


Plan Alternatives Comparison Chart





Chapter 15 Air Quality Element - PC final markup – 10-20-11




Plan Alternative				Chapter 15 Air Quality Element	Staff Remarks/ Implementation	Position R,M,D
				5.4 Goals		
A	B			AQ-G1. Improved Air Quality. Air quality that exceeds minimum state and federal ambient air quality standards.	No specific goals in existing plan.	D
				COMMENTS: 10-13-11 Commissioners Faust and Kreb were excused. See Commission Discussion under Alternative C.		
		C		AQ-G1. Improved Air Quality. Air quality that exceeds <u>meets minimum</u> state and federal ambient air quality standards.	Minimize role in air quality management among existing and proposed sources.	M Straw Vote 5-0
				<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11</p> <p>C. Disiere stated that it wasn't necessary to exceed the minimum standards and voted for the Alternative C Goal.</p> <p>C. Nelson – I agree – how you can exceed?</p> <p>Rick Martin, Air Pollution Officer stated that exceeding is the same as meeting. It doesn't matter if you exceed. The standards are being revised all the time. If you meet the standards you have very good standards.</p> <p>C. Masten – we should just meet the minimum requirement, and recommended removing the words" exceeds" and "minimum" to be replaced with "meets".</p> <p>All support change.</p>		


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A	B	C	AQ-G2. Particulate Emissions. Successful attainment of California Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter fewer than 10 microns (PM₁₀).		M Straw Vote 5-0
			COMMENTS: 10-13-11 C. Gearheart - Pm10 – can we re-write to include the others. TH – either end after 10 microns or add 2.5 . All agree to putting a period after “matter” . Straw vote: All support with revision of putting a period after “particulate matter”; Mr. Martin suggested an additional goal to “attain and maintain compliance with the standards”; staff to bring back new Goal for review.		
			AQ-G2x. Other Criteria Pollutants. <u>Maintain attainment of Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and other criteria pollutants which may be subject to tightening standards.</u>	NEW goal added by the Commission on 10-20-11	M Straw Vote 5-0
			COMMENTS: 10-20-11 (Commissioners Krieb and Edmonds excused) At the October 13th meeting, the Commission discussed additional possible goals for the Air Quality chapter. Rick Martin of the Air District suggested an additional goal to address ozone and other potential criteria pollutants (pollutants that have established standards based on health and safety) that may become issues because of tightening standards. The Commission listened to concerns of Air District staff that implementing AQ-IM1 as written might be difficult because of lag time between monitoring results and regulatory directions. Staff consulted and agreed it would be preferable to tie it to revisions to the District’s Attainment Plans. Air District staff indicated their preference to receive referrals for all surface mining activities because of the difficulty in determining in advance where asbestos containing materials may exist.		



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			<p>Based on the Commission’s discussion staff recommended the following new goal:</p> <p>AQ-G2x. Other Criteria Pollutants. Maintain attainment of Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and other criteria pollutants which may be subject to tightening standards.</p> <p>Straw vote All support the addition of Goal AQ-G2x</p>		
A	B	C	<p>AQ-G3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Successful mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with this Plan to levels of non-significance as established by the Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations.</p>		<p>R Straw Vote 5-0</p>
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11</p> <p>C. Disiere - What is the Global Warming Solutions Act? State or federal law? TH – State law AB32 which was passed in 2006.</p> <p>C. Edmonds – GHG emissions – is this possible to meet – health? Rick Martin – it is important because this is a global problem. TH – we are in pretty good shape because we don’t have the pulp mill like we had in 1990.</p> <p>C. Nelson – any other goals? Should we include ozone in G2? Martin – add health standards for federal levels and Ozone levels. Ozone levels are falling. Non attainment – it would be worthwhile to put in an additional goal to comply with this. TH – new goal on successful attainment for other pollutants (see G2x). All support as written.</p>		
			<p>15.4 Policies</p>		
A	B		<p>AQ-P1. Reduce Length and Frequency of Vehicle Trips. Reduce the length and frequency of vehicle trips through land use and transportation policies by encouraging mixed-use development, compact development patterns in areas served by public transit, and <u>alternative active</u> modes of travel.</p>	<p>Leg, QJ, AQ-IM1, AQ-IM3-5, C-P1, C-P2, C-P22-37, C-S7-9, C-IM7-8, C-IM11-12,</p> 	<p>M Straw Vote 5-0</p>



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			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11 Chair Gearheart asked the Healthy Humboldt representative what "active modes of travel" meant (as recommended in their public comments). Jen Kalt stated that transportation experts recommended the use of the word "active" to indicate other forms of transportation besides cars, such as walking or biking. All support the change to "active".</p>		
A	B		<p>AQ-P2. Reduce Localized Concentrated Air Pollution. Reduce or minimize the creation of "hot spots" or localized places of concentrated automobile emissions.</p>	Leg, QJ, AQ-P7	R Straw Vote 5-0
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11 C. Nelson – what is a "hot spot" TH – a traffic light where cars line up as opposed to a round about. Rick Martin – if you can keep traffic flowing it is better for reducing emissions. All support as written</p>		
	B		<p>AQ-P3. Fireplace and Woodstove PM₁₀ Emissions. Support incentives to minimize PM₁₀ emissions from fireplaces and woodstoves.</p>		M Straw Vote 5-0
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11 Chair Gearheart stated that she understood that Rick Martin had recommended taking the reference to "P10" out. All support this change. All support B as revised by C. Gearheart</p>		
A			<p>AQ-P3. Fireplace and Woodstove PM₁₀ Emissions. Support incentives to Minimize PM₁₀ emissions from fireplaces and woodstoves.</p>		D

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				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C		AQ-P4. Construction and Grading Dust Control. Dust control practices on construction and grading sites shall achieve compliance with NCAQMD fugitive dust emission standards.	QJ, Min, AQ-S1 	R
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C		AQ-P5. Air Quality Impacts from New Development. During environmental review of discretionary permits, reduce emissions of air pollutants from new commercial and industrial development by requiring feasible mitigation measures to achieve the standards of the NCAQMD.	QJ, AQ-S2 	R
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			AQ-P6. Buffering Land Uses. During environmental review of discretionary commercial and industrial projects, consider the use of buffers between new sources of emissions and adjacent land uses to minimize exposure to air pollution.	QJ, AQ-S3 	R
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C		AQ-P7. Interagency Coordination. Coordinate with the NCAQMD early in the permit review process to identify expected regulatory outcomes and minimize delays for projects involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. CEQA environmental review; B. Building demolition projects that may involve removal of asbestos containing material subject to National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP); and C. Grading and mining operations subject to State Airborne Toxic Control 	QJ, Min, AQ-S2 	R

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				Measures (ATCM) for naturally occurring asbestos. Rely on the air quality standards, permitting processes, and enforcement capacity of the NCAQMD to define thresholds of significance and set adequate mitigations under CEQA to the maximum extent allowable.		
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C		AQ-P8. Reduce Air Quality Impacts from Wildfires. Support and encourage fire suppression of wildfires that may have an acute air quality health impact on local population centers.	Pol, AQ-IM6 	R
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			AQ-P9. County Climate Action Plan. Working through the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) and this Plan, develop and implement a multi-jurisdictional Climate Action Plan to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations (current goal set at a 10% reduction in 2003 greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020). Develop and implement a multi-jurisdictional Climate Action Plan to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations (current goal set at a 10% reduction in 2003 greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020).	Prog, AQ-S4, AQ-IM3-5  Amended for clarity and current situation.	M Straw Vote 5-0
				COMMENTS: 10-13-11 C. Gearheart – does anyone have any objections (Rick Martin supports new wording). No. All support as revised by staff.		
A	B			AQ-P10. County Government Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions. To lead by example, the County of Humboldt shall reduce its 2003 greenhouse gas emissions from governmental operations consistent with the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations (current goal set at a 10% reduction in 2003 greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020).	Prog, AQ-S4, AQ-IM3-5  Amended for clarity and current law.	M Straw Vote 5-0

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			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11</p> <p>TH – we just took out the specific target date because that is subject to change.</p> <p>C. Nelson – why 2003 – is that the baseline? Yes.</p> <p>Rick Martin – 1990 is the baseline – this strickthrough is a good change. 2003 is when Humboldt County did the first inventory. This is just an additional goal.</p> <p>All support as revised by staff.</p>		
A			<p>AQ-Px. Review of Projects for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions. The County shall evaluate the GHG emissions of new large scale residential, commercial and industrial projects, and require feasible mitigation measures to minimize GHG emissions.</p>		R
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13</p> <p>C. Gearheart – do you see any issues with this?</p> <p>Rick Martin – no</p> <p>All support as written</p>		
A			<p>AQ-Px1. Transfer of Development Rights. The County shall encourage the transfer of development rights from resource lands and other rural areas into areas served with public water and sewer to reduce GHG emissions from new development.</p>		R
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11</p> <p>C. Edmonds – HAR asked to include the word “voluntary”.</p> <p>C. Disiere – “encourage” is not mandatory. This is kind of a mute point.</p> <p>Carolyn Ruth – this is not mandatory.</p> <p>All support as written.</p>		
A	B		<p>AQ-P11. Forest Sequestration and Biomass Energy. Provide incentives for increased carbon sequestration on forest lands and encourage the <u>reduction of smoke production through the utilization-use of excess forest</u></p>	<p>Pol, Prog, AQ-S4 AQ-IM3-5</p>  <p>Change recommended</p>	M Straw Vote

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			biomass for sustainable energy generation <u>and other uses.</u>	by members of the FSC	5-0
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11</p> <p>Rick Martin – much better with the new wording in it. Anyway to use or re-use is a good thing.</p> <p>C. Edmonds – do we have any input from the Forest products industry (had been previously address by the FRC).</p> <p>Rick Martin – the biggest problem with this is the transportation cost. There are ways to help this to address this. Talk about the development of small portable biomass generators. Some technologies coming along. If this is a 25 year plan.</p> <p>All support as revised by FSC and staff.</p>		
A	B		AQ-P12. Solar Electric System Capacity. Encourage and provide incentives to increase solar-electric capacity in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.	Pol, Prog, AQ-IM3-5 	R
			COMMENTS:		
A	B		AQ-P13. Energy Efficient Building Design. Encourage and provide incentives for construction of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified (or equivalent) buildings and energy saving measures beyond Title 24 requirements for residential and commercial projects.	Pol, Prog, AQ-IM3-5  State now has voluntary tiers beyond Title 24 similar to LEED	M Straw Vote 5-0
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11</p> <p>Rick Martin – I would support the staff revisions - broader application.</p> <p>C. Nelson – what are the incentives you would provide?</p> <p>TH - Expedited permit review, reduce permit costs, etc.</p> <p>All support as revised by staff.</p>		

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A	B	AQ-P14. Electric Vehicle Accommodations. Encourage and provide incentives for commercial and residential design that supports the charging of electric vehicles.	Pol, Prog, AQ-IM3-5 	R
		COMMENTS:		
A	B	AQ-P15. Preservation and Replacement of On-site Trees. Projects requiring discretionary review should preserve large trees where possible and mitigate for carbon storage losses attributable to significant removal of trees.	QJ, AQ-S4 AQ-IM3-5 	R
		COMMENTS:		
		15.5 Standards		
	B	AQ-S1. Construction and Grading Dust Control. Ground disturbing construction and grading shall employ fugitive dust control strategies to prevent visible emissions from exceeding NCAQMD opacity regulations and prevent public nuisance. Projects requiring discretionary review that result in ground disturbance exceeding two acres at any one time shall prepare a fugitive dust control plan.		M Straw Vote 5-0
		COMMENTS: 10-13-11 – 10-13-11 C. Gearheart – why are we preventing “visible” emissions? Is it not also bad? Rick Martin – that is correct; however, sometimes the way we monitor emissions is through visibility. Dust control plan. C. Disiere – why the differences – 1 acre versus 2 acres? Rick Martin – to us it doesn’t matter – even if it is a quarter of an acre and it crosses boundaries – we will give a violation notice. C. Disiere – question for staff – why do we have a size limit? TH – question for Rick – fugitive dust control plan – if this is not in compliance		

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			with you, maybe we shouldn't tell them to do it. Rick Martin – I would recommend removing the word "opacity" and last sentence. All support change recommended by Rick Martin.		
A			AQ-S1. Construction and Grading Dust Control. Ground disturbing construction and grading shall employ fugitive dust control strategies to prevent visible emissions from exceeding NCAQMD opacity regulations and prevent public nuisance. Projects requiring discretionary review that result in ground disturbance exceeding two acres <u>one acre</u> at any one time shall prepare a fugitive dust control plan.		D
			COMMENTS:		
		C	AQ-S1. Construction and Grading Dust Control. Ground disturbing construction and grading shall employ fugitive dust control strategies to prevent visible emissions from exceeding NCAQMD opacity regulations and prevent public nuisance. Projects requiring discretionary review that result in ground disturbance exceeding two acres at any one time shall prepare a fugitive dust control plan.		D
			COMMENTS:		
A	B	C	AQ-S2. Evaluate Air Quality Impacts. During environmental review of discretionary projects, evaluate new commercial and industrial sources of emissions using analytical methods and significance criteria used or recommended by the NCAQMD.		R
			COMMENTS:		

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A		AQ-Sx. Evaluate Greenhouse Gas Emission Impacts. During environmental review of large scale residential, commercial and industrial projects, include an assessment of the project’s GHG emissions, and require feasible mitigation consistent with best practices documented by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association in their 2008 white paper “CEQA & Climate Change” <u>or successor documents</u> .		M Straw Vote 5-0
		COMMENTS: 10-13-11 Rick Martin – this is a good standard – this is what needs to be done. TH – we should add “or successor documents” to the end. All support as revised by staff.		
A	B	AQ-S3. Buffering Land Uses. When considering buffers between new commercial and industrial sources of emissions and adjacent land uses follow the California Air Resources Board’s <i>Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective</i> and NCAQMD recommendations.		R
		COMMENTS:		
A	B	AQ-S4. Preservation and Replacement of On-site Trees. Discretionary review projects which remove more than 50 trees of greater than 38 inch <u>circumference measured at 4.5 feet height 12 inches DBH</u> shall re-plant replacement trees on-site or provide offsetting carbon mitigations.		M Straw Vote 5-0
		COMMENTS: 10-13-11 Rick Martin – we don’t measure this, so it is up to the county. C. Edmonds – why 38 inch circumference? Th – it should be 12 inches DBH (read into the record) C. Nelson - is this a real offset value? Why? TH - This is a judgment call on threshold of significance. You need to replace in respect to carbon emissions. That would be your commissions discretion as		

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			to what is feasible for the site. All support as modified by staff regarding the measurement of tree circumference.		
			15.6 Implementation Measures		
A	B		AQ-IM1. Review <u>Future Monitoring Results</u> Attainment Plan Revisions. Review local Attainment Plan revisions, PM₁₀ emissions monitoring results from the California Air Resources Board to guide future General Plan and Housing Element updates. As necessary, and implement new land use and transportation policies and other regulatory controls as identified by the attainment to meet state and federal PM₁₀ emissions standards.		M Straw Vote 5-0
			COMMENTS: 10-13-11 Rick Martin – this is a great objective, but the reality of doing this on a case by case basis may be difficult. C. Gearheart –directed staff to strike PM ₁₀ to be consistent with previous sections. Th – tie it to the attainment plan. Straw vote: staff to return with revised wording; be consistent with attainment plan.		
			Comments: 10-20-11 The Commission listened to concerns of Air District staff that implementing AQ-IM1 as written might be difficult because of lag time between monitoring results and regulatory directions. Staff consulted and agreed it would be preferable to tie it to revisions to the District’s Attainment Plans. Based on the Commission’s discussion staff recommended the following language: AQ-IM1. <u>Review Attainment Plan Revisions.</u> Review local Attainment Plan revisions to guide future General Plan and Housing Element		

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				updates. As necessary, implement new land use and transportation policies and other regulatory controls as identified by the attainment plans. Commission Discussion: All support changes		
A	B	C		AQ-IM2. North Coast Air Quality Management Permitting Coordination. The County shall maintain efficient and timely procedures for project referral to the North Coast Air Quality Management District for review and consultation.		R
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			AQ-IM3. County-wide Climate Action Plan. Through its association with the RCEA, The County shall participate in the development and implementation of a multi-jurisdictional develop and implement a Climate Action Plan that effectively mitigates the carbon emissions attributable to this Plan, consistent with the requirements of the state Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations (currently set at a 10% reduction in 2003 greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020).	See also AQ-IM5 Revised to reflect current approach and legal framework.	M Straw Vote 5-0
				COMMENTS: 10-13-11 Rick Martin – supports as revised by staff. Is there a climate action plan? Yes – a draft that outlines all the policies that are in the GPU that affect GHG. We are in the process of editing. Hopefully we can get some help with Mr. martin. All support as revised.		
A	B			AQ-IM4. County Government Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions. The County shall prepare a Climate Action Plan for its governmental operations consistent with the Countywide Climate Action Plan that seeks emission reductions in the following areas: A. Energy Efficiency and Conservation		R

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				B. Green Building C. Waste Reduction and Recycling D. Climate-Friendly Purchasing E. Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels F. Efficient Transportation G. Offsetting Carbon Emissions H. Promoting Community and Individual Action		
A	B			AQ-IM5. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Update the General Plan and Land Use Ordinances as appropriate to reflect the adopted countywide Climate Action Plan and new state laws and regulations for greenhouse gas emissions when they become available.		R
				COMMENTS:		
A				AQ-IMx. Review of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts of New Development. Modify the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to assess GHG emissions of large scale residential, commercial and industrial projects, and require feasible mitigation.		R Straw Vote 5-0
				COMMENTS: 10-13-11 C. Disiere – what do you mean by “modify”? TH – as a part of CEQA review for ordinance revision, we would address this. Title 24 energy standards have second tier voluntary things that you can suggest how you can further C. Disiere – this will come back to us? (Yes). C. Edmonds – what defines a “large scale”? TH – I don’t have a good answer for you. Need a level of significance established. C. Edmonds – compact development versus large lot development? TH - Acreage might not be relevant, emission factor is relevant. C. Gearheart – what if we took out large scale? TH – I’m nervous of taking this out.		

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			<p>Carolyn Ruth – we would grapple with this in the ordinance development All support as written.</p>		
A			<p>AQ-IMx1. Transfer of Development Rights Program. The County shall develop a voluntary transfer of development rights program which provides incentives to transfer entitlements from resource lands and other rural areas into areas served with public water and sewer to reduce GHG emissions from new development.</p>		<p>R Straw Vote 5-0</p>
			<p>COMMENTS: C. Gearheart – call this IMx1 C. Edmonds – I want to make sure this is voluntary (yes) All support as written.</p>		
A	B		<p>AQ-IM6. Programs to Reduce Air Quality Impacts of Wildland Fires. Support and encourage programs such as fuel reduction, prescribed fires, and vegetation management as recommended in the County’s Fire Plan to reduce air quality impacts of wildfires.</p>		R
			<p>COMMENTS:</p>		
A			<p>AQ-IMx2. Reduce Air Quality Impacts from Surface Mining of Rock Containing Asbestos. Apply a Mineral Resources zone overlay to <u>To reduce air quality impacts from asbestos and other pollutants, refer all discretionary review actions for new and existing rock quarries and other surface mining activities to the North Coast Air Quality Management District for review and recommendations. which protects residential uses nearby and along the haul route from air quality impacts of mining and transporting rock containing asbestos.</u></p>		<p>M Straw Vote 5-0</p>
			<p>COMMENTS: 10-13-11 C. Gearheart - Call this IMx2 Rick – what does the overlay do to what you are trying to accomplish here? TH - This would automatically trigger a referral to you. Rick – it would be good if you referred all of them to us. Asbestos is all over</p>		

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	<p>and it would be good to review all. Some testing requirements for all materials that are being removed. No real common thread unless you send in for analysis.</p> <p>TH – we are trying to give heightened consideration to asbestos as an issue. I would like to go back and re-work this. Noticing requirements in the mineral resources and synchronize.</p> <p>C. Edmonds – are there requirements under new permits now?</p> <p>TH – we don’t have strong criteria now.</p> <p>Rick – very specific requirement for movement of materials that have asbestos in it.</p> <p>Return.</p>		
	<p>Comments: 10-20-11</p> <p>AQ-IMx2 Reduce Air Quality Impacts from Surface Mining of Rock Containing Asbestos - The Commission listened to concerns of Air District staff who indicated their preference to receive referrals for all surface mining activities because of the difficulty in determining in advance where asbestos containing materials may exist. Based on the Commission’s discussion staff recommended the following language:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">AQ-IMx2. Reduce Air Quality Impacts from Surface Mining of Rock Containing Asbestos. Apply a Mineral Resources zone overlay to <u>To reduce air quality impacts from asbestos and other pollutants, refer all discretionary review actions for new and existing rock quarries and other surface mining activities to the North Coast Air Quality Management District for review and recommendations.</u> which protects residential uses nearby and along the haul route from air quality impacts of mining and transporting rock containing asbestos.</p> <p>Commission Discussion:</p> <p>C. Faust – I like this but it does seem to change the purpose of the original IM – residential protection from impacts from mining pollutants to overall air quality impacts as a result of mining operations. I would like to see both wording retained – old and new. That mandate to protect those properties is</p>		

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	<p>different that asking the Air District.</p> <p>C. Gearheart – I think they thought it all had to go to them.</p> <p>C. Faust – that doesn’t substitute an independent review from the County. I like them both.</p> <p>TH – we could add that clause back into the end.</p> <p>KG – look at Mineral Resources section – I think it is already in there. The IM for the MR combining zone is intended to prevent people from moving there. Not protecting existing residences. We also have a policy that all has one in minerals that requires notice to the air district.</p> <p>C. Faust – I agree with the new language and the referral. I recall that in the Minerals Section we did put in policies to protect new arrivals. The original language protects existing residential uses from air quality impacts from quarries. If we have an existing quarry that is permitted, we shouldn’t have people move in and displace a quarry. But new arrivals shouldn’t effect existing residences.</p> <p>C. Disiere – IMX – do you go through and make all of the elements consistent? And will we see a final draft? (yes) you will see a tentative approved PC draft. We will put it back together as a draft.</p> <p>All okay with changes.</p>		