

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 1459
AUTHOR: Huber, Alyson

BILL SUMMARY: Scientific Advisory Committee on Acid Deposition.

Existing law creates the Atmospheric Acidity Protection Program (AAPP) within the Air Resources Board (Air Board) and an associated Scientific Advisory Committee on Acid Deposition (Advisory Committee) to assist the Air Board in investigating how and if atmospheric acidity affects public health and the state's ecosystems.

This bill would repeal the Advisory Committee. The Air Board has completed its obligations under the Atmospheric Acidity Protection Act of 1988 and the Advisory Committee is no longer a functioning entity.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would not result in costs to the state.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on the bill. The Advisory Committee is no longer active and there is no need to maintain it in statute. The Atmospheric Acidity Protection Program (AAPP) required air districts to charge fees to support acid deposition mitigation. The AAPP also set standards and reporting requirements. The fees, standards, and reporting were discontinued in 1994.

The Advisory Committee prepared the final AAPP assessment in October 2000.

The report concluded that acidic pollutants were a moderate to minor problem in California. Atmospheric nitrogen levels (concentrations of gaseous nitrogen oxides and particle nitrate), one of the main causes of acidity, have been on the decline since the 1970s as a result of other ambient air controls. The air quality monitoring network maintained by the Air Board currently measures nitrogen oxide in many air basins within the state. Existing state regulations set the current ambient air standards for nitrogen dioxide below the federal average.

Between 1982 and 2000, the Advisory Committee was an active participant in the design and implementation of the acid deposition research and monitoring program within the Air Board. It provided review and evaluation of acid deposition research associated with the sources and emissions of acid deposition precursors and their impacts on public health and the environment.

The Advisory Committee assisted the Air Board in determining the need for acid deposition control measures and participated in the development of the final Air Board report on the AAPP in October 2000. The report concluded that the State's existing control measures for ozone and particulate matter were sufficient to address acid deposition in the state and that no additional measures were needed specifically addressing acid deposition. ARB's Atmospheric Acidity Protection Program has effectively achieved its objectives and there is no current or planned activity to do further work.

Analyst/Principal (0623) J.McGuinn	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)					
	CO	PROP					
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014	
3900/Air Res Bd	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0115
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>						
0115	Air Pollution Control Fund						