

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Headquarters

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NORTHERN SIERRA
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MONDAY

February 22, 2021

1:00 p.m.

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

February 22, 2021

1:00 P.M.

This meeting will be held by ZOOM Online/Telephone

Topic: NSAQMD Board Meeting

Time: Feb 22, 2021 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88133337692?pwd=MFF1VnFmQmRNNVdWcVhaVVZQRTZsdz09>

Meeting ID: 881 3333 7692

Passcode: 831542

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,88133337692#,,,,*831542# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 881 3333 7692

Passcode: 831542

Statement of Meeting's Public Participation Procedures:

In order to protect public health and safety due to concerns regarding COVID-19, this meeting will be held online via Zoom teleconference. In accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, citizens who wish to comment or listen to the meeting may do so via a dial in phone number or via remote computer access to the Zoom meeting, listed above. The public is encouraged to submit comments via email prior to the meeting to the Clerk of the Board at dawnl@myairdistrict.com by February 19, 2021. Any comments received will be distributed to all Board members.

Any person who wishes to address the Air District Board regarding any item not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of this Air District Board, may do so during the public comment period. However, the Air District Board is not permitted to take action or engage in discussion on topics which are not on the agenda. All items on the agenda will be open for public comments before final action is taken. The Air District Board requests public commenters state your name and association for the record before you speak. There is a 3 minute time limit per speaker, and a 15 minute total comment period per agenda item. The Chair has the discretion to limit the total discussion time on any item.

All items on the agenda may be acted upon by the Board of Directors. No action will be taken nor discussion held at the meeting on business not appearing on the posted agenda.

I. Standing Orders:

Call to Order.
Roll call and determination of quorum.

II. Public Comment: For items **NOT** appearing on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the Board. The public may comment on Agenda items as they are discussed.

III. Consent Calendar These Items Are Expected to Be Routine and Noncontroversial. They Will Be Acted on By the Board at One Time Without Discussion. Any Board Member, Staff Member, or Interested Party May Request That an Item Be Removed From the Consent Calendar for Discussion.

- A. Approval of regular meeting minutes – January 25, 2021 *Page 4*
- B. The State of California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General and the Fair Political Practices Commission Ethics Training *Page 8*
- C. Conflict of Interest Forms (FPPC) DUE MARCH 15th *Page 9*

IV. Administrative Report

- A. Financial Audit Ending June 30, 2020 *Page 10*
- B. Carl Moyer Agreement between NSAQMD and Traci Holt of Diversified Resources Inc. *Page 11*

V. Director's Report

- A. Status on Portola PM2.5 Nonattainment Area *Page 12*
- B. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District's Strategic Plan for 2021 *Page 17*
- C. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District's Accomplishments - 2020 *Page 63*

VII. Concerns of Board - The Board may at this time bring up matters it wishes to discuss at the next Board Meeting, as long as no discussions are conducted and no actions are taken, in compliance with the Brown Act.

VIII. Schedule next Meeting – March 22, 2021

IX. Adjournment

PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted by the Chairperson in a manner consistent with the policies of the District. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall also be used as a general guideline for meeting protocol. District policies shall prevail whenever they are in conflict with Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

All Board meetings shall commence at the time stated on the agenda and shall be guided by same.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Provisions for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda of a special meeting, or to address the Board at a regular meeting on any subject that lies within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors, shall be as follows:

Three (3) minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes to each subject matter;

No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the Chairperson, of that person's privilege of address.

No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any District employee, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference which tends to identify. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Directors under provisions contained in District Policy 1030.

Willful disruption of any of the meetings of the Board of Directors shall not be permitted. If the Chairperson finds that there is in fact willful disruption of any meeting of the Board, he/she may order the room cleared and subsequently conduct the Board's business without the audience present. In such an event, only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session.

After clearing the room, the Chairperson may permit those persons who, in his/her opinion, were not responsible for the willful disruption to re-enter the meeting room.

Duly accredited representatives of the news media, whom the Chairperson finds not to have participated in the disruption, shall be admitted to the remainder of the meeting.

Members of the public are given the opportunity to address the Board of Directors directly at each teleconference location.

POSTING AGENDA:

This agenda was posted at least 72 hours prior to the regular meeting at the following locations: Eric Rood Government Center in Nevada City, The Plumas County Courthouse in Quincy, the Litton Building in Grass Valley, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors Chambers in Quincy, Sierra County Courthouse Square in Downieville. **The agenda and board packet are available on-line prior to the Board Meeting at www.myairdistrict.com**

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Gretchen Bennitt, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: III.A

Agenda Description: Approval of regular meeting minutes – January 25, 2021

Requested Action: The minutes are attached for Board comment/approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

1. Draft January 25, 2021 minutes

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
Mailing Address:
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 274-9360 / FAX: (530) 274-7546
email: office@myairdistrict.com or www.myairdistrict.com

NORTHERN FIELD OFFICE
257 E. Sierra, Unit E
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2227
Portola, CA 96122
(530) 832-0102 / FAX: (530) 832-0101
email: Julie@myairdistrict.com or www.myairdistrict.com

MINUTES

**NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING**

January 25, 2021

1:00 p.m.

This meeting was held by Telephone Conference

425 436-6345

Passcode: 899668#

Members Present:

**Supervisor Huebner, Chair
Supervisor Roen, Vice Chair
Supervisor Scofield
Supervisor Thrall**

Members Absent:

Supervisor Ceresola

I. Standing Orders:

Call to Order. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum.

Chair Huebner called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. A quorum was confirmed. Also present – Nevada County Supervisor Hardy Bullock; Gretchen Bennitt, Executive Director; Melissa Klundby, APCSI; Julie Ruiz, APCSI; Sam Longmire, APCSI; Joe Fish, Deputy Executive Director; Dawn Lunsford, Clerk of the Board.

II. Public Comment: For Items NOT Appearing on the Agenda and Within the Jurisdiction of the Board. The Public May Comment on Agenda Items As They Are Discussed. Both Teleconference Sites are Allowed an Opportunity for Public Comment.

Chair Huebner called for public comment for items not appearing on the agenda. There was no public present to discuss any non-agendized items on the conference line.

III. Administrative Report

C. Introduction of New Board Members (this agenda item was moved from C)

Ms. Bennitt requested that Agenda Item C be moved ahead of Agenda Item A. Ms. Bennitt welcomed new Air District Board member, Plumas County Supervisor Ceresola and soon-to-be Nevada County Supervisor Bullock.

A. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021

Chair Huebner explained that it is Plumas County's turn to be Chair and Vice-Chair. Supervisor Scofield made a motion to approve Supervisor Thrall as Chair for 2021. Supervisor Roen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote. Supervisor Roen made a motion to approve Supervisor Ceresola as Vice-Chair for 2021. Supervisor Scofield seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a roll call vote.

Board members thanked Supervisor Huebner for his service as Chair during 2020. Supervisor Thrall took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

B. Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation to Departing Board Members Nevada County Supervisor Richard Anderson and Plumas County Supervisor Lori Simpson

Ms. Bennitt informed the Board that she has prepared Certificates of Recognition for the departing board members. Board members thanked Supervisors Anderson and Simpson for their service.

D. Approval of regular meeting minutes – October 26, 2020

Supervisor Roen made a motion to approve the 2nd quarter financial reports for December 2020. Supervisor Roen seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a roll call vote.

E. Financial Quarterly Report for December 2020

Supervisor Scofield made a motion to approve the mber 2020. Supervisor Roen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

F. Approval of FARMER Contracts between Sierra Pacific Industries and NSAQMD

Supervisor Roen made a motion to approve the 2 FARMER contracts between SPI and NSAQMD and to authorize the Chair and Executive Director to sign the contracts. Supervisor Huebner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

G. Approval of Carl Moyer Contract between Chris Meyers and NSAQMD

Supervisor Scofield made a motion to approve the contract between Chris Meyers and NSAQMD and to authorize the Chair and Executive Director to sign the contract. Supervisor Roen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

H. Solicitation for Application to Receive Funding From the Carl Moyer Memorial Program (Fiscal Year 2020/2021 - Year 23) Funds

Supervisor Roen made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign Resolution 2021-01. Supervisor Huebner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

I. Proposed Modifications to NSAQMD's Carl Moyer Policy and Procedures

Board members asked questions of Ms. Bennitt and employee, Joe Fish. Supervisor Scofield made a motion to approve the modifications of the District's Carl Moyer Policies and Procedures. Supervisor Roen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

J. Public Hearing and Proposed Adoption of two separate State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions: 1) Update to the Reasonably Available Control Techniques (RACT) SIP and 2) Certification that NSAQMD Rule 513 meets current requirements.

NSAQMD Employee Sam Longmire discussed the revisions and answered questions from the Board. Chair Thrall opened the public hearing to receive comments. Sam Longmire commented that the Air District had received no public verbal or written comments prior to the hearing. Hearing no comments, Chair Thrall closed the public hearing. Supervisor Scofield made a motion to approve the modifications of the District's Carl Moyer Policies and Procedures. Supervisor Roen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

Supervisor Scofield made a motion to approve the proposed SIP revisions as presented and authorize the Chair to sign Resolutions 2021-02 and 2021-03. Supervisor Huebner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

IV. Director's Report

A. Status on Portola PM2.5 Nonattainment Area

NSAQMD employee Julie Ruiz gave an update on applications for woodstoves and completed installation of woodstoves.

V. Concerns of the Board – no concerns of the Board were discussed.

VI. Schedule next Meeting – Next meeting was scheduled for February 22, 2021.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 P.M.

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors
From: Gretchen Bennitt, Air Pollution Control Officer
Date: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: III.B

Agenda Description: The State of California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General and the Fair Political Practices Commission Ethics Training

Issues:

The State of California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General and the Fair Political Practices Commission ethics training courses are available on-line at www.localethics.fppc.ca.gov/ab1234/. State Law requires certain local officials to receive two hours specified ethics training every two years. After completion of this ethics training course you will be able to print out a certificate of completion which a copy will need to be forwarded to the District per District Policy #1020.6.

Requested Action:

If warranted, please complete the required training and submit a certificate of completion to the Air District.

Attachments:

1. none

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Gretchen Bennitt, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: III.C

Agenda Description: Conflict of Interest Forms for the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) are DUE MARCH 15th

Issues:

The Political Reform Act, Government Code Section 81000, et.seq., requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. This is also required through District Policy #1020.

Requested Action:

1. Complete the required Conflict of Interest Forms online at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>

Attachments:

1. None

TO: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Board of Directors

FROM: Gretchen Bennitt, Executive Director

DATE: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: IV.A

Agenda Description: Financial Audit Ending June 30, 2020

Issues:

The annual audit for FY 2019-2020 was completed by Singleton Auman PC.

Clay Singleton will make a short presentation to the Board to recap the results of the audit and answer any questions from the Board.

Requested Action:

1. Approve the District's Financial Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending on June 30, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

1. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Audit Report June 30, 2020 – available as a separate PDF document online at <https://myairdistrict.com/index.php/board-meetings/>

Requested Action: Approve the District's Financial Audit for the period ending June 30, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

1. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Audit Report June 30, 2020.

TO: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Board of Directors

FROM: Gretchen Bennitt, Executive Director

DATE: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: IV.B

Agenda Description: Carl Moyer Agreement between NSAQMD and Traci Holt of Diversified Resources Inc.

Issues:

Attached is Contract # CMP 2020-08 between Traci Holt of Diversified Resources Inc. and the Air District. The contract is for \$418,713.75 to replace a Feller Buncher.

Requested Action: Approve Agreement CMP 2020-08 between Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and Diversified Resources.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

1. Contract 2020-08 is available at <https://myairdistrict.com/index.php/board-meetings/>

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Gretchen Bennitt, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: V.A

Agenda Description: Portola PM2.5 Nonattainment Area – Status Update

Issues: NSAQMD employees Julie Ruiz and Melissa Klundby are available for an update and to answer questions.

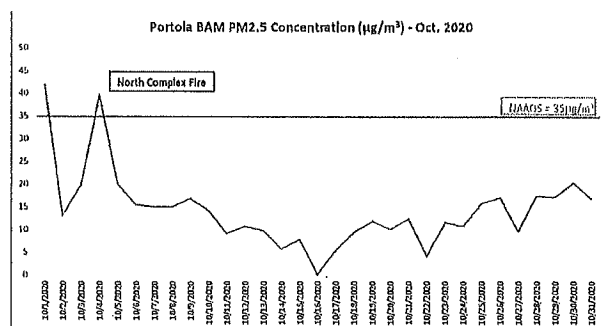
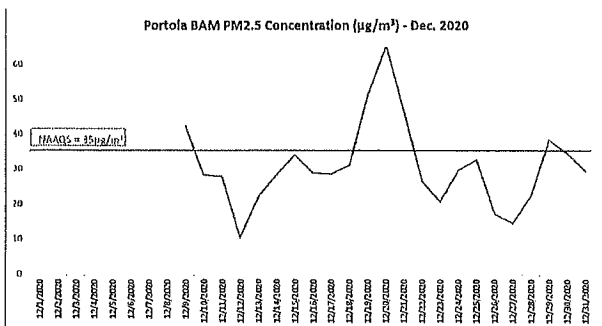
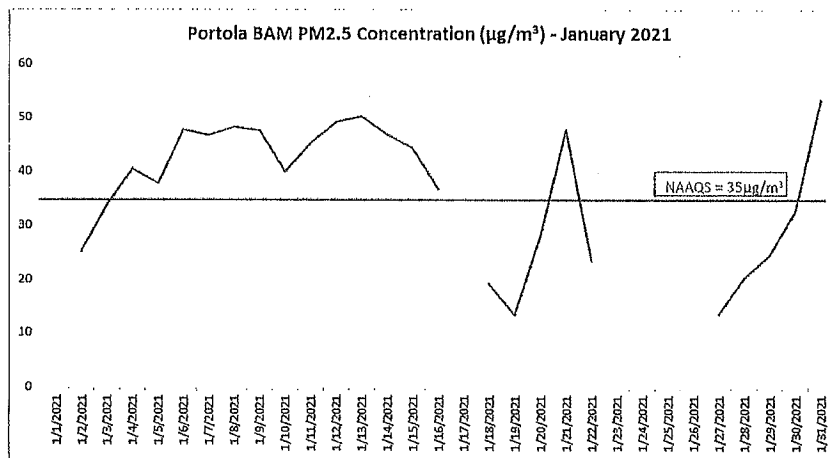
Attachments:

1. Monthly Air Quality Summary for Portola Nonattainment Area by Julie Ruiz

JANUARY 2021

There were 15 days of exceeding the daily National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 35 micrograms per cubic meter for particulate matter (PM2.5) during January in Portola (compared to 10 days above the standard in January 2020). This is very disappointing as this is the worst January air quality observed since January 2016. All 3 sites were higher than normal for January, so we can attribute some of the poor air quality to weather patterns. But we also need to recognize that wood stoves contributed more PM2.5 than expected based on a low number of change-outs to new EPA certified heating devices, poor operation of stoves and poor quality fuel (wet/unseasoned wood). During 2020, there were less change-outs than expected and no stove fairs or other in-person public outreach events, largely due to the COVID pandemic.

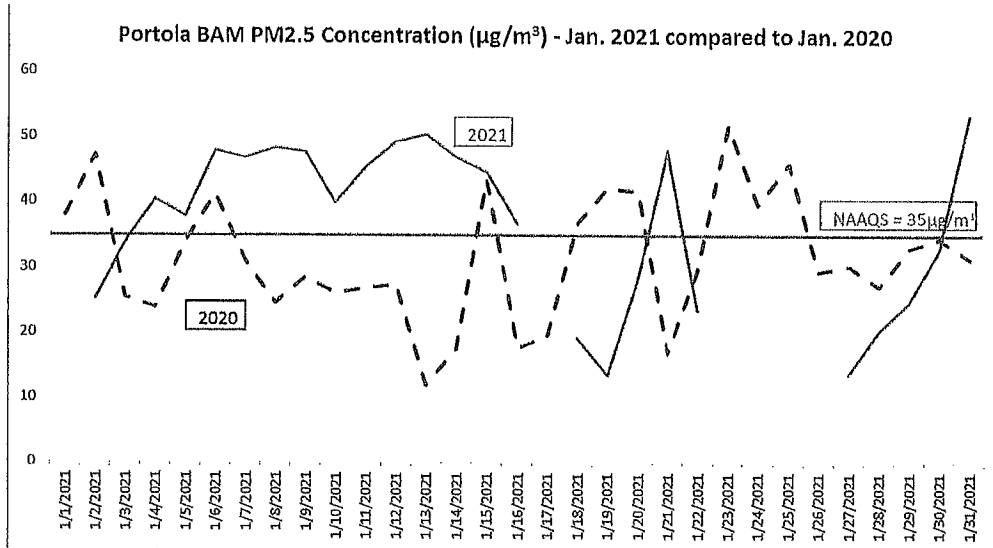
Although there was some precipitation in January (2.4 inches), it was not enough to clear out the air in the Portola area. Portola received 3.5 inches of precipitation a year ago in January 2020. February through May is expected to be warmer and drier than normal. Significant fire potential is normal through May. Green grass is already coming in at low elevations (per Northern California GACC, 2-1-21).



Notes: The charts above show average daily values. BAM 2.5 data is available on an hourly basis at www.myairdistrict.com (click on Portola to view the reading for the previous hour). This measurement is the amount of fine particulate matter (measuring <2.5 microns in diameter; primarily from combustion). Any break in the line typically means that the equipment was down or that data did not transmit correctly to ARB.

There is NO data for the month of November 2020 due to mechanical issues.

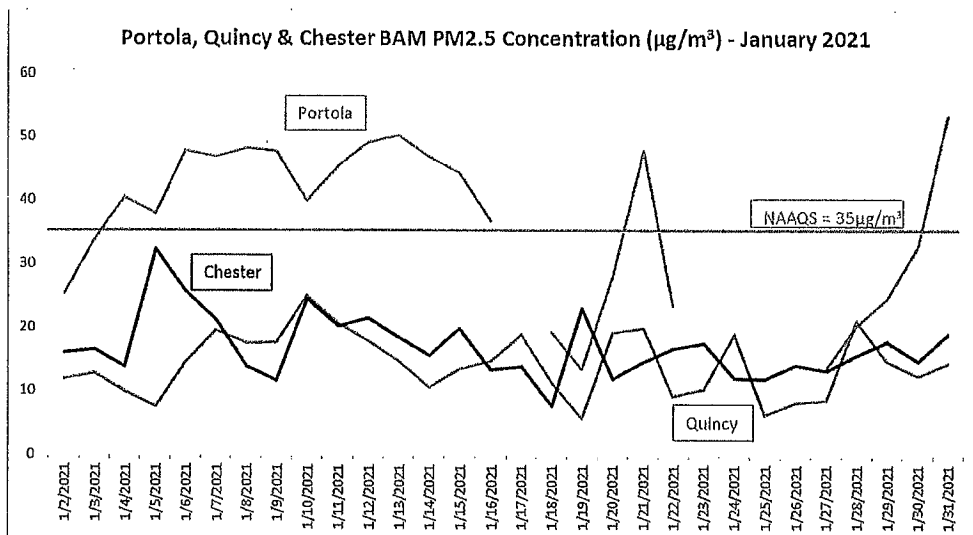
Levels of PM2.5 in Portola compared to this month last year. Note that there were 15 days over the daily NAAQS standard this year compared to 10 days over the standard in 2020:



Notes: Any break in the line typically means that the equipment was down or that data did not transmit correctly to ARB.

Below is a comparison of the three monitoring sites in Plumas County:

There are three monitoring sites in Plumas County (Quincy, Chester and Portola). Portola typically has the highest PM2.5 during the winter months.



Notes: Any break in the line typically means that the equipment was down or that data did not transmit correctly to ARB.



CLEAR THE AIR; CHECK BEFORE YOU LIGHT

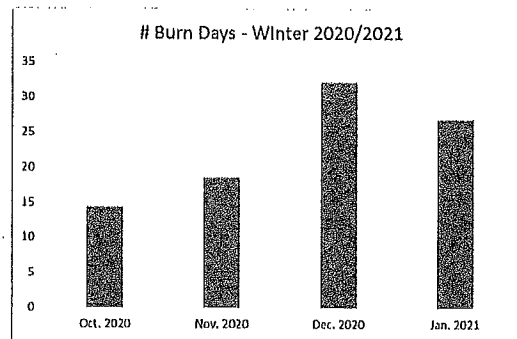
This annual wintertime burning curtailment program began on Nov. 1. There were 12 curtailment days in January. Long Valley Charter School (LVCS) students and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) raise a flag daily to notify the public of voluntary (yellow flag) and mandatory (orange flag) wood burning restrictions. A green flag signifies good air quality and no restriction on burning in wood stoves/fireplaces. During curtailment days (November-February), a wintertime health advisory is issued and a health advisory posted on the District website and on a recorded information line. Suggested actions to protect health are described based on the flag color, known as the Air Quality Index (AQI).



BURN DAYS (OPEN BURNING)

City of Portola municipal code 15.10.025 prohibits all open burning of yard waste within the city limits of the City of Portola (with some exemptions including recreational/ceremonial fires).

CalFire lifted the burn suspension on November 9 for Plumas County and the permit requirement was lifted on December 21. The chart below reflects permissive burn days for Plumas County outside the City of Portola:



Notes: Burn day decisions for the Mountain Counties Air Basin (including Plumas, Sierra, Nevada Counties and other counties along the Sierra to the south/southeast) are determined by the California Air Resources Board based on meteorological conditions. No burn days restrict only open burning, not wood stoves or other residential heating. Cal Fire determines burn suspensions based on fire danger.

The Air District strives to reduce health impacts by reducing fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) in the air from wood smoke. These microscopic particles go deep into the lungs where they may become trapped. PM_{2.5} is linked with premature death, work and school absences, and significant health problems including aggravated asthma, acute respiratory symptoms (such as chest pain and coughing), chronic bronchitis and decreased lung function. Sensitive individuals (those most at risk from exposure to smoke) are the elderly, children, asthmatics, adults with pre-existing heart and lung disease, pregnant women, and people engaging in strenuous outdoor activity.



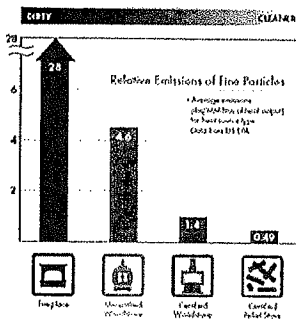
GREATER PORTOLA WOOD STOVE CHANGE-OUT PROGRAM

**526 applications have been received for the change-out program (as of Jan. 31, 2021).
502 pre-approval letters have been sent out. And ~415 installations are complete!
CONTACT JULIE RUIZ AT 530-832-0102 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WOOD STOVE
CHANGE-OUT PROGRAM.**

LOOKING FORWARD

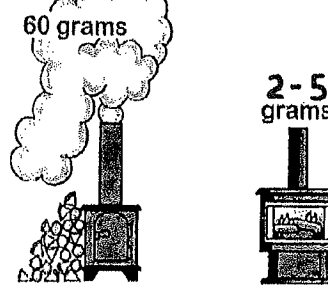
Please remember the following:

- **SPLIT WOOD SHOULD BE DRIED AND READY FOR BURNING!!** Before burning wood, use a moisture meter to make sure the wood has been seasoned well. Moisture content should be 20% or lower. **CALL THE AIR DISTRICT IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COMPLIMENTARY MOISTURE METER! 832-0102.**
- Burn only seasoned wood (that has been cut for a year or more). Source wood locally.
- Be a good neighbor... don't let smoke from a burn pile or wood stove drift into the breathing zone of neighboring properties.
- Residents with older, uncertified wood stoves are encouraged to upgrade to EPA-certified stoves. To decrease emissions further, upgrade to pellet, fuel oil or propane stoves or electric heating.



Graphics adapted from California EPA publications

Particulate emissions in one hour:



Overall Efficiency

40 – 50%

60 – 80%

RESOURCES

For real-time Portola air quality: www.myairdistrict.com

(From the home page, click on Portola to see the level of particulate matter.

Anything in the orange, red or purple ranges exceeds federal and state air quality standards)

For Open Burn Day information: <http://myairdistrict.com/index.php/burning-info/burn-day-status/>

OR 530-832-4528

CLEAR THE AIR; Check Before You Light: <http://myairdistrict.com/#burn-status-front>

OR 530-832-4067

For smoke complaints and air quality concerns: 530-832-0102

Non-residential burning requires an Air Pollution Permit – call 832-0102 for more information.

*"Preserving air quality and protecting the public health and public welfare in Nevada, Plumas and Sierra counties."
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) mission statement*

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Gretchen Bennitt, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: V.B.

Agenda Description: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District's Strategic Plan for 2021

Issues:

Attached is the Air Districts Strategic Plan for 2021. The Strategic Plan is in two parts:

1. Goals and Objectives – Main Goals are outlined with individual objectives for each goal, complete with detailed objectives with timelines.
2. Since the District also accomplishes many more tasks than those outlined in the Goals and Objectives, the District has also included the District's Overall Work Plan for 2021.

Requested Action: For Board Review and Discussion

Attachments:

1. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District 2021 Strategic Plan
2. 2021 Overall Work Plan

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

Preserving air quality and protecting the public health and welfare in Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties.

These goals are in addition to ongoing programs and projects the District performs to protect public health identified in Overall Work Plan. Goals are listed in the order of highest priority.

2021 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

Objectives:

- 1A. Fulfill commitments as required by the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Portola Fine (PM2.5) Nonattainment Area
- 1B. Pursue additional strategies to further reduce fine particulate matter in the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

Goal #2: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the federal ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County.

Objectives:

- 2A. Continue to Develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 federal Ozone Standard in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to address ozone precursor emissions that affect western Nevada County, meeting applicable Clean Air Act requirements.
- 2B. Develop, maintain and document programs to ensure local emissions are adequately quantified and SIP requirements are fulfilled.
- 2C. Continue work with EPA and CARB on implementing Transportation Conformity, which is a required SIP component under the Clean Air Act.
- 2D. Follow up on the SIP submitted to EPA in 2018 for the 2008 federal ozone standard and address any outstanding issues. Work with CARB to track and document Reasonable Further Progress and assure the timely implementation of Contingency Measures if needed in 2020 or 2021.

Goal #3: Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks with Funding from Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB 2766 and AB 923 programs

Objectives:

- 3A. Implement Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766 and AB 923 grant programs for owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.
- 3B. Pursue Avenues to Increase Funding for Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766 and AB923

Goal #4: Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District

Objectives:

- 4A. Work with CARB and CAPCOA to implement and maintain the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant
- 4B. Attend meetings with CalFIRE, USFS, Large Land Owners and prescribed burning associations.
- 4C. Continue to deploy portable particulate matter air quality monitors to quantify smoke impacts from prescribed burns

Goal #5: Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

Objectives:

- 5A. Maintain and improve (as needed) air quality monitoring in all three counties to assure protection of public health.
- 5B. Continue to support efforts to utilize biomass as a fuel to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed/residential open burning
- 5C. Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.
- 5D. Pursue and provide alternatives to the open burning of residential yard waste to residents.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #1: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

Objectives:

- 1A. Fulfill commitments as required by the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Portola Fine (PM2.5) Nonattainment Area

- 1B. Pursue additional strategies to further reduce fine particulate matter in the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

GOAL#1: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

Objective 1A: Fulfill commitments as required by the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Portola Fine (PM2.5) Nonattainment Area

Background:

The EPA officially designated the Greater Portola area in Plumas County as a federal PM2.5 nonattainment area on April 15, 2015. The District submitted a required SIP to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) which contained rules and regulations which will demonstrate attainment of the air quality standard by December 31, 2021. The CARB Board approved the District's SIP and submitted it to the Environmental Protection Agency on February 16, 2017. The EPA proposed approval of the Portola Plan on December 18, 2018.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Implement at least 40 residential wood stove replacement projects in 2021 for the purpose of attainment by December 31, 2021. As of December 31, 2021, 413 wood stove replacement have been completed since the replacement program began in 2016.
2. Evaluate the progress towards meeting attainment by December 31, 2021.
3. In an annual report for each year from 2017-2022 submit to EPA by March 31 of each following year:
 - i. Identify each project implemented during the previous calendar year by program tracking number, description of both baseline and new equipment, and quantified emission reductions;
 - ii. Provide an internet link to the EPA Burnwise Emission Calculator used to calculate emission reductions;
 - iii. Describe the actions taken and documentation collected by ARB to confirm each project's compliance with program requirements;
 - iv. Determine whether the identified projects are projected to achieve the full amount of PM_{2.5} emission reductions required by the SIP; and
 - v. Describe any changes to relevant forms and related impacts on program integrity.
4. Voluntary/Mandatory Wood Burning Curtailment Program in Portola
 - i. Continue the voluntary curtailment program for residential wood burning devices that are not EPA-certified.
 - ii. Explore better communication tools to notify residents when wintertime health advisories (curtailments) are issued.
 - iii. Begin mandatory enforcement program. Create handouts and implement process for observing smoke from residential wood heating with input from the City of Portola.
 - iv. Maintain 'Registration Database' to track Portola addresses with compliant heating devices for enforcement.
5. Educational Campaign –
 - i. Utilize BurnWise Coordinator to increase the pace of follow-up visits and surveys with Greater Portola Woodstove Change-out participants.

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- ii. Ensure 30 wood sheds are provided to program participants to improve fuel quality.
 - iii. Schedule outreach events at least once a year. During the COVID pandemic, remote events will be scheduled including EDDM mailings and air quality educational projects with schools.
 - iv. Explore additional outreach options and programs to encourage greater community involvement and awareness of air quality programs and challenges.
6. Assist the City of Portola with enforcement of the City's residential open burning ban.
7. Finalize and implement the 2018 EPA Targeted AirShed Grant:
 - i. Change out another 300 wood stoves by the end of 2024.
 - ii. Assist with funding residential yard waste collection.
 - iii. Provide chimney sweep vouchers to program participants.
 - iv. Assist with weatherization funding projects within the non-attainment area.
 - v. Provide wood sheds to approximately 100 program participants by end of 2024.
 - vi. Provide funding for enforcing mandatory wood burning curtailment beginning in 2021.
 - vii. Explore options for providing/ensuring dry and seasoned wood to the non-attainment area.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

GOAL#1: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

Objective 1B: Pursue additional strategies to further reduce fine particulate matter in the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

Background: In addition to the wood stove change-out program and the requirements of the City of Portola's Wood Stove and Fireplace Ordinance, the District included the following strategies as part of the SIP.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Implement and maintain a public education campaign | Ongoing |
| • Partner with other events | Throughout 2021 |
| • Work with local retailers to publish and distribute proper woodstove use educational materials | |
| • Continue to work with local media to promote clean wood burning practices | |
| 2. Manage MOU with City of Portola for Services | Ongoing |
| 3. Implement Mandatory Woodstove Curtailment Program | 2021 |
| 4. Distribute stove thermometers to residents | Ongoing |
| 5. Research and implement a seasoned wood program | Ongoing |
| 6. Pursue funding for green waste program | Ongoing |
| a. Work with the local solid waste provider to explore green waste options for residents in the non-attainment area. | |
| b. Look for additional options to assist in transportation of green waste out of the non-attainment area. | |
| c. Look for opportunities to fund grinder/chipper equipment for the local solid waste provider. | |

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #2: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Acts for the ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County.

Objective 2A:

Continue to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2008 federal Ozone Standards in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to address ozone precursor emissions that affect western Nevada County, meeting applicable Clean Air Act requirements.

Background:

Western Nevada County is currently Serious Nonattainment for the federal 2008 Ozone Standard (75 ppb) with an attainment year of 2021, based on 2018-2020 data.

In October 2015 EPA lowered the federal ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) to 70 ppb. Western Nevada County was classified as a Moderate nonattainment area for this standard in June 2018. In November 2018 EPA signed a final Implementation Rule for the 2015 ozone NAAQS outlining requirements for nonattainment areas, to take effect in early 2019. The requirements are similar in most respects to those for the 2008 ozone NAAQS, although there are some new requirements for evaluating Reasonably Available Control Measures (especially intrastate transport analysis provisions), Reasonably Available Control Technology implementation, Reasonable Further Progress (milestone compliance demonstrations), interprecursor trading for ozone offsets pursuant to New Source Review activities, and emissions inventories/Emissions Statements.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Participate in SIP coordination meetings with air districts, EPA and the State during the continued development of the SIP. Make every attempt to stick with the schedule noted above and prod CARB as needed to provide their work products on time.
2. The primary goal of this district will be to assure that ozone transport continues to be a high priority and is addressed in all technical aspects during the development of the SIP. Continue to take a proactive role in lobbying for greater ozone controls on upwind sources to decrease ozone transport to western Nevada County. Possibly attend Board meetings of the upwind air districts of the Bay Area and Sacramento if crucial control measures to reduce ozone precursors are being considered.
3. As necessary, hold community meetings to discuss the SIP process, the role the upwind contributing counties play, and Nevada County's strategy to reduce emissions.
4. Participate in CAPCOA Planning Managers to help keep up with all relevant developments.
5. Evaluate adequacy of existing SIP elements under the new Implementation Rule, including the NSAQMD's New Source Review rule, Reasonably Available Control Technologies, Emissions Statements, Transportation Conformity procedures and Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance and initiate corrections/updates as needed.

6. Begin developing key elements of the 2015 ozone NAAQS SIP, including Reasonable Further Progress, Contingency Measures, Reasonably Available Control Measures, emissions inventory and other modeling inputs, ozone transport documentation, and the Attainment Demonstration.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #2: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County

Objective 2B:

Develop, maintain and document programs to ensure local emissions are adequately quantified and SIP requirements are fulfilled.

Background:

The California Air Resources Board realizes that attainment in Nevada County is dependent primarily upon the upwind areas' (Sacramento and Bay Area) emission reductions. Grant programs such as Carl Moyer and AB2766 are very cost-effective strategies for reducing emissions of ozone precursor pollutants. These programs also have the co-benefit of reducing diesel particulate matter, which the California Air Resources Board has formally found to be a toxic air contaminant.

Since all of the AB2766 and other mobile source incentive projects are evaluated for tailpipe emission reductions, all of the projects have a great potential to be utilized as SIP credit in western Nevada County.

Emissions quantification is a key component of the Attainment Demonstration

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Implement the Carl Moyer Heavy Duty Diesel Engine Incentive Program, and the AB2766 DMV Surcharge emissions reductions programs providing pass-through grants that reduce ozone precursors and diesel particulate matter. For Carl Moyer, staff will participate in monthly meetings with California Air Resources Board (CARB) and other air districts. ARB requires several reports per year on implementation progress. Staff will continue to apply for funding and advertise to gain greater participation. Staff will regularly report Carl Moyer progress to the Board through quarterly reports and the approval of individual contracts.
2. Annually, staff will present a Request for Proposal for AB2766 to the Board for approval. Staff will distribute the approved RFP, screen applicants, prepare final report for the Board's approval of individual projects.
3. Emissions quantification inputs will continue to be obtained through stationary source reporting requirements, processed in accordance with established methodologies and reported to CARB via CARB's emissions reporting platform.
4. Continue to coordinate with the Nevada County Transportation Commission to maintain up-to-date on-road mobile source emissions estimates.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #2: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County

Objective 2C:

Continue work with EPA and CARB on implementing Transportation Conformity, which is a required SIP component under the Clean Air Act.

Background:

CARB and EPA are working together with districts, FHWA, Caltrans and other agencies to satisfy transportation conformity implementation requirements under the federal Clean Air Act.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Continue communications with CARB and other agencies regarding transportation conformity procedures and rule changes.
2. Work on developing a Transportation Conformity rule if EPA determines that one is necessary (currently an established process is adequate, but this is under review and CARB has begun considering a statewide transportation conformity rule/approach).
3. Participate in CAPCOA Planning Managers and the statewide Transportation Conformity Working Group to keep up with all relevant developments.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #2: Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County

Objective 2D:

Follow up on the SIP submitted to EPA in 2018 for the 2008 federal ozone standard and address any outstanding issues. Work with CARB to track and document Reasonable Further Progress and assure the timely implementation of Contingency Measures if needed in 2020 or 2021.

Background: Western Nevada County submitted a SIP to EPA (via CARB) in late 2018 for the 2008 ozone NAAQS which addresses previous determinations of inadequacy as well as numerous complicated SIP requirements. The District worked closely with CARB and EPA to develop this SIP and EPA is expected to approve the SIP, although there could be some revisions required, particularly regarding Contingency Measures. The recent Bahr court decision essentially found that CARB's historic approach to Contingency Measures was not in line with the intent of the federal Clean Air Act, so CARB has developed a suite of statewide Contingency Measures that hinge largely on increased enforcement of California's mobile source rules in areas that fail to meet the Reasonable Further Progress/Milestone requirements set forth in their SIPs.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Respond to EPA concerns in coordination with CARB and other air districts as appropriate (actions to be determined as events unfold and determinations are handed down).
2. Participate in CAPCOA Planning Managers to help keep up with all relevant developments.

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Goal #3: Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks and Agricultural Equipment with Funding from Carl Moyer, AB 2766, AB 923, AB617 and FARMER programs

Objectives:

- 3A. Implement Carl Moyer, AB2766, AB 923, AB617 and FARMER grant programs for owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.
- 3B. Pursue Avenues to Increase Funding for Carl Moyer, FARMER and AB617.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

GOAL#3: Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks with Funding from Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB 2766 and AB 923 and AB617 programs

Objective 3A: Implement Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766 and AB 923 and AB617 Grant programs for owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.

Background: The District has been working with local truck owners/operators to disburse grant funds for the Carl Moyer Heavy Duty Diesel Program. The program offers funding for repowers and retrofits only. It has become increasingly difficult for on-road vehicles to qualify for the funding since Carl Moyer funding can not be applied to a vehicle that will have to comply with a state diesel regulation within three years. However, the District modified the program to allow funding for off-road vehicles and the applicants have dramatically increased. Recently, the District modified its Carl Moyer Policies to include utilizing AB617 funding for Carl Moyer-type projects located in AB1550 areas. AB2766 Funding does not carry such constraints as the Carl Moyer program, however, this is a competitive grant in all three counties. The District administers approximately \$175,000 annually district-wide through the Carl Moyer Program. The District also can administer more funding through the following occasionally funded programs; FARMER and AB617.

AB923 funding is available only to heavy duty vehicles in Plumas County for Carl Moyer-like programs or for the infrastructure or alternatively fueled stations for alternatively fueled school buses.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Turn in applications for funding for Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB617.
2. Request Board Approval through the Authorization of Resolutions to implement Carl Moyer programs for FY 2020/2021.
3. Maintain the CARL Database for Carl Moyer programs.
4. Turn in required reports for FARMER and AB617 funding.

GOAL#3: Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks with Funding from Carl Moyer, AB 2766 and AB 923 programs

Objective 3B: Pursue Avenues to Increase Funding for Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766 and AB923

Background:

Carl Moyer –

Legislation (AB8) limits rural air districts to \$200,000 annually without a match.

This can be increased to \$290,000 with a required match of \$43,541.

Match can come from either AB2766 funds or AB923.

FARMER – This program was first implemented in 2019. Pursue additional funding by requesting funds through the Governor's annual budget or through legislation.

AB617 Funding – Funding for CAP incentives is appropriated from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), so these funds must be spent in accordance with the requirements of California Climate Investments. The CCI Funding Guidelines, most recently approved by CARB in July 2018, establish requirements and recommendations for agencies administering California Climate Investments. Funding for each air district is determined annually by the California Air Resources Board. These investments must be targeted to AB1550 populations and must maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities and low income communities and households.

AB2766 –

District administers approximately \$220,000 annually

Each county is limited to \$4/vehicle of DMV registration fees.

Plumas – \$4/vehicle

Sierra – \$2/vehicle

Nevada – \$4/vehicle

AB923 –

Each county is limited to \$2/vehicle but the County must have the max \$4 before it can qualify to receive the AB923.

Plumas county is the only county that receives AB923, the District receives about \$35,000 annually.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Review and comment on draft Governor's budget annually.
2. Follow legislation that impacts either Carl Moyer, FARMER or AB617 funding.
3. Actively support legislation that provides funding for either Carl Moyer, FARMER or AB617.

Goal #4: Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

Objectives:

- 4A. Work with CARB and CAPCOA to implement and maintain the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program
- 4B. Attend meetings with CalFIRE, USFS, Large Land Owners, local Fire Safe Councils and prescribed burning associations.
- 4C. Continue to deploy portable particulate matter air quality monitors to quantify smoke impacts from prescribed burns

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #4: Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

Objective 4A: Work with CARB and CAPCOA to implement and maintain Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program on an annual basis.

Background: The Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program is part of California Climate Investments. Funding for this Program comes from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). This is a grant that is administered by the California Air Resources Board. The Grant is intended to provide resources to air pollution control districts for an enhanced smoke management program. This includes enhanced reporting of prescribed fire activity, air monitoring of prescribed fires, and resources for air district staff to attend regional training sessions on different elements of the State's Smoke Management Program.

Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:

1. Air District will take a Resolution to the Board for approval and submittal to CARB on an annual basis.
2. The District will submit a disbursement request to CARB on an annual basis.
3. The District will participate in an annual kick-off meeting.
4. Quarterly progress reports will be submitted in a timely manner to CAPCOA. These reports will include the spending of state funds.
5. The District will work with CAPCOA to submit a final report to CARB by January 31, 2022.
6. The District will receive training and report acreage, location, types of fuel, burned in the CARB-maintained database of PFIRS.
7. The District will coordinate with CARB and CAPCOA on public messaging and outreach regarding the public benefits of prescribed burning versus extreme fire events.
8. The District will coordinate with CAPCOA to ensure that all prescribed burns larger than 10 acres or estimated to produce more than one ton of particulate matter shall have a smoke management plan.

Goal #4: Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

Objective 4B: Attend meetings with CalFIRE, USFS, Large Land Owners, local Fire Safe Councils and prescribed burning associations.

Background: Due to predicted increased prescribed burning, the District is proactively meeting with the agencies and groups which are actively burning. The District is providing information so that these agencies and groups can more easily accomplish greater acreage.

Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:

1. Distribute the developed flow chart for open burning process for residents and large land owners. This will allow them to better understand the requirements for the process.
2. Assist agencies and groups to burn with a minimum of smoke impacts.

Goal #4: Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

Objective 4C: Continue to deploy portable particulate matter air quality monitors to quantify smoke impacts from prescribed burns

Background: An integral part of the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program is a monitoring of the smoke impacts of prescribed burning on communities.

Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:

1. The Air District will coordinate with CAPCOA on an appropriate number of prescribed burns to monitor.
2. Air District staff will attend training that CAPCOA will be coordinating on the use and deployment of portable air quality monitors.
3. Air District staff will work with CAPCOA to be reimbursed for costs associated with monitoring prescribed burns.
4. Air District staff will coordinate with CARB on compiling and releasing air quality data.

Goal #5: Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

Objectives:

- 5A. Maintain and improve (as needed) air quality monitoring in all three counties to assure protection of public health.
- 5B. Continue to support efforts to utilize biomass as a fuel to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed/residential open burning
- 5C. Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.
- 5D. Pursue and provide alternatives to the open burning of residential yard waste to residents.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #5: Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

Objective 5A: Maintain and improve (as needed) air quality monitoring in all three counties to assure protection of public health.

Background:

The District's air monitoring program assists the county residents by informing sensitive individuals of air pollution levels; both long term trends and current, up-to-date impacts. Although western Nevada County exceeds the federal ozone standard primarily due to transport from the upwind areas, real time air monitoring allows the District to issue Health Advisories to schools, coaches, hospitals, nursing homes and other sensitive individuals. Additionally, smoke impacts can sometimes be severe during forest fires and large prescribed burns in all areas of the District. Again, the District plans to be prepared to continue monitoring smoke levels on a real-time basis with monitors placed in strategic (densely populated) areas. The District plans to enhance its monitoring program by utilizing specific fund balance accounts to purchase back-up monitors and spare parts, additional training to troubleshoot breakdown of equipment, and repair its equipment in its air monitoring laboratory. Additionally, the District is positioning itself to expand its monitoring network in Sierra, Plumas and Nevada County as continuing growth and need expressed by residents occurs. District staff will present these expenditures for enhanced monitoring to the District Board for approval through the budget process.

Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:

1. Present budget expenditures for air monitoring to Board May/June 2021
2. Update Monitoring Network to improve usefulness to public during wildfire smoke impacts. By upgrading existing real-time monitors (BAMs), installing additional BAMs, installing videocams to monitor smoke incursions.
3. Research monitoring sites and rentals of space for particulate matter and ozone monitors in Sierra, Plumas and Nevada Counties.
4. Continue to increase public awareness of monitored air quality values and trends through website improvements.
5. Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #5: Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

Objective 5B: Continue to support efforts to utilize biomass as a fuel to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed/residential open burning

Background:

Historically, the District and the public have benefited from working with local biomass plants (SPI-Quincy the Loyalton biomass facility and Collins Pine- Chester) to utilize greater amounts of both residential yard waste and forest waste as fuel. The District and the biomass plants have accomplished this by promoting alternatives and pre-treatments to fire used for land management and land development clearing. This dramatically decreased smoke impacts in Plumas and Sierra counties and provided a much-needed fuel source to the energy-generating facilities.

Historically, yard waste generated in Eastern Plumas County and Sierra County has been in demand as a fuel source to the Loyalton Biomass Facility, rather than being burned in uncontrolled open burn piles. The District is committed to supporting the transportation of residential and other green waste to the facility for clean processing once the facility is reopened and processing again.

Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:

1. The District will continue to work cooperatively with the biomass plants located in Chester – Collins Pine, Quincy – SPI and Loyalton to assure they are in compliance and their permits are in order.
2. The District will pursue funds and mechanism for supplementing transportation of materials to Loyalton Biomass Facility once it is opened again.
3. The District will continue to support the biomass industry's attempts at legislation and/or state-wide policy to secure incentives to utilize biomass that would otherwise be disposed of through open burning.
4. District will continue to support new industries that utilize biomass (e.g. ethanol, mechanized burners, commercial composting, etc.) in lieu of open burning.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #5: Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

Objective 5C:

Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.

Background:

Since 1999, the District has notified the public when they are at risk due to unhealthy air quality. Additionally, the District provides education on what types of health risks they are exposed to, how to minimize their exposure, and how to modify their behavior to reduce the local contribution to the air quality problem.

Monitored Particulate Matter levels that are attributable to uncontrolled natural events such as wildfires may be excluded from decisions regarding an area's nonattainment status — if it can be shown that there is a clear causal relationship between measured exceedances and the wildfire. The supporting documentation required to make that case is significant. In order to qualify as a natural event, the U.S. EPA requires the Air District include the following elements: 1) public notification and education, 2) efforts to minimize public exposure to high concentrations of Particulate Matter due to future natural events, and 3) efforts to abate or minimize emissions from contributing sources of Particulate Matter.

Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:

1. Continue to refine the District's Public Health Advisory procedures.
2. Expand system to include greater numbers of notifications when a health advisory is being issued. Aggressively pursue educating the public and health officials about being included in the notification list.
3. Present a yearly update to the BOD on health advisories issued.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

Goal #5: Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

Objective 5D: Pursue and provide alternatives to the open burning of residential yard waste to residents.

Background: The District has been an active partner with county agencies, fire safe councils, waste management companies, biomass facilities, cities and communities to provide alternatives for residents to remove yard waste from their homes and properties. Alternatives include green waste pick-up, green waste drop-offs, chipping programs.

While these programs provide a valuable assistance to residents, there are still large amounts of green waste that needs to be removed from around resident properties to decrease fire fuels. The District is actively working with other Air Districts, Fire Safe Councils and State Legislation to increase the reduction of these fuels around homes.

Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:

1. Continue to work with Nevada County OES to permit an Air Curtain Incinerator for improved burning of residential yard waste.
2. Continue to work with Plumas and Sierra County to provide permit for burning the community residential yard waste burn pile at designated Executive Order sites in Chester, Calpine, Sierra City, Alleghany and Loyalton.
3. Continue to work with local waste management company to remove collected residential yard waste from the Portola federal nonattainment area.
4. Continue to be active members on local fire safe council in Plumas and Nevada Counties.
5. Assist or develop legislation to provide funding for residential waste removal.
6. Continue to provide informational flyer for residential waste removal in Plumas and Sierra Counties.
7. Continue to work with local biomass facilities to burn green waste for fuel.
8. Continue to work with open burning at community locations in Graeagle and Whitehawk.
9. Continue to meet with state legislators to inform them of the importance of removing green waste from residences for fire reduction.

2021
OVERALL WORK PLAN

WORK ELEMENT 1 - ADMINISTRATION

Project 1.1 - General Services

Purpose: Provide administrative support for the operation of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, the Board of Directors, and the Hearing Board.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Prepare Board meeting agendas, minutes, hearing notices, resolutions, and correspondence.
- Develop and oversee Overall Work Plan and annual budgets.
- Develop and implement financial controls and program cost tracking systems.
- Annual review of program effectiveness.
- Plan and coordinate staff activities.
- Contract with CPA for annual audit and assist with audit.
- Prepare annual report and subvention request for ARB.
- Track legislation pertinent to managing air quality.
- Procure and maintain equipment.
- Divest surplus property.
- Track and control District assets and movable property.
- Develop and approve (Board) codified Policies and Procedures.
- Supervise and evaluate personnel.
- Conduct salary surveys as needed.
- Coordinate personnel benefits and control costs.
- Provide continuing education and training as needed.
- Coordinate databases and spreadsheets used in multi-functional areas.
- Improve personnel safety in all activities.
- Draft contracts/agreements with other agencies as needed.
- Request annual county contributions and review appropriateness of contributions.
- Conduct fee studies to assure costs are recovered.
- Maintain computer network and software upgrades, including virus protection.
- Work with Counsel on any litigation efforts.

Products:

- Annual Overall Work Plan and Strategic Plan
- Annual Budget
- Documentation of Board meetings
- Quarterly Budget Reports
- District Rules and Regulations
- Benefits Package

Codified Policies and Procedures
Assets and Movable Property Inventory
Annual ARB Report and Subvention Application
Payroll Codes, Chart of Accounts, Tracking Tools
Payroll
Time sheets
Annual Renewal Questionnaire for Special District Risk Management Authority

WORK ELEMENT 1 - ADMINISTRATION

Project 1.2 - Mountain Counties Air Basin

Purpose:

Provide support for the Basin Control Council, in partnership with basin air districts.
Encourage uniform planning, rule development, and permitting activities.
Share information
Share resources, where appropriate.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Assist in preparation of annual plan of activities.
Assist in preparation of annual budget and district appropriations.
Assist in preparation of agendas, minutes, notices, and correspondence.
Participate in monthly meetings of the Mountain Counties Air Basin Technical Advisory Committee and subcommittees.
Participate in semi-annual meetings of the Mountain Counties Air Basin Control Council.
Analyze rules and regulations, and recommend changes to achieve better consistency.
Develop consistent land use development review/CEQA policies.
Prepare comment letters on federal and state legislation, regulations, and policies
Procure basin equipment.
Assist with maintenance of basin assets inventory.

Products:

Annual Budget and Overall Work Plan
Documentation of Basin Control Council meetings
Budget reports
Documentation of Technical Advisory Committee meetings
Basin assets inventory
Public education pamphlets

WORK ELEMENT 2 - STATIONARY SOURCE PROGRAM, NON-MAJOR SOURCES

Project 2.1 - Permitting Activities

Purpose:

Provide and maintain a permitting system that meets the requirements of the HSC §42300 et seq, and ARB Criteria.
Ensure that any emissions equipment or process does not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of any air quality standard, as well as any state or federal regulation.
Evaluate and process permit renewals to ensure that permit conditions accurately represent all current regulations. Meet any new requirements and address requested changes by the facility owner/operator.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Evaluate emissions, air toxic exposure, and controls for new sources of air pollution.
Issue Authorities to Construct and renew Permits to Operate.
Issue and enforce portable equipment permits.
Respond to stationary source-related inquiries.
Develop and maintain an emissions inventory for criteria pollutants.
Review and comment on proposed state and federal regulations.
Develop rules and regulations.
Conduct and promote workshops to help individuals and businesses understand new district rules, and state and federal air pollution regulations.
Review new state and federal regulations to determine applicability to local facilities.
Participate in CAPCOA Committee meetings related to implementing state and federal rules and regulations affecting stationary sources.
Attend CARB training sessions on permitting of stationary sources.
Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to CARB.
Collect fees.

Products:

Engineering Evaluations for all new sources.
Authorities to Construct.
Permits to Operate.
Annual emissions inventory update to CARB.
Monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to CARB.
Staff reports on new and amended rules.
Correspondence

WORK ELEMENT 2 - STATIONARY SOURCE PROGRAM, NON-MAJOR SOURCES

Project 2.2 - Compliance/Enforcement

Purpose: Provide a system to assure compliance with the District's rules and regulations, permit conditions, and applicable state and federal regulations.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Maintain Visual Emissions Evaluation (VEE) inspection certifications for inspectors.
- Conduct inspections of permitted sources to confirm the equipment/process is operating within their permitted conditions.
- Conduct inspections of sources of pollutants that might cause reasonably foreseeable risk to K-12 schools from air toxics under AB 3205.
- Enforce rules and regulations that reduce air pollution and protect public health.
- Draft and issue Notices to Comply and Notices of Violation.
- Prepare staff reports for variance/Hearing Board activity.
- Prepare variance orders issued by the Hearing Board.
- Monitor progress toward meeting variance order requirements.
- Prepare monthly variance report to CARB.
- Review source testing protocols, witness source tests, and review source test reports.
- Respond to and investigate complaints related to stationary sources.
- Attend CARB training sessions on compliance inspections of stationary sources.
- Compile monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to CARB.
- Apply the mutual settlement policy for administrative settlements of violation citations.
- Draft and issue settlement letters.
- Participate with the District Attorney's office on stipulated judgements when mutual settlements are not possible.
- Provide compliance assistance.
- Collect penalties.

Products:

- Inspection records showing compliance with permit conditions.
- Notices to Comply and Notices of Violation.
- Mutual settlements and settlement letters.
- Variance Orders.
- Monthly Variance Report to CARB
- Monthly Significant Violators/High Priority Violators Report to CARB.
- Quarterly Excess Emissions Report to CARB
- Complaint Reports
- Mutual Settlement Policies and Procedures
- Stipulated Judgements

WORK ELEMENT 3 - ENFORCEMENT/COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (non-Stationary Source, non-Smoke Management)

Project 3.1 - Miscellaneous Enforcement

Purpose: Provide a system of enforcing District rules, and state and federal regulations that do not fall under the Stationary Source Program and Smoke Management Program (e.g. odors, illegal asbestos activities, woodstoves, accidental/emergency releases, and dust emissions from mobile sources, etc.)

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Respond to and investigate miscellaneous complaints.
Prepare staff reports for variance/Hearing Board activity.
Monitor progress toward meeting variance order requirements.
Attend training sessions on compliance inspections of miscellaneous emissions sources.
Coordinate emergency response activities with County OES, County Dept. of Environmental Health.
Develop mutual settlements on violations where possible.
Participate with the District Attorney's office on stipulated judgements when mutual settlements are not possible.
Draft and issue settlement letters.
Coordinate multi-jurisdictional and cross-jurisdictional enforcement activities.
Provide compliance assistance.
Collect penalties.

Products:

Complaint Reports
Variances
Notices to Comply and Notices of Violation
Mutual Settlement Policies and Procedures
Settlement letters
Stipulated Judgements
Annual AB 3205 Notifications to School Districts with Charter Schools

WORK ELEMENT 4 - VAPOR RECOVERY PROGRAM

Project 4.1 - Vapor Recovery Permits and Inspections

Purpose: Provide a system for permitting and inspection of vapor recovery systems at gasoline marketing operations in Compliance with related rules in District Regulation 2 and Title 17, Subchapter 8, Article 1, Section 94000 et seq.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Evaluate emissions and controls for new gasoline service stations and bulk plants.
- Issue Authorities to Construct and renew Permits to Operate.
- Attend CARB training sessions on permitting and inspection of gasoline service stations and bulk plants.
- Follow ARB/CAPCOA Vapor Recovery Committee activity/information
- Inspect gasoline dispensing facilities in Nevada, Plumas and Sierra Counties
- Respond to and investigate complaints.
- Draft Notices to Comply.
- Draft Notices of Violation.
- Develop mutual settlements on violations where possible.
- Participate with the District Attorney's office on stipulated judgements when mutual settlements are not possible.
- Draft and issue settlement letters.
- Annual billing and fee collection.
- Develop and maintain database.
- Provide compliance assistance.
- Collect penalties.
- Implement requirements of Enhanced Vapor Recovery

Products:

- Authorities to Construct and Permits to Operate.
- Inspection Reports.
- Complaint Reports.
- Notices to Comply and Notices of Violation
- Settlement letters

WORK ELEMENT 5 - SMOKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project 5.1 - Burn Permits

Purpose: Provide a system to regulate and lessen smoke impacts from open burning and prescribed burning conducted in accordance with the District's rules and regulations and CCR Title 17, 80100, et seq.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Review smoke management plans to assure compliance with all rules and regulations.
- Issue burn permits and daily burn authorizations.
- Inspect burn projects to assure that burn plan and permit conditions are being met.
- Compile annual report on all permitted burn activity per Title 17, §80130 et seq.
- Prepare staff reports for rule development.
- Amend and adopt open burning rules, as needed.
- Conduct workshops and public hearings on new and amended open burning rules.
- Attend meetings of councils and committees established to balance the need for healthy air with the need to reduce fire risk and provide a healthy ecosystem (e.g. Interagency Air and Smoke Council, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Mountain Counties Air Basin Smoke Management Alliance, Northeast Air Alliance).
- Review and comment on state and federal regulations, policies, and guidance as they are developed to assure the rural and urban-rural perspective is represented.
- Notify adjacent air districts/states of prescribed burn projects to prevent combined impacts and coordinate where necessary.
- Review, comment, inspect, and canvass fire agency training burns.
- Review applications for variance from burn-day and issue *No-Burn Authorizations*.
- Maintain data base to track burn permits and complaints.
- Document and track actual burn acres for state and federal land managers for annual billing.
- Educate building and planning departments and contractors associations on burn rules and regulations.
- Review/Respond to CEQA/NEPA environmental documents with regards to prescribed burning.
- Collect fees.

Products:

- Burn permits
- Burn plan comments
- Annual Agricultural Burning Summary to CARB
- Policies and Procedures for reviewing burn plans and issuing permits
- Comments on regulations, policies, guidance
- Smoke Management Program
- Smoke Management Plan forms
- Staff Reports, Rules and Regulations
- No Burn Authorizations
- EIR/EIS responses
- Annual Report to CARB

WORK ELEMENT 5 - SMOKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project 5.2 - Open Burning Enforcement/Compliance

Purpose: Provide a system to assure compliance with the District's rules and regulations, and permit conditions related to open burning.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Draft and issue Notices to Comply and Notices of Violation.

Draft and issue settlement letters.

Maintain burn day messages on burn recorders 365 days per year.

Maintain and repair burn day messages as needed.

Use aerial surveillance to locate the source of smoke intrusions if needed.

Review air quality monitoring data and correlate with prescribed burns and wildfires.

Develop and maintain complaint database.

Collect penalties.

Track and log-in all complaints in database.

Products:

Notices to Comply and Notices of Violation

Settlement Letters

Support new local ordinances for open burning.

Annual report to the Board on complaints

WORK ELEMENT 5 - SMOKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project 5.3 - Public Education

Purpose:

- Reduce the smoke impacts from open burning and woodstoves.
- Improve public awareness of the health impacts related to fine particles (smoke).
- Improve the public's awareness of alternatives to open burning.
- Notify the public when poor air quality exists.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Develop media for public awareness.
- Educate Chambers of Commerce, and community groups.
- Conduct workshops and utilize other public education techniques to train the public on composting, mulching, firewise landscaping, reducing the burden on landfills, and soil erosion prevention.
- Provide public education on the health effects of fine particulate (PM2.5).
- Request voluntary curtailment steps from the public when air quality is poor.
- Provide education to the public and public officials on regulatory impacts of federal nonattainment of particulate matter ambient air quality standards.
- Proactively work with Fire Safe Council, local governments, waste management, neighborhood associations to find alternatives to open burning of vegetative material and reduce residential open burning emissions.
- Promote green waste pickup.
- Work with fire agencies.

Products:

- Pamphlets on woodstoves, residential open burning, composting
- Reduced open burning smoke impacts
- Changes in open burning habits/behaviors/practices
- Changes in woodstove burning habits/behaviors/practices

WORK ELEMENT 5 - SMOKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project 5.4 - PM 2.5 Attainment Plan

Purpose:

Protect the public health by preventing exceedances of the PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Provide a regulatory framework to maintain attainment, if necessary.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Educate elected officials on the health effects of fine particulate and the ramifications of federal nonattainment.

Conduct workshops on control strategies, local ordinances, air quality management plans.

Develop local ordinances where needed.

Conduct or participate in public hearings for adoption of air quality management plans, local ordinances, and rules and regulations.

Promote woodstove change-out incentive programs.

Provide support for the Grass Valley, Portola, Quincy, and Truckee woodstove ordinances.

Products:

Clean Air Plan or Air Quality Management Plan for Nonattainment areas.

Local ordinances

Rules and regulations

Great Stove Change-Out promotions

WORK ELEMENT 6 - PLANNING PROGRAM

Project 6.1 - Land Use Plan Review

Purpose:

Assure that additional air pollution emissions associated with land use projects do not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of any air quality standard.
Prevent public health impacts due to short-term and long-term air quality degradation
Prevent onerous and burdensome state and federal requirements that damage, or eliminate healthy economic growth.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Review land use plans for public and private development projects and provide *Commenting Agency* comments.
Review emissions increases associated with projects and determine if the emissions increases associated with the project exceed the District's levels of significance for each pollutant.
Provide justification and rationale for the necessary mitigations to reduce emissions to below the levels of significance.
Pursue on-site and off-site mitigations where necessary to prevent significant impacts.
Coordinate with planning agencies to streamline and simplify the review process and assure consistency.
Review developments and changes related to state and federal ambient air quality standards as they apply to the planning function.
Implement ARB's Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for asbestos in serpentine rock, as it pertains to construction. Develop land use comments to address dust control when serpentine rock is found at construction sites.
Evaluate cumulative exposure. Work with other air district's to develop guidelines on cumulative exposure.

Products:

Commenting Agency comments (including Regional Transportation Plan).
Emissions calculations on proposed projects and recommended mitigations.

WORK ELEMENT 6 - PLANNING PROGRAM

Project 6.2 - General Plan Review

Purpose: Assure City and County General Plans adequately address air quality, including goals, policies, and programs that when adopted will control the growth of vehicle trips and miles traveled and prevent deterioration of air quality.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Assist cities and counties with general plan air quality elements, providing appropriate recommendations and technical support.

Provide local planning agencies with a comprehensive set of goals, and policies that will improve or maintain (as needed) air quality if adopted in a general plan.

Provide justification and rationale for the goals and policies that will help decision makers, developers, and the public understand that they are appropriate and necessary to prevent public health impacts and onerous, burdensome state and federal requirements that damage, or eliminate healthy growth.

Products:

Commenting Agency comments.

WORK ELEMENT 6 - PLANNING PROGRAM

Project 6.5 - Attainment Plan (SIP) for Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard
(Western Nevada County Only)

Purpose: Re-attain the NAAQS for 8-hour ozone.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Review and comment on enhanced emissions inventories for the Statewide and local State Implementation Plan (SIP)

Stationary Source

Area Source

Review mobile source inputs

Maintain pressure on upwind areas for additional controls designed to bring attainment to downwind areas.

Attend workshops and meetings to learn about development of Transportation Conformity consultation procedures with NCTC and CalTrans District 3 to:

Circulate documents.

Define agency roles and responsibilities.

Establish framework for planning and technical meetings.

Develop list of transportation control measures.

Choose models and assumptions for regional transportation modeling.

Choose triggers for conformity review.

Define regionally significant projects.

Assist NCTC with transportation conformity determinations

Land use planning

Review and comment on all updates to general plans for incorporated areas in western Nevada County to make air quality elements more effective .

Products:

Emissions inventory

Urban air shed model for ozone for Central California, that includes western Nevada County.

Ozone Attainment Plan (SIP).

Transportation Conformity Consultation Agreement

WORK ELEMENT 7 - FEDERAL OPERATING PERMIT PROGRAM

Project 7.1 - Title V

(Plumas and Sierra Counties Only)

Purpose:

Implement the requirements of Title V of the *Clean Air Act of 1990* (CAA) and related District Rule 522 for permits to operate required for major sources of regulated air pollutants and other applicable sources.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Maintain Visual Emissions Evaluation (VEE) inspection certifications for inspectors.
Review applications for completeness as they become due.
Issue required permits.
Conduct inspections of permitted sources to confirm the equipment/process is operating within their permitted conditions.
Draft Notices to Comply and Notices of Violation.
Draft and issue settlement letters.
Prepare staff reports for Hearing Board variances/compliance plans.
Track progress of meeting the requirements contained in a compliance plan.
Participate in CAPCOA Committee meetings and CARB workshops related to the Title V Program.
Review Title V implementation guidance received from ARB and EPA and notify major sources of White Papers and assist in their understanding.
Conduct workshops to help Title V sources understand and comply with federal requirements.
Review source testing protocols, witness source tests, and review source test reports.
Respond to and investigate complaints related to Title V sources.
Compile monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to CARB/EPA.
Collect fees and penalties

Products:

Title V Permits
Inspection Reports
Notices to Comply
Notices of Violation
Settlement Letters
Complaint Reports
Hearing Board Compliance Plans
Monthly Significant Violator Report to CARB
Quarterly Excess Emissions Reports to CARB

WORK ELEMENT 8 - AIR TOXICS PROGRAM

Project 8.1 - Air Toxic "Hot Spots" Act Implementation and Fee Regulation

Purpose:

- Determine emissions of air toxics and hazardous air pollutants from applicable sources and whether such emissions present a significant health risk to neighboring public and sensitive receptors.
- Develop an air toxics emission inventory.
- Reduce the health risk to below the level of significance for high risk facilities.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Implement Air Toxics Control Measures promulgated by the State.
- Implement NESHAPS promulgated by EPA (Federal law requires states to implement, State law requires districts to implement).
- Provide information and assistance to affected facilities on the requirements.
- Review and approve facility emission inventory plans submitted by the facilities that comply with the requirements. Provide further assistance where necessary.
- Review and approve the one-time surveys submitted by facilities that comply with the requirements. Provide further assistance where necessary.
- Notify new facilities of deadlines for compliance.
- Calculate air toxics emissions for "Industry-wide" facilities.
- Develop and maintain air toxics emissions inventory and report to ARB.
- Respond to ARB surveys for facility counts, emissions, fees, documentation, etc.
- Place sources on quadrennial update status and fee applicability when prioritization score is between 1 and 10.
- Collect District and ARB fees.

Products:

- Facility Prioritization Guidelines
- Approved Air Toxics Emissions Inventory Plans
- Approved Air Toxics Emissions Inventory Reports
- Prioritization scores for applicable facilities
- Risk assessments for applicable facilities
- District Air Toxics Emissions Inventory
- Fee Regulation with related documentation
- Annual Report to Public/Board

WORK ELEMENT 8 - AIR TOXICS PROGRAM

Project 8.2 - Air Toxics Control Measures

Purpose:

Reduce air toxics exposure and risk to the public and nearby businesses.
Reduce the health risk to below the level of significance for high risk facilities.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Attend workshops and meetings, and review and comment on draft regulations - state Air Toxics Control Measures (ATCMs) and related National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS).
Provide public notices, staff reports, public hearings and rule adoptions to adopt state and federal regulations by reference.
Implement state ATCMs and related NESHAPS as required by state law.
Monitor the NESHAPS being developed and approved for applicable facilities in the District.

Products:

Rules that refer to the State and federal regulations.
Permits with special conditions designed to comply with state and federal regulations and protect the public health.

WORK ELEMENT 9 - AB 2766 GRANTS PROGRAM

Project 9.1 - External Project Selection, Monitoring, and Reporting

Purpose: Reduce air pollution from motor vehicles and conduct related planning, monitoring, enforcement, and technical studies necessary for the implementation of the California Clean Air Act of 1988.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Develop plan and projected budget for DMV registration funds on external projects.
- Develop and distribute a screening RFP for external grant projects and programs.
- Review screening proposals, select best ones for detailed proposal, provide comments that will improve the quality of these proposals.
- Conduct RFP workshops to train applicants on proposal requirements.
- Arrange meetings of Board's ad hoc grant committees to review, evaluate, and rank proposals.
- Prepare grant award recommendations for Board consideration.
- Negotiate alternative funding and scope of work with applicants where needed.
- Draft contractual agreements for each grant.
- Develop and distribute Grant Guidance.
- Review and approve monthly requests for reimbursement and request clarifications, as needed.
- Track funds dispersed for each grant.
- Review monthly progress reports and request clarifications, as needed.
- Notify grantees that mid-cycle monitoring reports are due.
- Review mid-cycle monitoring reports and request clarifications, as needed.
- Request each grantee notify the District of funds needed for disbursement after the end of the fiscal year.
- Encumber grant funds that have not be used by the end of the fiscal year, but which will be needed to complete Board-approved work during the next fiscal year, but during grant cycle.
- Notify grantees that work should be complete and final reports are due.
- Review Final Reports for each grant project and request clarifications, as needed.
- Prepare Annual CARB Report on all internal and external projects and programs, in addition to overall District program. Check the cost-effectiveness of each project.
- Audit selected grants, if needed.

Products:

- Plan for Use of AB 2766 DMV Surcharge Funds
- Screening RFP for grant projects
- Detailed RFP for grant projects
- Budget for External AB 2766 DMV Projects and Programs
- Project proposal ranking and recommendations
- Grant contract agreements
- Grant Guidance

WORK ELEMENT 10 - AB 2766 INTERNAL PROGRAMS

Project 10.1 - Public Education

Purpose:

Reduce air pollution from motor vehicles and conduct related planning, monitoring, enforcement, and technical studies necessary for the implementation of the California Clean Air Act of 1988. Notify the public when air quality is poor, educate the public on public health impacts, and how they can voluntarily improve air quality (episode curtailment).

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Issue predictions of the Air Quality Index (AQI) and recommended steps the public can take to protect themselves and help prevent the air from getting worse.

Issue public health advisories to local newspapers, radio stations, schools, recreation districts, hospitals, senior centers, convalescent hospitals, etc. when air pollution episodes occur. Advise on public health impacts of the pollutant of concern, how to avoid exposure, and what the public can do to help curtail an episode.

Speak to local businesses and service organizations on air quality issues and what they can do personally to reduce emissions of nonattainment pollutants.

Participate in radio, newspaper, and cable television interviews on air quality impacts on public health, and what the public can do voluntarily to reduce emissions of air pollution.

Promote public reporting of smoking vehicles to CARB, who will send violators a letter asking them to repair or scrap their vehicles.

Attend meetings of committees, coalitions, and forums related to clean fuels, clean air, and ozone transport to learn about what other areas are doing and to lobby upwind areas to do more to clean up their air (thus reducing the air pollution being transported to downwind areas, which impacts air quality and pollutant attainment status).

Develop pamphlets, flyers and inserts that can be used to convey the message of what the public can do to change their behavior in a way that reduces emissions of nonattainment pollutants.

Work with dealers of electric vehicles and super low emissions vehicles to promote their products in western Nevada County.

Products:

Daily AQI notifications.

CARB Smoking Vehicle Reports.

Notifications to affected parties of upcoming rules and regulations.

Pamphlets, fliers, inserts, and videos related to SPARE THE AIR AND AQI.

Report to ARB.

WORK ELEMENT 10 – Carl Moyer INTERNAL PROGRAMS

Project 10.2 - Carl Moyer Air Quality Standards Attainment Program; Incentives for Lower Emission Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.

Purpose: Reduce emissions from heavy duty diesel engines.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

- Apply annually to ARB for grant funding.
- Implement District Carl Moyer Program.
- Promote the program locally.
- Conduct workshops.
- Review applications, on first come first served basis. Calculate cost-effectiveness for each project.
- Select most cost-effective projects.
- Draft and approve contractual agreements for each project.
- Inspect pre- and post-installations of engines.
- Review reimbursement requests and issue reimbursement checks.
- Track funds for each project.
- Monitor maintenance records, fuel consumption, miles traveled (or hours operated) within and outside of District.
- Report to ARB.
- Follow changing program requirements as they develop.

Products:

- District Carl Moyer Program
- Grant agreements.
- Reduced diesel engine emissions.
- Reports to ARB.

WORK ELEMENT 11 - AIR MONITORING PROGRAM

Project 11.1 - Air Monitoring

Purpose:

Required to determine attainment status for state and federal ambient air quality standards. Attainment status establishes the regulatory basis for and the scope of control strategies for industrial, area, and motor vehicle air pollution sources.

Normal, Ongoing Work:

Install and maintain air monitoring equipment.
Conduct calibration, maintenance, equipment upgrades, and quality assurance checks on the instruments and data acquisition equipment.
Collect data and reduce to data reporting formats.
Investigate new technologies to reduce maintenance costs.
Identify exceedances of the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) and National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), and analyze and document the District's opinion on whether they are due to transport or natural events beyond the control of man.
Flag data and prepare reports to justify the exclusion of data related to transport, prescribed burns, and/or natural events.
Analyze monitoring data to determine air quality trends.
Make recommendations on what monitoring is needed.
Attend CAPCOA/CARB meetings and training related to air monitoring.
Report to EPA through AIRS.
Prepare NSAQMD Annual Air Monitoring Report for Board, public, and interested parties review.
Bill CAPCOA/ARB/EPA for funding of the PM2.5 monitoring network.
Maintain the PM2.5 monitoring network in accordance with the agreement with CAPCOA/ARB/EPA.

Products:

Data used to make the AQI predictions.
Daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to CARB.
NSAQMD Annual Air Monitoring Report.
Annual Agreement with ARB to conduct air monitoring in Quincy.
Agreement with CAPCOA/ARB/EPA

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Gretchen Bennitt, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 22, 2021

Agenda Item: V.C.

Agenda Description: **Agenda Description:** Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District's Accomplishments - 2020

Issues: Attached are the District's accomplishments for 2020

Requested Action: Review

Attachments:

1. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District's Accomplishments - 2020

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AIR DISTRICT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

Preserving air quality and protecting the public health and public welfare in Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties.

Very productive year for the District. District staff completed the following accomplishments above and beyond the normal, routine, ongoing activities.

1. Staff continued to implement a **\$2.48 million** federal grant from the EPA for a wood stove change-out program in the Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

The EPA had a goal of changing out 600 non-certified stoves by the end of 2020. The District changed out 415 stoves by December 31, 2020. There were less stoves changed out due to Covid concerns by residents.

Staff involved: Julie Ruiz, Melissa Klundby and Gretchen Bennitt

2. Staff worked extensively with EPA and CARB to modify the existing Portola Target Grant to include a new position (burnwise coordinator), chimney sweep vouchers, woodsheds, registration database, heat pump pilot project.

Staff involved: Julie Ruiz and Gretchen Bennitt

3. Staff worked extensively with EPA and CARB to apply for a new Target Grant for Portola for the amount of **\$3.1 million**. In 2020, this grant was finalized and awarded to the District.

Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt, Julie Ruiz and Melissa Klundby

4. Staff continued to implement a voluntary curtailment program for non EPA-certified wood stoves in Portola.

Staff Involved: Julie Ruiz and Melissa Klundby

5. Staff supported the City of Portola to implement a green waste pickup program and a prohibition on open burning in the City.

Staff involved: Julie Ruiz, Melissa Klundby and Gretchen Bennitt

6. Staff continued to meet regularly with EPA and CARB to implement the State Implementation Plan for the Portola Nonattainment Area. EPA has approved the Portola SIP.

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Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt, Julie Ruiz and Melissa Klundby.

7. Staff submitted quarterly reports on the woodstove changeout program to the EPA, as required by the grant.

Staff involved: Julie Ruiz, Dawn Lunsford and Gretchen Bennitt

8. Staff continued to work with the City of Portola to destroy old wood stoves. The District and the City have a signed memorandum of agreement which reimburses the City for destroying the stoves.

Staff involved: Julie Ruiz and Melissa Klundby

9. Staff continued and increased public education and conducted follow up interviews with residents who received EPA Target Grant funding for the Portola Woodstove Change out Program.

Staff involved: Julie Ruiz and Melissa Klundby

10. Staff worked extensively with CARB and EPA to complete and submit documents to EPA in order to avoid sanctions in western Nevada County.

Staff involved: Sam Longmire

11. During 2020, staff disbursed **\$91,842** in funding to residents wishing to change out non-certified woodstoves for cleaner burning appliances from the woodsmoke reduction program, a program funded by the Cap and Trade statewide funding program. The program was a woodstove changeout program throughout all three counties of the Air District. This funding was actually received by the District during 2018, and funds were finally fully disbursed during the first part of 2019 and concluded in 2020.

Staff involved: Sam Longmire

12. The District administers the State's Carl Moyer Heavy Duty Diesel Program throughout all three counties in the District. This program is intended to provide incentives to owners of heavy duty diesel engines to retrofit these engines to lower emitting models. This is easily one of the most cost-effective and pollution reducing programs that the State sponsors and the District administers. Staff made modifications to the policy to include agricultural tractors to the program. This made the program very popular and competitive. Additionally, the list for Carl Moyer utilized **\$44,956** to replace a high emitting tractor to a newer, lower emitting tractor. **\$1,004,1919 of FARMER funding** was granted in the air district during 2020.

Staff involved: Joe Fish and Gretchen Bennitt

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13. Staff was able to obtain **\$124,375** to provide direct, meaningful and assured benefits to residents of Assembly Bill (AB) 1550 communities by applying for a Community Air Protection (CAP) grant.

Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt

14. The District administers the State's AB2766 DMV surcharge grant money to worthwhile projects throughout all three counties of the District. This funding comes from a DMV surcharge fee for each registered vehicle in each county. Nevada and Plumas County charge a fee of \$4/vehicle. Sierra County charges a fee of \$2/vehicle.

Project proponents go through a sometimes competitive process to request full or partial sponsorship for projects which reduce vehicle emissions. **\$182,153 was disbursed during 2020.**

Staff involved: Joe Fish and Gretchen Bennitt.

15. Staff worked with CARB and CAPCOA to receive **\$140,495** in grant funding to implement the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program which is funded by the Climate Incentive Program and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds.

Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt

16. Staff implemented the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program.

Staff involved: David Nicholas

17. Staff was active in Forest Health Issues throughout the year. Staff met with CalFIRE and other agencies concerning prescribed burning.

Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt, Joe Fish, Julie Ruiz, David Nicholas, Melissa Klundby, Sam Longmire

18. Staff received training on and implemented enhanced monitoring to track smoke impacts from prescribed burning.

Staff involved: David Nicholas

19. The Air District Board worked extensively with Nevada County OES and Fire Safe Council to provide \$182,153 of AB2766 funds to be utilized to enhance and implement Nevada County's Green Waste removal program. The Board approved that this fund could be used for this purpose during the respiratory pandemic since smoke or other air pollution from backyard burning can locally increase the severity of impacts on residents that are experiencing respiratory impacts. This program was very successful – approximately 5,000 TONS of green waste were dropped off from residences.

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Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt and Nevada County Board members Ed Scofield and Richard Anderson

20. Staff worked extensively with the Environmental Protection Agency to develop and hold a public hearing for the Emergency Episode Plan (EEP) required under 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart H, "Prevention of Air Pollution Emergency Episodes". This was presented to the Board for approval in February 2020.

Staff involved: Sam Longmire

21. Air District Board Chair Peter Huebner and staff coordinated and prepared material and met with State Senator Dahle.

Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt

22. Staff followed and commented extensively on the California Air Resources Board's Criteria and Toxics Regulation.

Staff Involved: Sam Longmire

23. Staff followed, commented on, and informed Board of various pertinent legislation related to air quality.

Staff involved: Gretchen Bennitt

24. Julie Ruiz regularly participated in the Environmental Crimes Task Force meetings in Plumas county.

25. Julie Ruiz and Melissa Klundby regularly participated in the Plumas County Fire Safe Council meetings.

26. Staff worked with many different agencies and industry to provide alternatives to burning green waste. Staff updates and keeps a list of what residents can do to remove green waste in Plumas and Sierra Counties. Staff worked with local biomass facility to have a substantial amount of green waste transported and used as fuel.

Staff involved: Julie Ruiz, Melissa Klundby, Gretchen Bennitt

277. Staff worked with the Variance Hearing Board to issue three separate variances.

Staff involved: Sam Longmire and Melissa Klundby

28. The Executive Director and the Board have continued to support local efforts to utilize biomass as a fuel to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed/residential open burning.

29. David Nicholas was an active member of the Nevada County Fire Safe Council.

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30. Sam Longmire tackled some challenging planning issues in Nevada County.
31. Joe Fish participated in CAPCOA Air Monitoring meetings.
32. Sam Longmire and Melissa Klundby participated in CAPCOA Planning Managers Meetings
33. Julie Ruiz participated in CAPCOA Enforcement Managers Meetings
34. Gretchen Bennitt was re-elected as a member of the CAPCOA Board of Directors for 2019. Additionally, she served as Vice-President and Legislative Chair of CAPCOA.
35. Julie Ruiz worked with Plumas County to ensure proper maintenance and running of boiler at Plumas County Department of Health Building.
36. Joe Fish, David Nicholas, Julie Ruiz and Gretchen Bennitt met with employees of SPI- Quincy and Collins Pine in Chester for quarterly meetings and discussions.
37. Sam Longmire worked on variance hearings for SPI-Quincy. Melissa Klundby assisted.
38. Melissa Klundby and Julie Ruiz regularly attended Portola City Hall Meetings
29. David Nicholas developed a flow chart for residential open burning.
30. Staff Developed and worked with the City of Portola to develop and adopt a revised contingency measure for the State Implementation Plan for the Portola Nonattainment area.

Staff: Gretchen Bennitt, Julie Ruiz, Melissa Klundby

31. Gretchen Bennitt developed internal policies and requirements for Covid in office. She also worked with staff to quickly equip the office for remote working. Dawn Lunsford assisted.
32. Worked with Nevada County OES to determine whether an ACI could be used to burn green waste in Nevada County.

Staff: Gretchen Bennitt and Sam Longmire

33. Air District worked with PG&E on various permitting issues.
- Staff: Gretchen Bennitt and Joe Fish

34. Gretchen Bennitt implemented weekly calls with neighboring air districts in Foothills to discuss covid and smoke concerns.

35. Staff prepared for wildfire smoke season and responded to various smoke impacts throughout the District. Including releasing health advisories, setting up additional air quality monitors and responding to calls from the public.

36. Nearby wildfire required Grass Valley office to evacuate. Important files were removed from office.