

one experimental session and each experimental session will last approximately 1.25 hours inclusive of time to sign informed-consent forms, answer questionnaires, read experimental instructions and record decisions. Since subjects are located at the site, travel time will be negligible. Moreover, the recruitment burden will be negligible, so no separate burden estimate is calculated. Hence, the estimated burden for these experiments is 325 hours. Total burden for the pilot study is thus 1149 hours. Labor costs were estimated based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics April 18, 1997 release of weekly earnings of wage and salary workers. Using median earnings (\$504/wk), the total burden cost is estimated at \$14,477.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

Melonie B. Williams,

Economist.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6009-5]

Air Pollution Control; Proposed Action on Clean Air Act Grant to the South Coast Air Quality Management District

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed determination with request for comments and notice of opportunity for public hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. EPA has made a proposed determination that reductions in expenditures of non-Federal funds for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in

Diamond Bar, California are a result of non-selective reductions in expenditures. This determination, when final, will permit the SCAQMD to be awarded financial assistance for FY-98 by EPA, under section 105(c) of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: Comments and/or requests for a public hearing must be received by EPA at the address stated below by June 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: All comments and/or requests for a public hearing should be mailed to: R. Michael Stenburg, Grants and Program Integration Office (Air-8), Air Division, U.S. EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105-3901; FAX (415) 744-1076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Michael Stenburg, Grants and Program Integration Office (Air-8), Air Division, U.S. EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105-3901 at (415) 744-1182.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of Section 105 of the CAA, EPA provides financial assistance (grants) to the SCAQMD, whose jurisdiction includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties in southern California, to aid in the operation of its air pollution control programs. In FY-97, EPA awarded the SCAQMD \$4,844,967, which represented approximately 5.1% of the SCAQMD's budget.

Section 105(c)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. 7405(c)(1), provides that "[n]o agency shall receive any grant under this section during any fiscal year when its expenditures of non-Federal funds for recurrent expenditures for air pollution control programs will be less than its expenditures were for such programs during the preceding fiscal year. In order for [EPA] to award grants under this section in a timely manner each fiscal year, [EPA] shall compare an agency's prospective expenditure level to that of its second preceding year."

EPA may still award financial assistance to an agency not meeting this requirement, however, if EPA, "after notice and opportunity for public hearing, determines that a reduction in expenditures is attributable to a non-selective reduction in the expenditures in the programs of all Executive branch agencies of the applicable unit of Government." CAA section 105(c)(2).

These statutory requirements are repeated in EPA's implementing regulations at 40 CFR 35.210(a).

In its FY-98 § 105 grant application the SCAQMD projected MOE of

\$63,763,496. This amount represents a shortfall of \$11,450,587 from the actual FY-97 MOE of \$75,214,083. In order for the SCAQMD to be eligible to be awarded its FY-98 grant, EPA must make a determination under § 105(c)(2).

The SCAQMD is a single-purpose agency whose primary source of funding is emission fee revenue. It is the "unit of Government" for § 105(c)(2) purposes. The SCAQMD submitted documentation to EPA which shows that over the last six years emission reductions brought on by a combination of regulated and voluntary emission reductions and actions to minimize fee increases on businesses have reduced fee revenues from stationary sources from a high of \$66,914,362 in 1991-1992 to approximately \$50,724,900 in 1997-1998. As a result, the SCAQMD has instituted hiring/salary freezes, furloughs, and layoffs, has reduced its equipment purchases and contract expenditures, and has instituted new programs to reduce costs such as permit streamlining, computer-assisted permit processing, and privatization efforts.

Therefore, the SCAQMD's MOE reduction resulted from a loss of fee revenues due to circumstances beyond its control. EPA proposes to determine that the SCAQMD's lower FY-98 MOE level meets the § 105(c)(2) criteria as resulting from a non-selective reduction of expenditures. Pursuant to 40 CFR 35.210, this determination will allow the SCAQMD to be awarded financial assistance for FY-98.

This notice constitutes a request for public comment and an opportunity for public hearing as required by the Clean Air Act. All written comments received by June 5, 1998 on this proposal will be considered. EPA will conduct a public hearing on this proposal only if a written request for such is received by EPA at the address above by June 5, 1998.

If no written request for a hearing is received, EPA will proceed to the final determination. While notice of the final determination will not be published in the **Federal Register**, copies of the determination can be obtained by sending a written request to R. Michael Stenburg at the above address.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Steven Frey,

Acting Director, Air Division, U.S. EPA, Region 9.

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