

Supervisors to discuss pollution-control plans

By BOB SMITH
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Plans to restrict the use of automobiles and other air pollution control measures will be discussed tomorrow morning by Santa Cruz County supervisors.

The restrictions are part of a plan being put together by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments under contract to the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District as a way of cutting air pollutants. Air quality in the Monterey Bay area must be brought into compliance with state and federal clean air standards.

Janet Brennan, a spokeswoman for the control district, said last week that the Monterey Bay region fails to meet clean air standards because of pollution in Hollister and the Carmel Valley. She said the region exceeded standards six days last year.

"That makes us subject to the Clean Air Act," Brennan said. "We have to reduce our air pollution by 5 percent a year until we reach compliance. Our goal is to achieve it by 1994."

Brennan said some of the region's air pollution, particularly in the Hollister area, comes from the San Francisco Bay Area. But no one is sure how much is homebrewed and how much is blown in.

Although all polluting sources are being eyed, the control district is taking a hard look at automobile pollution, Brennan said. The goal is to reduce transportation pollutants by two tons a day.

The AMBAG report recommends 11 ways to reduce pollution, including requiring employers with more than 50 employees to set up car pools.

Employers would be required to cut single-occupancy trips by employees to no more than 60 percent by 1994.

High school and college students who drive to school would also be affected by the proposed regulations. Beginning in 1992, schools would be required to cut

the number of students who drive alone to 50 percent of the total student body.

Parking fees would be charged or parking reduced downtown and in commercial complexes such as Rancho del Mar shopping center and the Capitola Mall.

Other measures include:

- Continuation of over-the-hill commuter transit service and plans to increase ridership on other transit routes;

- Continuation of the summer tourist shuttles in Capitola and Santa Cruz;

- Synchronization of traffic signals along major streets to increase traffic flow;

- Major street and highway improvements that will reduce emissions;

- Continued construction and maintenance of bicycle paths and parking; and

- Construction of park-and-ride lots along major highways.

It will be up to local jurisdictions such as the county and the cities to implement portions of the plan approved by the control district. The district has the power to force compliance, Brennan said.

Ex-Cabrillo teacher enters insanity plea

Former Cabrillo College photography instructor Laurie Brown pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity last week to charges that she set her Santa Cruz home on fire Sept. 1, 1989.

Brown, who had been placed on "continuous leave" from her college teaching position since May of 1989, was committed by Superior Court Judge William Kelsay to six months in Patton State Hospital.

Brown was arrested by police in 1989 after telling friends she was going grocery shopping — even as smoke was seen coming from the home's windows.