

*air pollution*

# Tighter controls adopted

*Green Sheet 1-21-71*

Standards limiting emission of oxides of nitrogen were tightened in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties Monday afternoon by the Unified Air Pollution Control District.

But the new standards—which limit emissions from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Moss Landing plant to 150 parts per million—were opposed by two district directors who found them not tough enough.

Henry Mello and Warren Church each said they favored lowering the limitation to 100 parts per million and each voted "no" on the measure to set the 150 ppm standard.

The 150 ppm limit received surprise support from Robert Brattain, of the district's technical advisory committee. In the past Brattain has pushed for the 100 ppm limit but Monday he gave three reasons for supporting the less-strict standards:

—The 150 ppm limit is "significantly stricter" than the present limit of 500 parts per million, Brattain said.

—The new rule goes into effect immediately and will cause an immediate reduction in PG&E's emissions, he said. Brattain noted that the new regulation sets

the limit on an hourly basis rather than the old monthly average. He said this will force the firm to keep emissions below a 150 ppm average each hour.

—A limitation of 100 ppm is probably achievable, he said, but might cause PG&E to seek legal redress. Meanwhile, he said, technology in the field of limiting emissions of oxides of nitrogen is advancing at a rapid clip and new developments should soon make it clear whether 100 ppm might be a reasonable standard in the future.

Meanwhile, the district board set a hearing in six months to consider the stricter, 100 ppm standard. The hearing will be held to hear testimony on whether to set that stricter standard on July 1, 1972.

Phil Gattey, of Watsonville, spoke in favor of the stricter standard at Monday's meeting.

"If we back down because of pressure from the largest corporation involved in this type of emission," Gattey said, "we'll find ourselves in the same condition as Los Angeles. I'm from Los Angeles and I'm proud to say that I'm no longer a resident of that city."

Supervisor Mello said he was

upset at the district for failing to consider the 100 ppm standard originally recommended by the district's citizens' advisory committee. The 150 ppm standard was established by that committee after it learned that the district board had voted against the 100 ppm limit.

"Our citizens are watching," Mello told fellow board members. "When we vote the recommendations of the advisory committee and accept recommendations from PG&E we're showing that we lack the courage to set really tough standards. We have to be leaders; we have to be leaders in setting standards and we have to be leaders in enforcing those standards."

The motion on the 150 ppm standard was made by Dan Forbus. Supervisors Ralph Sanson and Willard Branson were absent.

In the Bible, it says that Jerusalem is surrounded by cities. This is the reason early mapmakers put Jerusalem in the center of their maps.