

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Air Toxics Exposure and Risk in the
South Coast Air Basin

A dissertation submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements of the degree Doctor of Environmental
Science and Engineering

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| List of Tables..... | ii |
| List of Figures..... | iii |
| I. INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| I.1 Background..... | 1 |
| I.2 Regulatory Framework..... | 3 |
| I.3 Previous Research..... | 4 |
| I.4 Risk Assessment Approach..... | 5 |
| II. EMISSIONS DATA..... | 11 |
| II.1 Emissions Data Development..... | 11 |
| II.1.1 Emission Inventory Methodology..... | 11 |
| II.1.2 Summary of Emissions..... | 17 |
| II.2 Spatial Allocation of Emissions..... | 20 |
| II.3 Recommendations..... | 22 |
| III. AMBIENT MONITORING DATA..... | 24 |
| III.1 Continuous Monitoring Network..... | 25 |
| III.1.1 Annual Average Ambient Concentrations..... | 27 |
| III.1.2 Population-Weighted Annual Average Ambient Concentrations..... | 37 |
| III.1.3 Population-Weighted Lifetime Individual Cancer Risk..... | 41 |
| III.2 Literature Survey of Ambient Data..... | 43 |
| III.3 Conclusions..... | 46 |
| IV. EXPOSURE MODELING..... | 47 |
| IV.1 Model Development..... | 48 |
| IV.2 Model Application and Results..... | 50 |
| V. COMPARISON OF MEASURED AND MODEL-PREDICTED AMBIENT CONCENTRATIONS AND RISKS..... | 60 |
| VI. DISCUSSION..... | 66 |
| VI.1 Assumptions and Uncertainties..... | 66 |
| VI.2 Multiple Pathway Risk Assessment..... | 69 |
| VII. CONCLUSIONS..... | 71 |

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----|
| IX. | REFERENCES..... | 73 |
| APPENDIX A. | ENGINEERING DIVISION REPORT ON 1984 AIR TOXICS EMISSIONS UPDATE..... | 77 |
| APPENDIX B. | POINT SOURCE EMISSIONS OF TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS..... | 100 |
| APPENDIX C. | SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POINT SOURCE AIR TOXICS EMISSIONS..... | 164 |
| APPENDIX D. | SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF MODEL-PREDICTED ANNUAL AVERAGE AMBIENT CONCENTRATIONS..... | 184 |
| APPENDIX E. | SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUAL CANCER RISKS AND NUMBER OF EXCESS CANCER CASES IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN..... | 204 |

LIST OF TABLES

| <u>Table</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|--------------|---|
| II-1 | TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS STUDIED IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN.....13 |
| II-2 | STACK PARAMETERS.....14 |
| II-3 | EMISSION FACTORS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.....15 |
| II-4 | TOXIC EMISSIONS OF TWENTY SPECIES IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN IN 1984.....18 |
| III-1 | 1985 ANNUAL AVERAGE AMBIENT AIR CONCENTRATIONS OF VARIOUS TOXIC ORGANIC GASES IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN.....29 |
| III-2 | 1985 ANNUAL AVERAGE AMBIENT AIR CONCENTRATIONS OF VARIOUS TOXIC METALS IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN.....33 |
| III-3 | POPULATION-WEIGHTED ANNUAL AVERAGE AMBIENT CONCENTRATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL CANCER RISKS IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN.....39 |
| III-4 | AMBIENT FORMALDEHYDE CONCENTRATIONS IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN AS MEASURED BY VARIOUS INVESTIGATORS...44 |
| IV-1 | SOURCE APPORTIONMENT OF LIFETIME (70 YEAR) CANCER CASES FOR BENZENE AND CHROMIUM (VI) IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN.....57 |
| V-1 | COMPARISON OF MEASURED AND MODEL-PREDICTED TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS.....61 |
| V-2 | ESTIMATION OF LIFETIME (70 YEAR) UPPER-BOUND CANCER CASES ASSOCIATED WITH AMBIENT CARCINOGENS IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN.....64 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| <u>Figure</u> | | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------|--|-------------|
| I-1 | AMBIENT CARCINOGEN RISK ASSESSMENT APPROACH..... | 8 |
| II-1 | SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION DENSITY..... | 21 |
| II-2 | DISTRIBUTION OF MOBILE SOURCE EMISSIONS OF REACTIVE ORGANIC GASES..... | 23 |
| III-1 | AMBIENT AIR TOXIC MONITORING SITES IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN..... | 26 |
| IV-1 | MODEL PREDICTED ANNUAL AVERAGE BENZENE CONCENTRATIONS IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN..... | 51 |
| IV-2 | MODEL PREDICTED UPPER-BOUND INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSOCIATED WITH LIFETIME EXPOSURE TO AMBIENT BENZENE IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN..... | 53 |
| IV-3 | MODEL PREDICTED UPPER-BOUND EXCESS CANCER CASES ASSOCIATED WITH LIFETIME EXPOSURE TO BENZENE IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN..... | 54 |
| IV-4 | UPPER-BOUND MODEL PREDICTED POPULATION FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION RISK PROFILE OF LIFETIME (70 YEAR) EXPOSURE TO NINE AMBIENT CARCINOGENS IN THE SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN..... | 56 |
| IV-5 | MATRIX OF CANCER RISK FROM AMBIENT CARCINOGENS..... | 59 |

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

AIR TOXICS EXPOSURE AND RISK IN THE
SOUTH COAST AIR BASIN

by

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Research has been conducted to quantify the magnitude of population exposure from point and area source emissions of twenty toxic air pollutants on an annual average basis in the South Coast Air Basin. Carcinogenic health risks due to those pollutants which are potential carcinogens were estimated through the measurement of ambient concentrations and the development and application of an urban air toxics exposure and risk assessment model.

The approach integrates ambient concentration, population distribution, and health risk data for individual chemical species into regional estimates of inhalation exposure, risk, and number of excess cancer cases. The enhanced Human Exposure Model can be used

to apportion the estimated number of excess cancer cases by source category and by pollutant and to identify high-risk chemical species and source categories. It can also be applied for the identification of high-risk locations and for the estimation of control measure effectiveness in reducing exposure, cancer risk and number of excess cancer cases.

A linear response relationship is assumed, and the exposure and risks associated with multiple sources and species of air toxics are considered additive. Risks were calculated only for inhalation of ambient air throughout a 70 year lifetime. Although there are uncertainties in estimating the absolute magnitude of cancer risk, the results of the modeling approach indicate the relative importance of the individual carcinogenic species and the relative contribution of individual source categories to the total risk from a specific pollutant.

The model was developed to be applied to other urbanized regions once the necessary input data on emissions, meteorology and population are developed for those areas.