

Cardoza unhappy with Smog Check II addition

By Mike Jensen, Merced Sun-Star, September 4, 2002

Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced, said Tuesday he is not entirely happy with the addition of a last-minute amendment to his Smog Check II bill.

"We would have preferred to have more leverage," he said.

The amendment would require the Sacramento and Yolo-Solano air districts to drop a lawsuit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency before the bill takes effect.

The measure would force Bay Area drivers to comply with the Smog Check II vehicle emissions program, which would reduce the amount of pollutants blowing into the Central Valley from the Bay Area.

Representatives of both districts have said it's not clear yet if the districts will drop the suit, which takes issue with the EPA's approval of the Bay Area's "Motor Vehicle Emission's Plan."

Smog Check II accounts for only a portion of the lawsuit.

Assembly Bill 2637 was approved by the state Legislature last week, and it is now up to Gov. Gray Davis to sign it or veto it.

Cardoza said Bay Area legislators had discussed the amendment during an Aug. 6 Senate Transportation Committee meeting and said they had concerns about the pending lawsuit's impacts on their constituents.

"They wanted (the lawsuit) dropped before it got out of committee," he said.

Cardoza said he didn't have enough votes to get his bill moved out of the committee without an amendment, so he agreed to the change.

"We couldn't overcome the objections of the committee," Cardoza said.

In the 12-1 vote, 11 Democrats and one Republican voted against one dissenting Republican.

Cardoza said state Sen. Dick Monteith, R-Modesto, a member of the Transportation Committee, did not vote.

Monteith could not be reached for comment Tuesday, and it remains unclear why he did not vote.

Monteith and Cardoza will face off in November for the 18th Congressional District seat now held by Rep. Gary Condit.

Steve Schnaidt, staff director for the Transportation Committee, said the amendment to the bill was not actually added until Aug. 22 at the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Six Democrats and three Republicans voted 9-0 in that committee. Among the committee members to vote was Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, head of the Democratic Caucus.

The amendment states that the two air districts would not be allowed to file another lawsuit if they drop the existing one.

Cardoza said that's not a major problem.

"It doesn't mean other individuals can't" file a lawsuit, he said.

Cardoza also said he's confident the air districts will drop their lawsuit.

"The air districts are going to drop the (lawsuit)," he said. "That's what they've told us."

[Modesto Bee, Community Briefs, September 4, 2002](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Turn in polluters

Your phone call can help stop smoking cars and trucks, according to the California Air Resources Board. The dirtiest cars and trucks cause about 40 percent of total automotive pollution, which is the biggest contributor to air pollution. But not everyone is aware that their smoking car or truck is such a problem. A number of air districts, along with the state Air Resources Board, have implemented programs for

contacting the owners of smoking vehicles. If you notice one, you can help by reporting it. The information you need: license plate number, make and model, time, date and location. In the San Joaquin Valley, call (800) 559-9AIR.

Air district warns of high smog levels

Tulare Advance Register, September 3, 2002

Smog levels are expected to be high today, so the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has called a Spare the Air Day.

The air district is urging residents to car pool, to postpone yard work, to avoid using products high in volatile organic compounds, such as aerosol sprays, and to postpone use of water or off-road vehicles for 24 hours.

Although the district is not issuing a health advisory, young children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems should avoid strenuous outdoor activity.

Air pollution is still high