Executive Briefing Summary

Topic: A Summary on the SAB Staff Office, the SAB, and CASAC
Date: February 22, 2018
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PURPOSE: Provide Senior Leadership with information on the SAB Staff Office, the SAB, and CASAC.

ISSUE: We are requesting regional offices and program offices to identify potential projects for consideration.

BACKGROUND: We manage and support two Congressionally mandated federal advisory committees:

- Science Advisory Board -- established in 1978 by the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act (ERDDAA)
- Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee -- established in 1977 under the Clean Air Act Amendments to provide advice to the Administrator regarding air quality standards for criteria pollutants

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA):

Both SAB and CASAC operate under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, established by Congress in 1972 to govern the creation and operation of advisory committees. We are required to hold open public meetings; allow the public an equitable opportunity to file written statements and to speak at public meetings; maintain all committee documents for public inspection; and maintain a balanced membership in terms of points of view. The SAB Staff Office views transparency and public participation on scientific matters as a fundamental value.

Membership:

EPA Administrator appoints members of CASAC, SAB and SAB standing committees. Members are drawn from academia, research organizations, state governments, industry, and NGOs. Staff Director appoints Consultants to augment expertise on committees and ad hoc panels as needed. Members and consultants are subject to federal ethics requirements.

Requests for Advice from SAB or CASAC:

Deputy Administrator sends out an annual memo requesting Program Office and Regions to identify advisory requests. We look for projects that:

- Support EPA's major environmental decisions, including the Administrator's priorities;
- Involve cross-cutting, novel and/or complex science, affecting multiple EPA Offices or Regions;
- Respond to Congressional mandate; and
- Receive wide public interest.