



# Fact Sheet

## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS FROM AIR POLLUTION EMISSIONS

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is currently developing a program to further address cumulative impacts from air pollution.

### What is a cumulative air quality impact?

- A “cumulative air quality impact” is often used to describe possible health and nuisance impacts potentially related to a neighborhood’s cumulative emissions from sources that individually comply with AQMD, state, and federal rules. For the purpose of program development, the following working definition was developed: “a cumulative air pollution impact is an adverse health effect, risk or nuisance from exposure to pollutants released into the air from multiple air pollution sources.”

### What is the AQMD proposing?

- Addressing the cumulative impacts associated with exposure to air contaminants requires a multi-faceted approach comprised of short- and long-term strategies. AQMD staff’s suggested approach consists of three major components:
  - a set of early action control strategies for immediate development and implementation;
  - revisions to Air Toxic Control Plan (ATCP)

- periodic updates; and a planned update to the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study; or conducting MATES III, a landmark urban toxics monitoring and evaluation study to be conducted throughout the South Coast district.

### What are the key contributors to cumulative air quality impacts?

- Mobile sources, in particular diesel particulate emissions, are a significant contributor to the overall cumulative impacts of air pollution throughout the South Coast Air Basin. Therefore, many of the control strategies proposed by the AQMD involve mobile sources. However, stationary source emissions also contribute to cumulative impacts in certain neighborhoods, so the proposal includes stationary source measures as well. Additional strategies include partnerships with local government, and working with other agencies prioritizing funding to areas with higher cumulative impacts.

### What is the scope of the program?

- The proposed strategies for addressing cumulative impacts would address both cancer and non-cancer health effects, a pilot program for reducing odors, and increased compliance assurance by focusing on repeat emissions

violations. Additionally, the AQMD recommends that the approach for investigating potential high impact areas start with the top 100 grid cells, modeled in association with the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES II) for cancer risk, with the highest mobile source impacts and another top 100 grid cells with the highest stationary source impacts. Cumulative impacts can then be addressed for localized areas, depending on the nature of the sources in that particular situation. AQMD staff is not recommending prohibiting growth in these areas.

#### **How will this be implemented?**

- All control strategies will be implemented through a formal rulemaking process or development of policies subject to AQMD Governing Board approval.

#### **What is happening at the September 5, 2003 Board meeting?**

- AQMD staff will present a White Paper with its recommendations for addressing cumulative impacts from air pollution to the Governing Board. Staff will also propose a schedule for the development of the control strategies. Staff will seek the Board's policy direction for pursuing development of the various strategies outlined in that document.

For more information, please visit the AQMD website at:  
<http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/CIWG.htm>