairman	Steve Trussell, Arizona Rock Products Association
# Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Buckeye, Vice Chair	Amy Bratt, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
Kristen Sexton, Avondale	Amanda McGennis, Associated General Contractors
# Jim Weiss, Chandler	* Spencer Kamps, Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona
# Jamie McCullough, El Mirage	# Mannie Carpenter, Valley Forward
Kurt Sharp, Gilbert	* Kai Umeda, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Doug Kukino, Glendale	Beverly Chenausky, Arizona Department of Transportation
* Cato Esquivel, Goodyear	Diane Arnst, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
* Scott Bouchie, Mesa	* Environmental Protection Agency
* William Mattingly, Peoria	Jo Crumbaker, Maricopa County Air Quality Department
Phil McNeely, Phoenix	* Duane Yantorno, Arizona Department of Weights and Measures
Tim Conner, Scottsdale	* Ed Stillings, Federal Highway Administration
# Antonio DeLaCruz, Surprise	Mary Springer for Judi Nelson, Arizona State University
# Mark Hannah, Youngtown	# Christopher Horan, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Ramona Simpson, Queen Creek	
* American Lung Association of Arizona	
Kristin Watt for Grant Smedley, Salt River Project	
* Brian O'Donnell, Southwest Gas Corporation	
* Mark Hajduk, Arizona Public Service Company	
# Susan Stephens for Gina Grey, Western States Petroleum Association	
# Dawn M. Coomer, Valley Metro/RPTA	
* Dave Berry, Arizona Motor Transport Association	
Jeannette Fish, Maricopa County Farm Bureau	

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.
#Participated via telephone conference call.
+Participated via video conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments	Mitch Wagner, Maricopa County Department of Transportation
Dean Giles, Maricopa Association of Governments	Clifford Anderson, Arizona State University
Taejoo Shin, Maricopa Association of Governments	Scott DiBiase, Pinal County Air Quality
Matt Poppen, Maricopa Association of Governments	Matt Tsark, Strand Associates, Inc.
Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments	Amanda Nash, Maricopa County
Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of Governments	Joonwon Joo, Arizona Department of Transportation
Adam Xia, Maricopa Association of Governments	Heather Hodgman, City of Apache Junction
Feng Liu, Maricopa Association of Governments	Sam Tsrown, City of Scottsdale
Cathy Arthur, Maricopa Association of Governments	Wendy Crites, Salt River Project
Randy Sedlacek, Maricopa Association of Governments	Rusty Van Leuven, Arizona Department of Agriculture
Johanna Kuspert, Maricopa County Air Quality Department	Mick Hont, Arizona Department of Transportation

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) was conducted on February 23, 2012. Oddvar Tveit, City of Tempe, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 p.m. Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Buckeye; Dawn Coomer, Valley Metro; Jim Weiss, City of Chandler; Jamie McCullough, City of El Mirage; Christopher Horan, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Mannie Carpenter, Valley Forward; Susan Stephens, Western States Petroleum Association; Mark Hannah, Town of Youngtown; and Antonio DeLaCruz, City of Surprise, attended the meeting via telephone conference call.

2. Call to the Audience

Mr. Tveit stated that according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out comment cards, which are available on the tables adjacent to the doorways inside the meeting room. Citizens are asked not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for nonagenda items and nonaction agenda items. Mr. Tveit noted that one public comment card was received.

Mr. Tveit called forward Clifford Anderson for public comment. Mr. Anderson spoke on the link between health and air quality. He stated that people who burn wood do not understand the unintended health consequences of their actions. Mr. Anderson noted that children with asthma are having to go to the hospital due to fireplace smoke. He commented that he is not seeking regulation, but education. He asked if Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation is the only motivation for improving air quality. Mr. Anderson stated that the public needs to be informed on the adverse health effects of burning wood and advised against this bad practice. He noted that woodburning stoves and fireplaces emit significant quantities of health damaging pollutants, including carcinogenic compounds. Mr. Anderson discussed that wood smoke also contains particulate matter which has an impact on the respiratory system. He stated that the Arizona Department of Health Services reported January and February as the two worst months for emergency room visits for asthma in 2008 and 2009. Mr. Anderson discussed a study correlating asthma and PM-10. He noted that despite the high pollution advisory days and no burn days he has witnessed several public violations. Mr. Anderson commented that the word is not getting out. He stated that the high local concentration is the insidious aspect of wood smoke that is not captured by the monitors in Maricopa County. Mr. Anderson indicated that debilitating fumes fill the air he needs to breathe to commute two miles to work. He discussed an improved public policy and public awareness campaign to inform the public on the dangers of wood burning and the importance of air quality with relation to health.

Mr. Tveit thanked Mr. Anderson for his comments. He stated that this indeed is an important issue and he appreciates ideas from the public on ways to get the message out.

3. Approval of the November 29, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 29, 2011 meeting. Doug Kukino, City of Glendale, moved and Phil McNeely, City of Phoenix, seconded, and the motion to approve the November 29, 2011 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

4. Update on the MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10 and Exceptional Events

Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments, provided an update on the MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10. She stated that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has submitted their commitment regarding the voluntary and emerging control measure, the Dust Action General Permit. Ms. Bauer stated that based upon an evaluation, if there is a need to address a shortfall ADEQ would commit to work together to develop a plan revision. She noted that this commitment is a requirement of EPA if a voluntary and emerging measure is going to be used. Ms. Bauer thanked ADEQ for submitting the commitment.

Ms. Bauer stated that according to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, ADEQ, EPA, and the Governor's Agricultural Best Management Practices Committee have some issues that they are currently working through and discussions are taking place. Once the discussions are completed and these items are addressed, the Draft MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10 will be completed.

Ms. Bauer indicated that not only is the draft plan needed, but the region also needs three years of clean data as measured by the monitors for EPA to determine that the PM-10 standard has been met. It is important for MAG member agencies, the State, business and industry, as well as the citizens to keep the dust down throughout the entire region and at the monitors. Ms. Bauer stated that the region cannot afford any accidental anthropogenic exceedances, such as all-terrain vehicles on vacant lots.

Ms. Bauer provided an update on exceptional events. She stated that in 2012 the State has indicated that the region has had two exceptional events. The first exceptional event was on January 21st at the West 43rd Avenue Monitor and due to a frontal system which documented winds at 32.5 miles per hour. The second exceedance was due to residual dust on January 22nd at the Higley Monitor. Ms. Bauer indicated that ADEQ believes these exceedances are exceptional events.

Ms. Bauer stated that ADEQ is continuing their preparation of the exceptional event documentation as required by the EPA Exceptional Events Rule. She noted that she would pass around the July 2-8, 2011 exceptional events documentation to the Committee, which is over 200 pages, to show the work that goes into these documents. ADEQ has indicated that they have twelve more packages to be prepared for 2011. Ms. Bauer mentioned that ADEQ, Maricopa County, MAG, and the MAG consultants all worked on the documentation together. Ms. Bauer indicated that the exceptional events issues are still not resolved. She noted that hopefully EPA will be releasing some fixes to the implementation guidance for the Exceptional Events Rule.

Ms. Bauer discussed that in the Legislature, Representative Reeve introduced House Bill 2798, which has been passed by the House Environment Committee. She added that the bill was included in the Committee agenda packet. Ms. Bauer stated that House Bill 2798 is designed to have the municipalities and counties in Area A, ADEQ, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), and other agencies responsible for enforcing restrictions on off-highway vehicles submit annual reports regarding particulate measures to ADEQ. Representative Reeve has acknowledged that the measures are being implemented by the cities and towns. Ms. Bauer noted that by March 30th of every year the documentation of measure implementation will be required as outlined in the bill.

Antonio DeLaCruz, City of Surprise, inquired about the three years of clean data, in particular, if 2011 was the third year of clean data needed. Ms. Bauer replied that the requirement is at least three years of clean data at the monitors for EPA to determine that the standard has been attained. For example, she stated that the plan is being submitted in 2012, so at a minimum 2010, 2011, and 2012 need to be

clean data years. Ms. Bauer added that once the three years of clean data is attained, the region needs to stay clean at the monitors. If the region cannot stay clean after attainment has been reached, EPA will designate the region back to nonattainment.

5. Update on the Activities of the ADOT Dust Task Force

Mick Hont, Arizona Department of Transportation, presented an update on the activities of the ADOT Dust Task Force Committee. He mentioned that in October 2011 there was a 30 vehicle pile-up on Interstate 10 that stemmed from blowing dust. Mr. Hont explained that this accident spurred the State Engineer's Office to contact ADOT with regard to the formation of a committee which would re-engage the issue. The purpose of the ADOT Dust Task Force Committee is to evaluate the effect that dust storms have on ADOT highways and consider mitigation measures to enhance the safety of the traveling public. The committee membership displays a variation of disciplines, including: central maintenance; communication and community partnerships; emergency management; research center; risk management; traffic safety; transportation technology group; and various districts.

Mr. Hont indicated that the ADOT Dust Task Force Committee focuses on five deliverables. The first deliverable is determining the number of crashes that occurred on State, County and Indian roads from 2006 to 2010 that can be attributed to severe crosswinds and blowing soil. Mr. Hont displayed the number of crashes as a result of weather from 2006 to 2010. He stated that out of almost 620,000 recorded crashes, less than one percent of the crashes can be attributed to severe crosswinds or blowing soil.

Mr. Hont discussed that the second deliverable is to identify sections of interstate highways that have a significant number of crashes related to severe crosswinds and blowing soil. From the data that was provided by ADOT's Traffic Safety section, Interstate 10 and Interstate 40 had the highest number of crashes. Mr. Hont replied that the committee then focused on Interstate 10. He presented a graph that displayed severe crosswind and blowing sand, soil, dirt weather related crashes along eastbound Interstate 10 from the California/Arizona border to the New Mexico/Arizona border. Mr. Hont identified that a majority of the crashes happened between Tangerine Road and Wild Horse Pass Boulevard.

Mr. Hont stated that the next focus of the committee was to explore mitigation measures. The third deliverable of the committee was to determine the effectiveness of the existing dust monitoring system in the Safford District, and to determine the cost to install similar systems on Interstate 10 between Phoenix and Tucson at the areas specified in the previous graph.

Mr. Hont discussed the dust monitoring system on Interstate 10 in the Safford District. He stated that ADOT secured grant monies a few years ago for a dust monitoring system to be installed on Interstate 10 in the Safford District between mile posts 361 and 387. The system was deployed in May 2011 and the coverage area is approximately 26 miles. Mr. Hont noted that the monitors have sensors that detect high winds and low visibility, as well as cameras that provide snapshots of existing weather conditions. He indicated that there is a threshold or trigger point for the sensors and camera which when exceeded triggers different warning devices. The public warning devices include: a sign with flashing beacons communicating to the public to reduce speed and a warning message played on the Highway Advisory Radio.

Diane Arnst, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, inquired if the warning devices are triggered automatically. Mr. Hont responded that the devices are triggered remotely, not manually.

Mr. Hont commented that while the system was deployed in May 2011, there is still some fine tuning required. He stated that the system needed to be evaluated for effectiveness before any other projects in this technology are pursued. Mr. Hont mentioned that the present-day cost for a similar system to be designed and constructed on Interstate 10 from mile marker 200 to 230 is approximately \$700,000. This cost would cover basic design and construction. He commented that if a similar system was to be put into place covering the entire problem area from mile marker 160-240, the present-day investment would be approximately \$2.2 million.

Mr. Hont discussed the fourth deliverable which is to determine where additional investment of resources can effectively generate value. He stated that ADOT is considering installing cameras at specific locations on Interstate 10 between Tucson and Phoenix in lieu of a fully developed monitoring system like in the Safford District. Snapshots or live video of existing weather conditions would be transmitted to the Traffic Operations Center (TOC) in Phoenix. Mr. Hont indicated that this system could essentially operate the same as the one in the Safford District in which the TOC would send out a page alerting the appropriate districts of the weather conditions and activate overhead signs.

Mr. Hont stated that the last deliverable is to work in partnership with other stakeholders. For instance, in March 2012, ADOT and the National Weather Service will be hosting a meeting that will include the County and State Emergency Management and air quality contacts, the Department of Public Safety, ADEQ, public health, academia, and others to discuss what each agency is working on and what challenges are present.

Ms. Arnst asked how long it took from the point of decision to install the Safford system to the system becoming operational. Mr. Hont replied that he was not sure the exact timeline of the Safford system. However, he stated that given the clearances involved, a similar project today would take about one to two years assuming the underground work was in place. Mr. Hont indicated that these projects are federally funded.

Kurt Sharp, Town of Gilbert, inquired why the Safford District was chosen. Beverly Chenausky, Arizona Department of Transportation, responded that the Safford District was chosen since the grant for the project was for a rural weather information system, it had to be located in a rural area. She stated that the grant monies did not originally include the dust forecast, but that ADOT chose to add the dust forecast to the Safford system.

Jeannette Fish, Maricopa County Farm Bureau, stated that the City of Safford is not located on Interstate 10. She asked where the Safford District System is located on Interstate 10. Ms. Chenausky replied that the Safford District is the boundary of the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization. She stated that the system is in Cochise County.

Mr. Tveit inquired if a final evaluation of the Safford District System effectiveness will be available. Mr. Hont replied that a matrix was developed for the system. He commented that there are a few different options for determining the effectiveness of the system. For instance, the number of accidents and the installation of speed recording devices can both potentially provide data on the change in human behavior during dust storms. Mr. Hont replied that one year's worth of data and reporting will be necessary for an evaluation, as well as some dust events. Mr. Tveit thanked Mr. Hont for his presentation and Ms. Chenausky for arranging the presentation.

6. Air Quality Status Report

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments, presented an Air Quality Status Report to the Committee. Ms. Hoffman indicated that *The Arizona Republic* recently published a seven day series of articles on air quality. She stated that MAG has had concerns regarding this series and that she will discuss the current status of air quality in the region.

Ms. Hoffman presented the number of eight-hour carbon monoxide exceedance days in the Maricopa County nonattainment area since 1983. She stated that there have been no violations of the eight-hour carbon monoxide standard since 1996. Therefore, the carbon monoxide standard has been attained and the nonattainment area is now a maintenance area. Ms. Hoffman noted that the standard for carbon monoxide is 9 parts per million (ppm) or 9.4 ppm due to rounding.

Ms. Hoffman presented the trend of the second highest eight-hour carbon monoxide concentrations in the Maricopa County nonattainment area. Ms. Hoffman indicated that the second highest concentration is graphed since the standard is set at 9 ppm not to be exceeded more than once per year at the same monitor. She noted the significant downward trend in carbon monoxide concentrations. Ms. Hoffman indicated that in each of the last four years, the second highest eight-hour carbon monoxide concentration has been approximately 3 ppm, far below the standard.

Ms. Hoffman presented the number of monitors violating the eight-hour ozone standards in the Maricopa County nonattainment area. She noted that the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard was .08 ppm and the revised 2008 eight-hour ozone standard is .075 ppm. To attain the eight-hour ozone standard the three-year average of the fourth highest daily maximum eight-hour concentration at each monitor per year must not exceed the standard. Ms. Hoffman stated that the region has not violated the .08 ppm standard since 2004. For the .075 ppm standard, there were 11 violating monitors in 2008 and only one in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Ms. Hoffman presented the highest three-year average of the fourth highest eight-hour ozone concentration in the Maricopa County nonattainment area. She noted that the region is close to meeting the revised standard of .075 ppm with the three-year average of the fourth high in 2010 and 2011 being .077 ppm, only .002 ppm above the standard. Ms. Hoffman noted that of the 11 violating monitors in 2008, the highest three-year average of the fourth high was .081 ppm, which means the other 10 violating monitors were below .081 ppm. Ms. Hoffman commented that the region has also met the one-hour ozone standard of .12 ppm, which has not been violated since 1996.

Ms. Hoffman presented the number of 24-hour PM-10 exceedance days in Maricopa County and the PM-10 nonattainment area by year. She stated that the PM-10 standard is 150 micrograms per cubic meter which is not to be exceeded more than three times in a three year period per monitor. Ms. Hoffman commented that ADEQ started flagging exceptional events in 2004, which are noted in the chart. She stated that in 2011, 21 of the 22 exceedance days have been flagged as exceptional events. Ms. Hoffman added that in 2012 there have been two exceptional events.

Ms. Hoffman noted that due to *The Arizona Republic* articles, MAG staff wanted to present to the Committee the air quality facts for the region. Steve Trussell, Arizona Rock Products Association, stated that the air quality status report was very promising and good news, not characterized as such in the newspaper articles. He inquired if any agency is going to submit an op-ed (opposite the editorial page) in response to *The Arizona Republic* air quality series. Ms. Bauer responded that the MAG Regional Council Chairman submitted a "My Turn" to *The Arizona Republic* on February 7,

2012, right after the series was completed. She added that MAG staff has contacted *The Arizona Republic* and resubmitted the “My Turn”. *The Arizona Republic* has indicated that they would contact MAG with a publication date.

7. EPA Proposed Ozone Nonattainment Area Boundary and Proposed Rule for Implementation of the 2008 Ozone Standards

Ms. Bauer provided an update on the proposed ozone nonattainment area boundary and proposed rule for implementation of the 2008 ozone standards. Ms. Bauer stated that the Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to the Governor dated December 9, 2011 that proposed the nonattainment area boundary for the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard based upon the recommendation from ADEQ. The proposed boundary would expand the current nonattainment area to the west and southwest to include power plants. Ms. Bauer indicated that the boundary is expanded to the west for the Harquahala Generating Project and to the southwest for the Gila River Power Station. She noted that this boundary is smaller than what was previously proposed. She indicated that the boundary does not go deep into Pinal County since the Queen Valley monitor has stopped violating the ozone standard and power plants planned for in the area were not built. Ms. Bauer stated that comments and additional information may still be provided to EPA until February 29, 2012. She mentioned that the ozone nonattainment area boundary map has been provided to the MAG Management Committee and the MAG Regional Council. Ms. Bauer added that no comments were received.

Ms. Bauer stated that on February 7, 2012, EPA proposed a rule for the implementation of the 2008 ozone standards. She discussed that this proposal is the first of two rules that will guide implementation of the 2008 ozone standards. Ms. Bauer indicated that it appears the region will be classified as a marginal area for the eight-hour ozone standard. Marginal areas are assumed to come into attainment within three years due to the federal controls in place for on road vehicles, off road vehicles, and other items. Ms. Bauer noted that marginal classification has a design value from .076 ppm to .086 ppm. She stated that the violating North Phoenix monitor had a value of .077 ppm, which is just over the standard. EPA has also proposed two options for attainment dates, August 15, 2015 or December 15, 2015. Ms. Bauer indicated that the next series of guidance will give the region a better indication of what would be necessary for a plan. She stated that the prior eight-hour ozone standard will be revoked for conformity purposes only.

8. MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures Change

Ms. Bauer indicated that on January 25, 2012, the MAG Regional Council approved updating the MAG Committee Operating Policies and Procedures, Terms of Officers, to two-year terms for the technical and other policy committees.

9. Legislative Update

Ms. Bauer stated that she provided the overview of House Bill 2798 under agenda item number four. She indicated that House Bill 2798 is directly related to the MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10. She asked if there were any further questions.

Ramona Simpson, Town of Queen Creek, inquired about the process of turning in the proper forms for House Bill 2798. Ms. Bauer replied that the forms will be submitted to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The ADEQ Director will create the form and based upon what she had heard, it is anticipated that the form will be similar to previous forms.

10. Proposed Funding for an Air Quality Project for the MAG FY 2013 Work Program

Ms. Bauer indicated that additional funding is being proposed for the Air Quality Technical Assistance On-Call Project for the MAG FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program. She added that MAG is looking to be prepared for any consultant assistance that may be needed. She noted that the proposed amount of \$280,000 is subject to change and may be lowered in the future.

11. Call for Future Agenda Items

Mr. Tveit requested suggestions for future agenda items. He noted that he is interested in hearing an update on the exceptional events documentation. The next Committee meeting has been tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Amanda McGennis, Associated General Contractors, inquired if the scheduled March meeting is cancelled. Ms. Bauer replied that the March meeting may be cancelled. She noted that MAG is working closely with ADEQ on the outstanding issues with the Draft MAG Five Percent Plan for PM-10. Ms. Bauer stated that the Committee will probably be meeting in April rather than March. With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.