

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

**FILED**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

03 JAN 15 AM 9:15

TO: Office of the City Manager  
ATTN: Robert C. Bobb  
FROM: Public Works Agency  
DATE: January 28, 2003

RE: **INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY ON DIOXIN**

---

**SUMMARY**

This is an informational report on progress by staff in implementing Resolution 74773 C.M.S., "Resolution for the City of Oakland Establishing a Regional Task Force and Policy on Dioxin, Public Health and the Environment" (Dioxin Resolution). The intent of the Dioxin Resolution, passed by the City Council on February 2, 1999, is to "encourage elimination of dioxin emissions wherever possible." The Dioxin Resolution helps meet the City Council goal of creating clean and livable communities by improving the quality of the environment. The Public Safety Committee last heard a report on this subject on January 15, 2002. Staff will return to the Committee with an update by January 2004. This is an informational report only and requires no action.

**FISCAL IMPACTS**

Since this report is informational only, no fiscal impacts are included.

**BACKGROUND**

The Dioxin Resolution directed City staff to work with other government agencies in the Bay Area to convene a regional task force on dioxin. To meet this directive, the City of Oakland participated in the creation of the Bay Area Dioxin Project in the year 2000, under the auspices of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). The purpose of the Bay Area Dioxin Project is to develop dioxin pollution prevention strategies to promote the use of products and processes that reduce the formation of dioxin. The City has already revised purchasing specifications to require chlorine-free paper; eliminated the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe in city sewer projects; and converted or replaced many diesel-fueled City vehicles to alternative-fueled vehicles.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The following are the highlights of staff efforts to implement the Dioxin Resolution since the previous informational report on the subject to the City Council's Public Safety Committee on January 15, 2002:

Item #: D  
Public Safety Committee.  
January 28, 2003

#### Bay Area Air Quality Management District Grant

In October 2002, the City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$666,000 from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) for the purchase of sixteen clean-fuel garbage trucks. The new vehicles will include ten trucks powered solely by liquefied natural gas (LNG) and six "dual-fuel" trucks powered by LNG and diesel (though diesel is to be used only to initiate combustion of the LNG and in emergency situations).

The grant funds will be transferred to Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) to purchase the trucks and place them into service by April 1, 2003. As part of the grant agreement, the City will be obligated to require that WMAC dismantle and scrap sixteen diesel garbage trucks (or equivalent vehicles) from its fleet. This is the third vehicle-conversion grant from the BAAQMD in three years, following grant awards of \$50,000 in September 2000 for the purchase of one truck, and of \$394,812 in October 2001 for the purchase of ten trucks.

#### Bay Area Dioxin Project

In 2001, the Dioxin Project Task Force agreed to prepare work plans for four dioxins pollution-prevention pilot projects: (1) alternatives to diesel; (2) purchasing policies for dioxin-free paper products; (3) purchasing policies for PVC-alternative building materials; and (4) management of medical waste. Consultants to the task force have completed the first three projects listed above and are currently working on the last one. Below is a summary of the completed projects, including actions that will be taken by Public Works Agency Environmental Services Division (PWA-ESD) to support those projects. The reports and other documents mentioned below are available for viewing and downloading at [http://dioxin.abag.ca.gov/project\\_materials.htm](http://dioxin.abag.ca.gov/project_materials.htm).

- (1) Alternatives to diesel: The outcome of this project is a report outlining funding options available to assist municipalities in converting or replacing diesel vehicles with natural gas, biodiesel, or other less-polluting vehicle technologies. The document also contains nine case studies on diesel alternative projects, including the Port of Oakland's "Vision 2000 Maritime Development Program" and its bus re-powering project. PWA-ESD will forward the report to the City's equipment services manager for his use as a reference guide in seeking outside funding for vehicle-conversion projects and identifying examples of changes being made by other municipalities to address air pollution from diesel vehicles.
- (2) Dioxin-free paper products: Several documents were produced as part of this project, including frequently asked questions (FAQ's) on "Getting Started on Chlorine-Free Paper Purchasing;" "Cooperative Purchasing Opportunities for Buying PCF Copy Paper;" and an information packet on "[Environmentally Preferred Purchasing] Policies, Paper Specifications, Tips, and Resources." PWA-ESD will forward these documents to the City's purchasing supervisor, as they contain pricing, availability and other information that would be of use to the City if it decides to purchase more environmentally friendly paper.

Currently, the City employs primarily elemental-chlorine-free (ECF) office paper, which is bleached with chlorine dioxide rather than elemental chlorine. While ECF significantly

reduces the amount of dioxins discharged from paper mills, chlorine by-products are not eliminated. Process-chlorine-free (PCF) paper, on the other hand, uses no chlorine in its production process. The cost to the City of switching to environmentally preferable PCF paper would depend on a number of market factors, including the particular paper, market availability of the paper at the time, the distributor, quantity purchased and delivery method. Research in mid-2002 found that prices for PCF paper ranged from \$29 to \$47 per case. (The lowest prices are for larger-volume purchases and for dock, rather than inside, delivery.) This compares with prices of \$24–\$28 per case *with inside delivery* recently paid by the City for office paper.

- (3) PVC-alternative building materials: FAQ's on "Incorporating Alternatives to PVC in Buildings" were produced, including suggestions for alternatives to commonly used building materials that contain PVC (cast iron, steel, copper or HDPE-plastic pipes instead of PVC-plastic pipes, for example), a list of online resources for obtaining additional information on "green" construction materials, and architectural-resource directories. This would be a useful tool for builders and contractors that PWA-ESD will make available to the public through the Green Building Resources Center located on the second floor of 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, and as a link on PWA's Oakland Sustainable Design Guide website (at <http://www.oaklandpw.com/OSDG/index.html>).

#### Dioxin Workshop and Vendor Fair

The City, as part of the Bay Area Dioxin Project, hosted a dioxin workshop and vendor fair on September 18, 2002, at City Hall. The event, titled "Government Operations and Dioxins Pollution Prevention in the San Francisco Bay Area," was designed for public-agency staff and elected officials as a primer on the human and environmental impacts of dioxins, and the relevant tools, examples, and vendors used by local agencies to purchase products that reduce dioxin emissions.

The workshop's morning session included opening remarks by ABAG's executive director and by the former mayor of Richmond, and presentations from environmental experts at EPA Region 9, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, consulting firms, nonprofit organizations, and Oakland Councilmember Nancy Nadel. The afternoon session focused on success-story testimonials by representatives from the City of Palo Alto, the City of Berkeley, West Valley College, the Chlorine-Free Paper Association, the Clean Cities Program, and the Healthy Building Network.

#### Air Quality Monitoring

An air quality monitoring station installed in late 2001 by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) at Lockwood Elementary School, in Fruitvale, continued to operate throughout 2002. The station, which collects information on approximately 70 air pollutants, is one of six installed around the state as part of a study to determine if current monitoring efforts adequately measure the levels of air pollution affecting children. The station will cease to operate in March 2003, and ARB intends to release a report on the study this summer. So far, only a portion of the data that will be collected has been analyzed, reviewed and released, and the ARB cautions that no

Item #: D  
Public Safety Cmte.  
January 28, 2003

conclusions should be drawn until all of the data are collected and fully reviewed. Nevertheless, monitoring results from November 2001 to mid-2002 for a number of pollutants—as well as a fact sheet on the overall project—can be found on the ARB's website, at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/communities/studies/fruitvale/fruitvale.htm>. The website contains individual fact sheets for each pollutant for which data has been released so far, including background information on the pollutant and monitoring results expressed in tables, graphs and as raw data.

Since December 2001, and as part of a separate project, the ARB has used a second monitoring unit at Lockwood to measure levels of 31 air-borne dioxins and dioxin-like compounds on an almost-continuous basis. The unit is one of nine state-wide that are part of an ARB program to profile ambient levels of such substances in urban areas of California. (Fruitvale was chosen because of the area's high-school-age population and because the district is impacted by several categories of pollutant emissions, including two major freeways and Oakland International Airport.) The ARB anticipates that monitoring at Lockwood will occur for two years, until December 2003. The ARB's Stationary Source Division will evaluate ambient concentrations to prioritize risk management strategies, and will share data with the City as well as with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the BAAQMD. A fact sheet on the project is available on the ARB's website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/aaqm/qmosopas/dioxins/sites/fruitvale.pdf>.

#### Sport-Fish Consumption Warning Signage

The Public Works Agency is working with the Port of Oakland and the East Bay Regional Park District to install signs along Oakland's shoreline educating anglers about the safe preparation and consumption of fish caught in San Francisco Bay, which may contain chemicals harmful to human health. PWA will be using large, bright-yellow signs being produced by the California Department of Health Services (DHS) which reproduce the State of California's health advisory for San Francisco Bay fish in seven languages (English, Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese, Lao and Thai). The signs also display easy-to-interpret graphics about the safe preparation and consumption of fish. The design of the signs emerged after a two-year study and community process led by DHS to examine sport-fish consumption patterns among San Francisco Bay anglers.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

Implementation of the Dioxin Resolution addresses environmental, social equity and economic opportunities as follows:

- Environmental: The City's projects to reduce the formation of dioxin can be expected to result in improvements in public health and environmental quality and to increase the community's awareness of this issue.
- Social equity: The continued monitoring of air quality and improved fish consumption warning signage will benefit disadvantaged populations and areas of the City.

- Economic: Implementation of the Dioxin Resolution has had no obvious impacts on local employment, local purchasing, tax revenues or other economic opportunities.

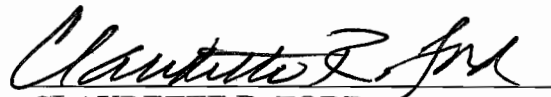
#### **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

Implementation of the Dioxin Resolution has had no obvious impacts on equal opportunity and access to City programs, services and activities by senior citizens or people with disabilities.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

This is an informational report only and requires no action.

Respectfully submitted,



**CLAUDETTE R. FORD**  
Director, Public Works Agency

Reviewed by:  
Raul Godinez, II, P.E.  
Assistant Director, Public Works Agency  
Design and Construction Services

Prepared by:  
Brooke A. Levin  
Environmental Services Manager  
Public Works Agency

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Item #: D  
Public Safety Cmte.  
January 28, 2003