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Action Summary Minutes

CENTRAL REGION HEARING BOARD MEETING

Southern Region Office Video Teleconference (VTC) Room

2700 "M" Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Wednesday, December 27, 2007, 3:00 P.M.

Meeting held via teleconferencing (VTC) with the Central Region Office (Fresno) participating via VTC.

AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
The Chair, Jerry Boren, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Gerry Mulligan—public	absent
Robert Schumacher—public	present
James Waterman—attorney	present
Dr. James Glaser—medical	absent
Jerry Boren—engineer	present

Staff present— Central Region (Fresno): Catherine Redmond, Assistant District Counsel; Wayne Clark, Compliance Manager; Ted Straus, Supervising Air Quality Inspector; Brian Dodds, Senior Air Quality Inspector; and Toni Taber, Clerk to the Boards.

Northern Region (Modesto): John Caddrett, Air Quality Compliance Manager

Southern Region (Bakersfield): Creighton Smith, Supervising Air Quality Inspector

4. PUBLIC HEARING:
The Chair asked the Clerk to verify that all items had been properly noticed. The Clerk responded that they had. All those present to testify were sworn in by the Chair, and he requested that they sign in. The Chair asked that the agenda packet and any addenda brought forth to be entered into the official record.

A. C-07-15S Short **Nakayama Farms, Inc.**
7240 E. Lincoln
Fowler, CA 93625

Wagon Wheel Farms
12793 E. South Ave.
Parlier, CA 93648

Including all other similarly situated
growers.

Petitioners: Manuel Cunha, Craig Sorensen

Brian Dodds presented the report. Mr. Schumacher asked if the Valley municipalities could help find storage. Ted Strauss stated the municipalities were contacted, but due to various reasons, such as traffic, security, fire, zoning issues and permitting, this option is not viable in the short term. He stated it could be a solution for the future. The Chair asked if the District can put limits on allowing routine maintenance at the biomass facilities during busy seasons. Mr. Strauss responded that summer is the peak time for power plants, so the biomass facilities cannot shut down in the summer.

Mr. Waterman asked if a burn permit would be required. Mr. Strauss stated they would be subject to burn permits and the restrictions related to them. Mr. Schumacher asked what the population of the area around these farms is. Mr. Strauss stated the community impact would be kept to a minimum by limiting the amount burned, looking at meteorological conditions, how the stack is arranged, and looking at nuisance factors and limiting burns to specific times of days or to weekends.

Mr. Cunha concurred with the staff report. He would like to continue working with the District to develop alternatives for disposing of agriculture waste. He has also contacted municipalities to find storage sites, and would like to work with biomass facilities to develop more onsite storage.

Public Comment—

The following persons provided testimony on this item:

- Christ Trott, Tracy Biomass, stated some of the biomass facilities in the staff report are now up and running. He stated PG&E contacts require the facilities to be in operation from May to October, and facilities are usually only down for one week in October. He added this year was unusual to have so many plants down at once for multiple reasons.
- Ron St. Clair, Central Valley Fuels Management, stated biomass growers took 92 days of inventory in November. He stated if they take too much, fires can start.

The Hearing Board discussed every finding in the staff report and ruled that each finding could be met.

Moved: Schumacher
Seconded: Waterman

Ayes: Schumacher, Waterman, Boren
Noes: None
Abstain: None

Having decided the petition has met the required findings, the Hearing Board voted unanimously to pass the Motion to grant the variance subject to the conditions in the staff report.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.
5. HEARING BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: No comments.
6. NEW BUSINESS: No new business
7. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
The meeting will be held via video conferencing (VTC) in the Southern Region Office (Bakersfield) with the Central Region Office (Fresno) participating via VTC.
8. ADJOURNMENT
The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.