



**NATHAN FLETCHER**  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2019 MAY -9 AM 11: 34

CLERK OF THE BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** May 22, 2019

**AP01**

**TO:** Air Pollution Control Board

**SUBJECT:**  
**REDUCING CANCER RISK FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY RESIDENTS**  
**(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

State legislation (the California Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act, Assembly Bill 2588, Statutes of 1987) requires facilities emitting toxic air pollutants to quantify their emissions and, for those that may have elevated human health risks above an adopted significance threshold, conduct Health Risk Assessments to identify impacted areas in the community. Facilities must notify individuals exposed to elevated risks, and then develop and implement strategies to reduce toxic air pollutants. Local air pollution control districts implement this program within their jurisdictions. In San Diego, our Air Pollution Control District (APCD) implements this regulation as Rule 1210.

State law does not specify what is considered “significant,” and different air districts have chosen different thresholds for the potential cancer risk significance level. In San Diego, the APCD has adopted a toxic air pollutant significance threshold of 100 cancers per million people, which means that if one million people were exposed to the emissions, then 100 people might get cancer.

This Board letter is directing the Air Pollution Control District Officer to lower the air toxic pollutant significance threshold with a goal to improve public health. The Officer is asked to implement a regulatory process to amend the regulation (Rule 1210), which will include updated health risk assessments, robust industry and community engagement, and input from the Air Pollution Control District Advisory Board. The Officer is requested to return with a proposed rule in April 2020 for the Board’s consideration.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**SUPERVISOR NATHAN FLETCHER**

1. Direct the Air Pollution Control District Officer to evaluate the current toxic air pollutant significance threshold adopted by the APCD under Rule 1210.



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2. Implement a regulatory process to amend Rule 1210, which includes industry and community partners, to obtain input on and analyze reducing the toxic air pollution significance threshold with the intent of improving public health.
3. Return to the Board with a proposed rule no later than April 2020.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

The recommendations outlined herein would begin a regulatory process, and no business impacts would occur as a result.

**BACKGROUND**

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in both men and women in the U.S. In 1987, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer to become the leading cause of cancer deaths in women.<sup>1</sup> In San Diego, cancer is the leading cause of death – exceeding that of heart disease and Alzheimer’s disease.<sup>2</sup> More can be done to reduce the rate of cancer among San Diego residents, and improve the health and well-being to achieve the *Live Well San Diego* vision.

One way to address these public health impacts is by reducing cancer risk associated with industrial facilities in the San Diego region, and ensure that toxic air pollutant exposure is in line with regulations adopted by similar regions in the State, such as the Bay Area and Sacramento.

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The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District has adopted a significance threshold of 10 cancers in one million people. The South Coast Air Quality Management District has adopted a threshold of 25 cancers in one million people, and the Bay Area Air Quality

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<sup>1</sup> Centers For Disease Control And Prevention. National Center For Health Statistics. CDC WONDER On-Line Database, Compiled from Compressed Mortality File 1999-2016 Series 20 No. 2V, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. Measures of Mortality. Top 5 Leading Causes of Death, 2016.



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Management District currently uses a 25 cancers per one million risk level and, as of 2020, the level will drop to 10 cancers in one million people. Of the other large air districts, the San Diego and San Joaquin air districts are alone in using a higher threshold of 100 cancers in one million people.

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I urge your support for this proposal to improve the public health and well-being of all San Diegans, with the goal of *Live Well San Diego*.

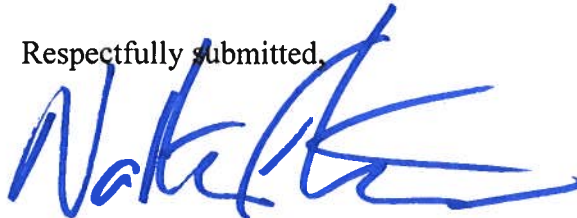
**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Section 15060(c)(2) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, CEQA applies only to government actions that will result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. This proposal is not a project subject to CEQA; CEQA does not apply to this action.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed action supports the Sustainable Environments Initiative in the County of San Diego's 2019-2024 Strategic Plan by focusing on sustainability, pollution prevention, and strategic planning. The proposed action may reduce toxic air contaminant emissions, protect public health, and advance the County's *Live Well San Diego* vision.

Respectfully submitted,



NATHAN FLETCHER  
Supervisor, Fourth District



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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**       Yes     No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
 Yes     No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

None

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION  
NUMBER(S):**

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** District 4, Board of Supervisors

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):**

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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