

Children's Environmental Health Protection Program Community Air Monitoring at Schools

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ABSTRACT

Since the early 1990's the California Air Resources Board (ARB) has made a major commitment to study the impacts of air pollution on children's health. ARB's efforts to address children's health impacts include work involving the Children's Environmental Health Protection Program. This program was established with requirements outlined in Senate Bill 25 (Escutia, 1999). SB25 has specific requirements to examine the impacts of air pollution on children's health. These requirements include: the identification of toxic air contaminants that may affect children's health, the evaluation of the State Ambient Air Quality Standards to ensure that they adequately protect children's health, and also requires expanded air monitoring to determine if the network adequately reflects children's exposure to air pollutants. The SB25 monitoring network consists of six sites selected at schools throughout the state. Sites selected are representative of six diverse areas of California in terms of geography, types of pollutants to which children are exposed and the sources that emit the air pollutants. Community Interest and large numbers of school age children were also major factors involved in the site selection process. Monitored parameters include toxic and criteria pollutants. The monitoring results from this program, along with our analysis of other information, will be used to determine the adequacy of the monitoring network and the report will be presented to our Board in Fall 2002 and submitted to the Legislature in Jan 2003.