

CLARK COUNTY AIR QUALITY FORUM

Mission and Organizational Structure

~ 2007 ~

Background

The Clark County Air Quality Forum (CCAQF) has been in existence since September 7, 2001. The CCAQF originated as a result of Senate Bill 432 of the 1999 Legislative Session and the ensuing Legislative Commission's Subcommittee on Air Quality Programs in Clark County.

As stated in the founding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the purpose of the CCAQF has been, "to support protection of human health and the environment and to preserve and improve the air quality in Clark County". The CCAQF Membership worked together toward this purpose for five years as contemplated by the MOU.

In July 2006, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), as Chair of the CCAQF, initiated a discussion related to the future expiration of the MOU noting that, "The signatories may, by consensus, amend or extend this MOU if they believe it necessary and beneficial" (CCAQF MOU, 2001).

On October 19, 2006, the NDEP contacted all Interested Parties by letter to seek input on the Parties' views on the current status and future direction of the CCAQF. Specifically, it was requested that each participant,

"...consider the history of the Air Forum, the improvements in air quality management that have been realized by Clark County over the past five years and the needs of this group into the future. The [NDEP] believes that the forum continues to be beneficial as an outlet for governmental entities, organizations and local citizens to be updated on air quality issues in Clark County and participate in discussions related thereto. As we continue to assemble for the purposes of communicating Clark County air quality, it is the NDEP's desire to ensure that the agendas are productive and meeting the needs of participants. To that end, the [November 14, 2006] meeting contains time dedicated to discussion on the Future of the Forum. [The NDEP] encourage[s] you to join us at the next meeting to discuss your perception on the value your organization received from the Air Forum, your thoughts on Clark County air quality that you find most interesting, and items which you have the most questions about or would like to have included on future agendas. ... The NDEP and Clark County would appreciate your attendance as we chart the course for 2007."

November 14, 2006 CCAQF Meeting

The meeting was attended by seventeen individuals representing thirteen different organizations as the Clark County Air Quality Forum was revisited. The NDEP stated that the Chair was not advocating a position on the existence or continuance of the Forum, but rather asked the Forum for their thoughts and opinions on the value that the forum has to their organization and their position on continuance of the organization.

Participants noted that in the past 5 years, Clark County has overhauled the structure of the Air Program and has set up a broad organization of staff and managers to cover many aspects of an effective Air Quality Program, far different than what was the case in 1999. Participants noted that the goals of the original MOU have been met. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) also came into existence through the Clark County Commission during this period.

Additional comments and opinions of participants were:

- Las Vegas Valley participants are pleased with the progress of the County.
- DAQEM has done a fantastic job, but participants still want to see commitment for NDEP and the US EPA to stay involved.
- The MOU and By-Laws contemplated activities to be undertaken by the CCAQF that were no longer common, such as to form subcommittees or formulate research and secure research funding, and that the formality and decision-making aspects of the founding documents no longer seemed necessary.
- Private industry appreciates the opportunity to be involved and have communications with County representatives.
- The Forum is an excellent link and useful to pass information on to US EPA Region 9.
- The Air Quality Forum is designed for the public to hear what is going on and that aspect needs to survive. Public participation is still vital.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is supposed to be more technical yet participants often hear the same items. It was suggested that the meetings be combined.
- One suggestion was to let the CCAQF die and have a period in TAC meetings open for the public. But, the label isn't the key; it's the information exchange that's important.
- Participants expressed value in the CCAQF's varied membership to cultivate cross-pollination among regulators, industry and the public to get more ideas into the room

The discussion provided the necessary clarity to see that the participants did, indeed, find value in the informational exchanges offered through the CCAQF and it's use as a public link to learn about County plans and actions related to air quality, as well as a forum to voice opinions, positions and concerns. The participants found that it's continued existence was necessary and beneficial. However, a desire to re-negotiate or extend the formal MOU did not exist. Rather the spirit of the MOU will survive while the participants continue to believe there is value in the organization.

Mission of the Clark County Air Quality Forum & Operational Structure

Mission

The mission of the Clark County Air Quality Forum is to support the protection of human health and the environment and the preservation and improvement of air quality in Clark County. Participants in the CCAQF will: openly identify and constructively discuss issues regarding the air quality of Clark County and its regional area; coordinate project efforts and disseminate information; and enhance public input by providing an open access collaborative forum for the exchange of information.

Operational Structure ~ 2007 and Beyond

The goal of initiating a few changes to the operation of the CCAQF is to improve efficiency and reduce redundancy of information being provided to participants who attend both the CCAQF and the TAC. The following items frame the operational intentions of the current CCAQF participants and the Chair.

- ✓ The CCAQF will continue to be chaired by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the address of the CCAQF shall be that of the NDEP at 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001, Carson City, NV 89701.
- ✓ The CCAQF mailing list will be maintained by the NDEP. Notices and meeting agenda will be sent at least ten (10) days prior to the meetings. Each meeting agenda will include an opportunity for general public input and discussion.
- ✓ CCAQF meetings will continue to be held every four months on the second Tuesday morning of March, July and November.
- ✓ CCAQF meetings will coincide with the two-month frequency of the TAC. Both meetings are open to the public.
- ✓ CCAQF meetings will be held in the Las Vegas Area, typically in or near the Clark County Government Center at Grand Central Parkway and Bonneville Avenue, Las Vegas.
- ✓ The CCAQF will continue to be a forum for presentation of air quality issues, projects, Clark County or State work products and other items of interest to the participants.
- ✓ The CCAQF will continue to be a public access point for interaction & involvement with the Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management (DAQEM), the NDEP and the U.S. EPA, when available.
- ✓ TAC meetings will convene on the afternoon of CCAQF meeting days to further discuss technical detail, project proposals and studies, detailed impacts of future actions and to provide specific input to DAQEM and assist in guiding their decision-making.
- ✓ Current documents related to the CCAQF, such as meeting agenda and minutes, will be maintained and made available on line through the NDEP website. Historical documents will be maintained on line and/or at the offices of the NDEP, available to the public during normal business hours.

Prepared by:

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