

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting  
September 5, 2024, at 3:00 PM  
Southwest Clean Air Agency  
5101 NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave Ste 102  
Vancouver, WA 98662

This meeting will be held by video conference using Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154159897>

Meeting ID: 821 5415 9897

Or call in by phone (669) 900-9128.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order  
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum  
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- III. Board of Directors Minutes  
Board of Directors Minutes – August Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda  
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- V. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Vouchers
  - B. Financial Report
  - C. Monthly Activity Report
- V. Info Items & Public Comment  
None
- VII. Public Hearing  
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business  
CPI Fee Increase Proposal

**Issue** - SWCAA’s Board of Directors has requested SWCAA bring a CPI fee increase to the Board for consideration on an annual basis.

**Background** - The Board has recommended revising fees on an annual basis equal to

the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep up with inflation. The purpose of incremental CPI fee increases is to avoid having to do larger (catch-up) fee increases every several years. SWCAA's Board has been adopting annual CPI fee increases to SWCAA's fees since 2019.

**Recommendation** - Approve SWCAA to public notice and solicit public comment related to raising SWCAA's 2025 fees by last year's Western State's CPI which is equal to 3.5 percent and raising the per capita fee by two cents (from 62 to 64 cents). The two-cent per capita increase would be 3.2 percent when rounded to the nearest cent.

## IX. Executive Director's Report

- A. New Research Shows Exposure to Wildfire Smoke “Greatly Raises” Risk of Dementia Diagnosis** - Research presented this week at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Philadelphia shows wildfire smoke may be “particularly hazardous” to brain health, increasing the risk of being diagnosed with dementia more than other forms of air pollution. Based on a 10-year study of 1.2 million residents of southern California researchers found “the risk of exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution is much more pronounced when the source is wildfire smoke than when it comes from other sources, such as motor vehicles and factories.” According to Joan A. Casey, Ph.D., senior author of the study and Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle, “These findings underscore that clinical and health policies seeking to prevent dementia-associated disparities should include efforts to reduce exposure to long-term wildfire and non-wildfire PM2.5.” In addition, the researchers advise that risk can be reduced if home air filtration systems are updated and people stay inside when the air quality is unhealthy and wear an N95 mask outside when the Air Quality Index reaches 100. For further information: <https://aaic.alz.org/releases-2024/exposure-wildfire-smoke-raises-dementia-risk.asp>
- B. Researchers Use Satellite Data to Detail NO2 Emissions from Warehousing Facilities** - In a study published in Nature Communications researchers at The George Washington University (GWU) conclude that residents of communities located adjacent to large, e-commerce-type warehouses are exposed to 20 percent more transportation-related nitrogen dioxide (NO2) – a pollutant that can lead to asthma and other serious health outcomes. The researchers used nationwide datasets of warehouse locations, traffic and satellite observations, which “provide a unique capability to evaluate the air quality and environmental equity impacts of these geographically dispersed emission sources.” Their findings, the researchers say, underscore the need for indirect source rules, incentives for truck replacements and corporate commitments to electrification. In addition, they suggest that future ground-based monitoring strategies could help track the effects of individual or small clusters of facilities. For further information: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-50000-0>
- C. SWCAA Applies for Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant** - SWCAA has applied for a grant to install four Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at SWCAA's new office location. The grant is through the Washington State Volkswagen Federal Settlement Grant Program. SWCAA aims to enhance community charging infrastructure, promote

workplace charging, and expand its electric vehicle fleet. These actions would reduce air pollution in the community. The chargers would be publicly accessible and situated in Vancouver's overburdened community highly impacted by air pollution. The area has a socioeconomic score of 9, and an environmental exposure score of 9, with a neighboring area scoring 10 for environmental health disparities according to the Washington State Department of Health's Health Tracking Network.

**D. SWCAA Welcomes New Compliance and Enforcement Manager** - Bryan Smith joins SWCAA as the new Compliance and Enforcement Manager, bringing over 20 years of experience from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). An attorney, Bryan spent more than a decade in DEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement as an Environmental Law Specialist, managing both enforcement cases and appeals. He later transitioned to DEQ's Air Quality Division, where he served as the Small Business Assistance Program Coordinator and Ombudsman, gaining expertise in air quality issues affecting small businesses and aiding compliance with air quality regulations. In recent years, Bryan has overseen DEQ's statewide complaints program. In this role, he supervised complaint specialists and provided guidance and training to inspectors across the state. His extensive background aligns closely with the responsibilities he will undertake at SWCAA. Bryan's first day will be September 9th.

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues  
As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings  
SWCAA 400 rulemaking

XII. Adjourn

Notes:

(1) Served by C-TRAN Routes: 7, 72 and 76.

(2) Accommodation of the needs for disabled persons can be made upon request. For more information, please call (360) 574-3058 extension 110.