

ARIZONA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSFLASH

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

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MAG AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOTES TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO CONTROL PARTICULATE EMISSIONS

On Thursday, March 1, 2007, the Maricopa County Association of Governments Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee considered the first 18 in the Preliminary Draft Comprehensive List of Measures to Reduce PM-10 Particulate Matter. The Committee voted to recommend 12 of those measures to the MAG Management Committee. The 12 recommended measures are: (1) public education and outreach; (2) more frequent dust control training classes; (3) create visual and written materials for dust control training; (4) requiring a dust manager to be present on construction sites where 50 or more acres of soil are disturbed; (5) requiring additional resources be dedicated to strengthen enforcement for unpaved roads, unpaved parking lots and vacant disturbed lots; (6) create a program to certify and publicize companies that routinely demonstrate exceptional efforts to reduce airborne dust; (7) modify current rules to require that cargo compartments of trucks whether loaded or empty be fully enclosed prior to traveling on paved public roads; (8) conduct mobile monitoring; (9) conduct nighttime inspections; (10) increase the frequency of inspections at permitted facilities; (11) increase the number of inspections in areas of highest PM-10 emissions densities; and (12) notify of violations more rapidly.

The Committee voted not to recommend the following 6 measures: (1) strengthen the stringency and enforcement of the trackout provisions; (2) increase fines for dust control violations and continue to publish the list of violators; (3) require that disturbed areas on certain construction sites be stabilized within a short time after grading occurs; (4) establish self-monitoring requirements for permitted sources larger than 50 acres; (5) require that dust generating activities be curtailed on stagnant air days; and (6) require that public and private paved roads and parking lots be maintained to minimize visible dust.

Maricopa County is currently not in attainment with the federal air quality standard for PM-10. The County is required to reduce emissions of PM-10 by 5% per year until compliance is achieved. The review and recommendations of the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee is the first step in the process of adopting measures to reduce PM-10. The Technical Advisory Committee is meeting again today to consider recommendation of additional measures. For more information, please contact James Derouin at 602.257.5237 or jderouin@steptoe.com.

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