

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Headquarters

200 Litton Drive, Ste. 320

Grass Valley, CA 95945

(530) 274-9360/ FAX: (530) 274-7546

Gretchen G. Bennett, APCO

Northern Field Office

257 E. Sierra Street, Suite E

Portola, CA 96122

(530)832-0102 FAX:(530) 832-0101

NORTHERN SIERRA

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday

APRIL 16, 2020

3:00 p.m.

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

APRIL 16, 2020

3:00 P.M.

This meeting will be held by Telephone Conference

480 297-0773

Passcode: 2660502#

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE BY CALLING THE ABOVE NUMBER AND PASSCODE AT THE ALLOTTED DATE/TIME. IF REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NEEDED BY THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT THE AIR DISTRICT OFFICE AT OFFICE@MYAIRDISTRICT.COM OR 530 274-9360 BY APRIL 15 AT 3:00 P.M.

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. Administrative Report**
 - A. Request for Nevada County AB2766 funds to be allocated to a smoke emission reduction program from residential green waste burning during a respiratory pandemic.
- IV. 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.
- V. Schedule next Meeting** – April 27, 2020
- VI. 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 special 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: April 16, 2020

Agenda Item: III.A

Agenda Description: Request for Nevada County AB2766 funds to be allocated to a smoke emission reduction program from residential green waste burning during a respiratory pandemic.

Issues/Discussion:

Smoke or other air pollution from backyard burning can locally increase the severity of impacts on residents that are experiencing respiratory impacts. Alternatively, smoke from wildfires can cause even greater amounts of smoke. It is imperative during this respiratory pandemic to provide alternatives to burning fuel around homes and reduce fire danger while reducing emissions from smoke.

Nevada County has developed a green waste removal program to reduce smoke impacts during the COVID-19 respiratory pandemic

The Air District recommends that Nevada County's share of the AB2766 funds for 2021 (\$182,153) be utilized to enhance and implement Nevada County's green waste removal program in Nevada County this May and June.

Requested Action:

1. Approve or Disapprove the transfer of one year's allocation (FY 2021) of Nevada County's AB2766 funds to be utilized for a smoke emission reduction program from residential green waste burning during a respiratory pandemic by authorizing the Chair to sign Resolution 2020-02.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

1. Office of Emergency Services' Green Waste Removal Program to Reduce Smoke Impacts During COVID-19 Respiratory Pandemic
2. Resolution #2020-02



Office of Emergency Services

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 130
Nevada City, CA 95959

April 10, 2020

Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
200 Litton Drive, Ste 320
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RE: Green Waste Removal Program to Reduce Smoke Impacts During COVID-19 Respiratory Pandemic

Problem

Nevada County has an overabundance of vegetation which makes it vulnerable to wildfire for a significant portion of the year. Unfortunately, the high cost of removal of this vegetation remains a significant barrier for many property owners when it comes to fuels reduction. Property owners who want to be good stewards of their land and reduce the threat of wildfire are met with steep fees for disposal at the local transfer stations. Alternatively, residents may choose to dispose of their green waste by burning their material. While burn piles may provide a cost-effective solution for processing this material, it is not an ideal means of disposal as COVID-19 wreaks respiratory havoc across the globe. As coronavirus continues to be transmitted through the community it is imperative that the respiratory impacts of burning be considered. Additionally, as the numbers of COVID-19 positive patients grow and continue to stress the healthcare system, escaped burns could put an even greater burden on first responders.

Solution

Funding from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District would make it possible for the County of Nevada, in partnership with the Fire Safe Council, to provide alternatives to mitigate particulate emissions during this respiratory health crisis and reduce the threat of wildfire before summer.

Green Waste Disposal Program

County of Nevada and the Fire Safe Council will provide Nevada County residents access to free residential green waste removal this spring. This program is a partnership with property owners. Residents invest sweat equity in their homes and along their roadways, and the County and Fire Safe Council provide a free means of disposal, one that does not jeopardize air quality.

This year, green waste disposal will be available to property owners for three weeks in spring. Fire Safe Council is partnering with the County of Nevada to provide community disposal at three secure locations in Western Nevada County. This year, the program will provide an opportunity for property owners to pick up free wood chips to help with soil enrichment, erosion control, weed suppression, and moisture retention outside of the first 30 feet from their home per defensible space best practices. In Eastern Nevada County, County of Nevada is coordinating with the Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal to offer similar programming. Both the County of Nevada and Fire Safe Council have a history of successfully partnering.

In the spring of 2019, more than 1,000,000 pounds of green waste were collected and the program received widespread positive feedback from the community.

Funding from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District would provide resources to more than double the impact of the existing program. Additional funding would allow disposal at 3 community sites, 3 days a week, over 6 consecutive weeks. In terms of green waste disposal for Eastern Nevada County, funding would provide for approximately 5-6 weekends of green waste disposal for property owners. With more than 500 tons collected in Western Nevada County alone last year, we are confident that providing an alternative to burning and expensive transfer station fees would incentivize the community to conduct defensible space clearing around their homes and roadways.

Access & Functional Needs Program

The Access and Functional Needs Program (AFN) assists low-income seniors and disabled persons with creating defensible space at no cost. These individuals are both physically and financially unable to meet the requirements of the County's Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance and are considered at-risk. Individuals applying for service must qualify by documenting their age (>65) or physical disability, by medical doctor, and be under the established low-income criteria for Nevada County as determined annually. Individuals are served on a first-come, first-served basis. Fire Safe Council staff in coordination with licensed contractor crews are utilized to implement defensible space as prescribed by the County's Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance.

Additional funding would provide 15 low income residents with access and functional needs to receive defensible space clearing around their homes. This program has been unfunded for several years, and with 26% of the Nevada County population being 65 years of age and over, we know the need to assist individuals with physical limitations far exceeds existing resources.

Defensible Space Chipping Program

The objective of the defensible space chipping program is to provide drive-by chipping service for residents to incentivize hazardous fuels reductions around homes and roadways. Roughly 75% of Nevada County's roadways are privately maintained and most are severely overgrown with hazardous fuel.

This program is currently supported by a grant which covers the cost of inmate crews who provide the chipping services. The inmate labor crew rate is far below that of hired staff. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the inmate labor program has been paused, even on essential operations such as wildfire mitigation. This has put the chipping program entirely on hold, as there is not adequate funding to compensate staff at market value. Additional funding from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District would provide 15 weeks of free chipping to the community at a critical time this spring, before the arrival of fire season. The chipping crew would work 4 days per week, allocating 1 day per week in Eastern Nevada County.

**NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION #2020-02**

In the Matter of: Allocating Grant Year 2021 AB2766 Funds from Nevada County to a Green Waste Removal Program to Reduce Smoke Impacts during the Covid 19 Respiratory Pandemic.

Whereas, available funds for Year 2021 AB2766 Grant Funding in Nevada County is \$182,153; and

Whereas, Nevada County has developed a Green Waste Removal Program to Reduce Smoke Impacts during the Covid 19 Respiratory Pandemic; and

Whereas, funding from Nevada County's allocation of AB2766 funds would provide resources to allow disposal at 3 community sites, 3 days a week, over 6 consecutive weeks in western Nevada County; and

Whereas, funding from Nevada County's allocation of AB2766 funds would provide 15 low income residents with access and functional needs to receive defensible space clearing and green waste removal around their homes; and

Whereas, funding from Nevada County's allocation of AB2766 funds would provide 15 additional weeks of free chipping to the community; and

Whereas, funding from Nevada County's allocation of AB2766 funds would provide resources to allow disposal for approximately 6 weekends of green waste disposal for property owners in eastern Nevada County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Board of Directors that the amount of \$182,153 of AB2766 funds for Nevada County be utilized for a green waste removal program to reduce smoke impacts during the Covid 19 respiratory pandemic; and further that the funding be apportioned as \$145,722.40 to be allocated to western Nevada County and \$36,430.60 be allocated to eastern Nevada County.

On a motion by Supervisor _____, and seconded by Supervisor _____, the foregoing resolution was approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District at a special meeting held on April 16, 2020, by the following roll call vote:

- Ayes:
- Noes:
- Absent:
- Abstaining:

Approve: _____
Chair of Board

Attest: _____

Dawn Lunsford, Clerk of the Board