

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 16, 2001

TO: Mayor Martinez and City Council members

FROM: Eric Levine, Air Quality Advisory Board chair

SUBJECT: **Air Quality Advisory Board – Annual Report 2000**

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The Air Quality Advisory Board took the following actions in 2000, in keeping with its work plan.

### **HIGH-PRIORITY ISSUES**

#### **Reducing growth of vehicle miles traveled**

Recommended the dedicated-busway option for Mason Street Corridor, stipulating 1) that the buses would be as emission-free as possible, using the best available technology, (2) that the future use of light rail would not be precluded in any way, and (3) that the buses would be able to accommodate bicycles on board.

Recommended the Mason Street Corridor Plan, and recommended continuing work and funding to implement the Mason Street Corridor Plan in full.

Recommended that site selections for the public library and performing arts facility be based on excellent alternative-mode access (transit, cycling, and walking) and good use of existing parking, and recommended that sites in the Downtown Civic Center be considered as top priority for these facilities.

Recommended that the TransFort Strategic Operations Plan should opt for a more-productive transit system, maintaining geographic coverage while decreasing convenience (increasing headway) in outlying areas.

Recommended that already-constrained TransFort funds should not be reduced. Rather, transit should receive a higher priority with an increase in funding.

Recommended making the public aware that, while transit is subsidized openly by public funds, automobile travel is likewise subsidized by public funds, but those subsidies are hidden from public view.

Recommended endorsement of the SmartTrips Strategic Operations and Deployment Plan, stipulating that quantitative measures of progress be defined and implemented. The Board had noted in 1999, in response to VMT growing faster than expected, that the transportation demand management program should be accelerated.

Recommended that realistic population growth estimates be used in City planning processes, including estimates for the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan, and that projections of growth should emphasize growth trends in recent years.

Recommended that the 2001 budget should provide for updated 2020 population projections.

**Reducing tailpipe emissions** — Set up a clean-fuels task force to develop with staff, a plan to replace the City fleet with clean fuel technology, if it proves reasonable.

**Visibility Policy** — Reviewed with staff the effectiveness of current City actions with respect to improving visibility and identified mid-course corrections of the Air Quality Action Plan.

**Pollution Prevention** — Recommended that the 2001 budget include funds for a Business Outreach/Pollution Prevention environmental planner.

**Air quality redesignation** — Postponed until 2001.

**Second-hand smoke ordinance** — Urged staff to accelerate the development of revisions to the City's tobacco-smoking ordinance.

## OTHER ISSUES

**Holnam, Inc., air quality permit** — Recommended that Council ask Holnam, Inc., to modify its air quality permit application with respect to alternative fuels, to cooperate with community stakeholders in fashioning a mutually agreed upon list of fuels, and to grant the City active involvement as a stakeholder in the permit review process.

**New monitoring site** — Recommended that the 2001 budget include funding for an additional air quality monitoring site.