

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Governing Board of Directors
Agenda
Regular Meeting**

**Monday
February 24, 2025
1:00 PM**

**Dwight Ceresola, Chair
Plumas County Supervisor, District One**

**Tom McGowan, Vice Chair
Plumas County Supervisor, District Three**

**Hardy Bullock
Nevada County Supervisor, District Five**

**Heidi Hall
Nevada County Supervisor, District One**

**Paul Roen
Sierra County Supervisor, District Three**

**Lee Adams
Sierra County Supervisor, District One**

**Alternates:
Lisa Swarthout, Nevada County Supervisor, District Four
Lila Heuer, Sierra County Supervisor, District Two
Jeff Engel, Plumas County Supervisor, District Five**

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer**

**Grass Valley Office
200 Litton Drive, Ste 320
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 274-9360**

**Portola Office
257 E. Sierra, Unit E.
Portola, CA 96122
(530) 832-0102**

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

**February 24, 2025
1:00 P.M.**

This meeting will be held by videoconference/telephone at the following locations:

**(Site A) VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (Headquarters)
200 Litton Drive, Conference Room 316
Grass Valley, California**

**(Site B) VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (Northern Office)
257 E. Sierra Street, Unit E
Portola, California**

**(Site C) VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
Ruby's Diner
5757 Wayne Newton Boulevard
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**(Site D) VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
Hilton Galveston
5400 Seawall Blvd
Galveston, Texas**

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:**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll call and determination of quorum.
 - C. 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.

- II. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025**

- III. Approval and/or Modifications to Agenda**

- IV. 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 – November 25, 2024
 - B. Payment Details by Vendor Board Report – November, December 2024 and January 2025
 - C. Board of Directors Calendar Schedule for 2025

- D. Authorization for Signing Nevada County Auditor Controller's Warrant Request Signatures for 2025
- V. Administrative Report (Action/Discussion Items)**
- A. Financial Report for July through December 2024
 - B. District Financial Audit Ending June 30, 2024, and Financial Targeted Airshed Grant (TAG) Single Audit FY 22-23 and 23-24
 - C. Audit Engagement Letter – Singleton Auman PC
 - D. Approval of Plan Review Fee Form
 - E. Form 700 for Mountain Counties Air Basin Control Council (BCC) and Technical Advisory Council (TAC)
 - F. Updates to the existing Policies and Procedures for Administration of the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer Program), amendments to Appendix F: Lawn and Garden Program Addendum
- VI. Director's Report (Informational Only)**
- A. Residential Backyard Burning Rule Revision Discussion
 - B. Conflict of Interest Forms for the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) are Due April 1st – Electronic Submission Only
 - C. AB2766 Project Update
 - D. CAPCOA Board - Rural Chair Appointment
- VII. Staff Reports/Program Updates (Informational Only)**
- A. Monitoring
 - B. Planning
 - C. Permitting
 - D. Compliance/Enforcement
 - E. TAG
 - F. Grants
- VIII. 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.
- IX. Schedule next Meeting** – Video/Phone Conference March 24, 2025 @ 1:00 PM
- X. 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, Northern Air District office in Portola, 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: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: II

Agenda Description: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025

Summary:

In accordance with District Policy # 4040, the Board Chair and Vice Chair rotate from county to county on an annual basis. The Board Chair and Vice Chair are from the same county. This year, the Chair and Vice Chair will be from Nevada County.

Requested Action:

Nominate and Elect the Chair and Vice Chair for 2025

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

None

To:Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: III

Agenda Description: Approval and/or Modifications to Agenda

Requested Action: Discuss any modifications to agenda, approve agenda with a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: IV.A

Agenda Description: Approval of November 25, 2024 Board Minutes

Requested Action: Approve November Board Minutes

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

November 25, 2024, Board Minutes

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: IV.B

Agenda Description: Payment Details by Vendor Board Report – November, December 2024 and January 2025

Summary: Vendor Reports are available for the Board and Public to review

Requested Action: Review and approve Payment Details from November, December 2024 and January 2025

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

Payment Details by Vendor Board Report – November, December 2024 and January 2025

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item IV.C

Agenda Description: Board of Directors Calendar Schedule for 2025

Summary:

The schedule for 2025 is being presented for review, discussion and adoption. The Board meetings in July and December will be cancelled unless a need arises.

Requested Action:

Discuss and approve the calendar for 2025

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

Board Meeting Schedule for 2025

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
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: melissak@myairdistrict.com or www.myairdistrict.com

AIR QUALITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors meetings are scheduled on the fourth Monday of every month at 1:00 P.M. on the date and places listed below:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
January 27	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
February 24	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
March 24	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
April 28	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
May 26	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
June 23	In Person – To Be Determined
*July 28	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
August 25	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
September 22	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
October 27	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
November 24	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola
**December 22	Video/Teleconference – Grass Valley and Portola

* The July 28, 2025, meeting will be cancelled unless an urgent need arises.

** The December 22, 2025, meeting may be cancelled due to the Holiday.

BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS

Grass Valley: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Headquarters, Room 316, 200 Litton Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Portola: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Northern Field Office, 257 E. Sierra, Unit E, Portola, CA 96122

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF NEVADA, PLUMAS AND SIERRA

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item IV.D

Agenda Description: Authorization for Signing Nevada County Auditor Controller's Warrant Request Signatures for 2025

Summary:

Annual approval of the warrant request signature form is required by the Nevada County Auditor-Controller's office to ensure continual processing of payment requests. The District is requesting that the Board authorize the Chair and APCO to sign the warrant request signature form and submit it to the Controller's office.

Requested Action:

Authorize Chair and APCO to sign Authorized Signature Form for Warrant Requests for 2025 and submit to Nevada County Auditor/Controller's office.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

Authorized Signature Form for Warrant Requests for 2025

**COUNTY OF NEVADA
Auditor-Controller's Office
District and Commission Signature Authority
Calendar Year 2025**

District/Commission: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management
 Location: 200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
 Mailing Address: 200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
Grass Valley, CA 95945
 Telephone #: 530-274-9360
 Main Email Address: office@myairdistrict.com

DISTRICT / COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS
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NAME & TITLE	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS
Paul Roen	P O Box 43	(209) 479-2270
Sierra County Supervisor	Calpine, CA 96124	supervisor3@sierracounty.ca.gov
Lee Adams	P O Box 1	(530) 289-3506
Sierra County Supervisor	Downieville, CA 95936	supervisor1@sierracounty.ca.gov
Dwight Ceresola	520 Main Street, Room 309	(530) 251-3537
Plumas County Supervisor	Quincy, CA 96020	ceresolasuper1@yahoo.com
Tom McGowan	520 Main Street, Room 309	(530) 487-3786
Plumas County Supervisor	Quincy, CA 96020	TomMcGowan@countyofplumas.com
Hardy S. Bullock	950 Maidu Avenue	(530) 582-7826
Nevada County Supervisor	Nevada City, CA 95959	Hardy.Bullock@nevadacountyca.gov
Heidi Hall	950 Maidu Avenue	(530) 265-1480
Nevada County Supervisor	Nevada City, CA 95959	Heidi.Hall@nevadacountyca.gov

NAME & TITLE	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS
Julie Hunter, Interim APCO	P.O. Box 2227	(530) 832-0102
Signature	Portola, CA 96122	julieh@myairdistrict.com
Dawn Lunsford, Admin. Assistant	200 Litton Drive, Suite 320	(530) 274-9360 ext. 504
Signature	Grass Valley, CA 95945	dawnl@myairdistrict.com
Tasha Coleman, APSC II	200 Litton Drive, Suite 320	(530) 274-9360 ext. 506
Signature	Grass Valley, CA 95945	tashac@myairdistrict.com

The above information is correct and has been approved by the District Board/Commission meeting on

Board Date	Chairman	Today's Date
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- A minimum of two authorized signatures are required on all payment requests.***
- At least one signature shall be a Board/Commission Member***
- The District Board must approve all claims for payment prior to submittal.***
- Additional documentation may be required by law or restrictions placed by this office***
- Any changes must be reported within 10 days with an updated authorization***
- Current authorization expires January 31***
- Renewal must be received prior to January 31 to insure no delay in payments***

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: V.A

Agenda Description: Financial Report for July through December 2024

Summary:

The Financial Report for July through December 2024 is available for review and discussion.

Requested Action:

Review and approve Financial Report for July through December 2024

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

1. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024
2. Profit and Loss Operating July through December 2024
3. Profit and Loss Restricted July through December 2024

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: V.B

Agenda Description: District Financial Audit Ending June 30, 2024, and Financial Targeted Airshed Grant (TAG) Single Audit FY 22-23 and 23-24

Summary: The District Financial Audit and Single Audit for the TAG FY 22-23 and 23-24 was completed by Singleton Auman PC. Clay Singleton will give a short presentation to the Board to recap the results of the audits and answer any questions from the Board.

Requested Action:

Approve the District Financial Audit ending June 30, 2024 and the Single Audit for the TAG FY 22-23 and 23-24.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

Financial Audit Ending June 30, 2024, TAG Single Audit FY22-23 and 23-24

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: V.C

Agenda Description: Audit Engagement Letter – Singleton Auman PC

Summary:

Singleton Auman PC will be conducting Targeted Air Shed (TAG) annual financial Single audits, in addition to the annual District audit. Due to the TAG grant spending over \$750,000 annually, EPA requires a single audit of the grant. The Engagement Letter describes the services Singleton Auman PC will be performing for the District on an annual basis.

Requested Action:

Review and Approve the Engagement Letter – Singleton Auman PC

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

Audit Engagement Letter – Singleton Auman PC

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: V.D

Agenda Description: Approval of Plan Review Fee Form

Summary:

The Director has reported to the Board the need for cost recovery for plan reviews that are conducted by staff within all three counties, including the municipal governments of, Nevada County, City of Nevada, City of Grass Valley, City of Truckee, Sierra County and Plumas County. The Director was given guidance by the Board to work with County Counsel to determine the feasibility of including plan review fees within the planning agencies existing fee structure. Working with the Deputy County Counsel, the Director was asked to work with Nevada County planning. Unfortunately, the County can't accept fees on our behalf. While discussing this with other planning agencies, it became clear that the District could alternatively create a fee form to distribute to all the municipal agencies. Each agency will then provide to the form to the applicant. Per the Districts Regulation VI, Fees, Rule 603 (A.4 and A.5), applicants applying for or requiring an engineering evaluation/air quality impact assessment shall pay a fee calculated using staff hours expending at the prevailing weighed labor rate per hour, currently \$156.76 per hour, which increases annually based on CPI. The attached form will be provided to all planning agencies that route plan reviews to the District for review, and provided directly to any applicants submitting directly to the District for review. The Director has reached out to other Districts that charge plan review, dust plan and asbestos plan fees. Examples can provided.

Requested Action:

Review and Approve the Plan Review Fee form and allow the District to provide the fee form to planning agencies and/or applicants submitting for new projects within the Districts jurisdiction.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

Plan Review Fee form
Rule 603

PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION



Project Name _____ Project Number _____

Date _____ Municipality (County or City) _____

Applicant Name _____

Project APN (s) _____ Applicant Email Address _____

Project Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

How much surface area will be disturbed for the project? (acres or ft²) _____

Y	N	Please answer the following questions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a Dust Control Plan included in the submittals?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the property in a mapped ultramafic soils area?*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will any demolition take place for the project? (Structural or concrete?)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will any other air quality permits be required, either for business processes, or for diesel engines over 49 hp?

**Rule 226: "Disturbed Area: An area in which soils have been disturbed by grading, land leveling, scraping, cut and fill activities, excavation, brush and timber clearing, grubbing, and soils on which vehicle operation has occurred."

*<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/gmc/>

I agree to pay the initial evaluation fee upon submission, and the full evaluation fee upon completion (explained on the back):

Name: _____ Signature: _____

A filing fee of **\$156.76** (prevailing weighted labor rate) will be charged for **all plan reviews**. This fee covers up to 1 hour of staff time. Any additional hours may be billed at the District's hourly rate labor rate (or fraction thereof). **An invoice will be sent** upon completion of the review

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District requires Plan Review Evaluation Fees for all applicants submitting plans to any Planning Department in Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties (or directly to NSAQMD), per NSAQMD Rule 603.

Written documentation of the review will be provided to the municipality performing the main project review (or directly to applicants in special situations).

REGULATION VI FEES

Rule 603 **Permit Fees** *(Fee Amounts Valid July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025)*

Fees herein shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code Section 42311 and Revenue and Taxation Code Section 2212 to account for changes in the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers, as reported by the California Department of Industrial Relations. These adjustments shall be effective beginning July 1 of each year in an amount not to exceed the annual increase in the CPI for the preceding calendar year.

A. **Stationary Source Fees**

1. **Filing Fees**

- a. Except as provided below, every applicant for an Authority to Construct / Permit to Operate shall pay a filing fee of **\$ 496.72**. If an application for a permit is canceled, or is denied, the filing fee required herein shall neither be refunded nor applied to any subsequent application.

- b. Every applicant for a Vapor Recovery permit shall pay a filing fee of **\$ 200.26**. If an application for a permit is canceled, or is denied, the filing fee required herein shall neither be refunded nor applied to any subsequent application.

2. **Base Fee**

Except as otherwise required for gasoline storage and dispensing, every applicant for an annual stationary source Permit to Operate shall pay an annual Base Fee of **\$ 174.27** per permit, in addition to the filing fee prescribed herein.

3. **Emissions Fees**

Every applicant for an annual Permit to Operate shall pay an emissions fee, in addition to the base fee and filing fee prescribed herein, for annual emissions by the source. Such emissions shall be calculated by the District on the basis of source test data, production data, and good engineering practice and as set forth in the following schedule:

**REGULATION VI
FEES**

<u>Air Pollutant</u>	<u>Dollars Per Ton</u>
Total Suspended Particulate (TSP)	\$ 54.04
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x) (expressed as nitrogen dioxide)	\$ 55.72
Oxides of Sulfur (SO _x) (expressed as sulfur dioxide)	\$ 41.76
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	\$ 55.72
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	\$ 15.63

4. **Evaluation Fee**

Every applicant issued or applying for an Authority to Construct or Permit to Operate equipment for which a permit is required by the rules of the Air Quality Management District, shall pay an engineering evaluation/air quality impact assessment fee. This fee shall also apply to stationary source risk assessments and public notification processes required under the California Health and Safety Code. The fee shall be calculated using staff hours expended and the prevailing weighted labor rate of **\$ 156.76** per hour.

5. **Analysis Fees**

Whenever the Air Pollution Control Officer finds that analysis of the emissions from any source is necessary to determine the extent and amount of pollutants being discharged into the atmosphere, which cannot be determined by visual observation, he may order the collection of samples and the physical analysis made or the collection of data and the engineering analysis made by qualified personnel as determined by the Air Pollution Control Officer. The time required for collecting samples, making the physical or engineering analysis, and preparing the necessary reports, but excluding time required in going to and from such premises, may be charged against the owner or operator of said premises in a reasonable sum to be determined by the Air Pollution Control Officer, which said sum is not to exceed the actual cost of such work.

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: V.E

Agenda Description: Appoint a Nevada County Supervisor and an alternate to Mountain Counties Air Basin Control Council (BCC)

Summary:

Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District is a member of the Mountain Counties Air Basin, which consists of 7 foothill air districts – Northern Sierra, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa air districts, respectively. The Mountain Counties Air Basin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets regularly and is composed of staff members from each air district. Annually, the Mountain Counties Air Basin Control Council (BCC) meets to provide guidance and leadership for the TAC. The BCC is comprised of an air district board member from each of the air districts

Requested Action:

Appoint a Nevada County Supervisor and an alternate to the Mountain Counties Air Basin Control Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

None

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: V.F

Agenda Description: Updates to the existing Policies and Procedures for Administration of the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer Program), amendments to Appendix F: Lawn and Garden Program Addendum

Summary:

District staff have found contracting directly with vendors is difficult. These amendments will allow staff to work directly with the municipality requesting the funds and will allow staff to expedite the expenditure of these funds. Currently the District does not have funds for a residential program, however this amendment will also allow for residential applications when funds become available.

Requested Action:

Review and Approve Amendments to Appendix F: Lawn and Garden Program Addendum

ROLL CALL VOTE REQUESTED

Attachments:

Appendix F: Lawn and Garden Program Addendum

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Director's Reports

Agenda Item: VI.A

Agenda Description: Residential Backyard Burning Rule Revision Discussion

Summary:

The District has received complaints from a citizen regarding burning in Nevada County. The citizen has requested to restrict burning hours from 9am to 3pm, specifically in the Alta Sierra area, but overall Nevada County. We do recommend on our website for best dispersion, to only burn during these hours, but there is nothing in our regulations to enforce this. Additionally, the District could place a minimal fee on residential burning and issue permits, as other Districts do. This would allow us cost recovery for complaints and additional enforcement per permit conditions.

Requested Action:

None, informational only

Attachments:

None

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: VI.B

Agenda Description: Conflict of Interest Forms for the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) are DUE APRIL 1ST

Summary:

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:

None

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item: VI.C

Agenda Description: AB2766 Project Update

Summary:

During the November Board meeting AB Grant awards were given. One of these awards was given to the County of Nevada Human Resources Department in the amount of \$36,300. Prior to signing the contract, the Department decided they would not be running the employee vanpool project. The department thanked the District for the grant award and expressed their apologies for not entering into a contract for the funds at this time. Since no contract was signed, Board action is not needed. The good news is that there will be an additional \$36,300 for award later this year for the County of Nevada.

Requested Action:

None – informational only

Attachments:

None

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item Number: VI.D

Agenda Description: CAPCOA Board - Rural Chair Appointment

Summary:

The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association is a non-profit association of the Air Pollution Control Officers from all 35 local air quality agencies throughout California. CAPCOA was formed in 1975 to promote clean air and to provide a forum for sharing of knowledge, experience, and information among the air quality regulatory agencies across the State and the Nation. The Association promotes unity and efficiency, and strives to encourage consistency in methods and practices of air pollution control. It is an organization of air quality professionals — leaders in their field.

Of the 35 Air Districts, 22 of those are Rural Districts. I was nominated Chair for the Rural Districts for 2025. I will be representing the Rural Districts as a Board Member on CAPCOA and responsible for conducting a Spring and Summer meeting. The Spring Meeting will be held in Grass Valley April 22nd and April 23rd. During these meetings the Rural Districts will discuss issues around funding, upcoming regulations, CAPCOA fees/budget and other topics that arise as brought up by CAPCOA.

Requested Action:

None, informational only

Attachments:

None

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Scott Coughlin, Air Pollution Control Specialist II

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item Number: VII.A

Agenda Description: Monitoring Information

AQI Exceedance Days:

	October			November			December		
Monitoring Location	Moderate	USG	Unhealthy	Moderate	USG	Unhealthy	Moderate	USG	Unhealthy
Chester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grass Valley	10	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Portola	8	0	0	26	1	0	20	8	0
Quincy	0	0	0	11	0	0	14	1	0
Truckee	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Total:	18	0	0	41	3	0	34	9	0

*USG: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

Information:

Plumas County was responsible for the majority of Moderate and USG observed days during the 4th Quarter. The data from Chester was invalidated during this period, so AQI levels are not reported here. The lone 2 USG days observed in Nevada County during this period were a result of a prescribed fire occurring in the Truckee area.

Background:

The District has five monitoring sites within the network and has been monitoring air quality since 1986 in Plumas, Sierra and Nevada counties. The current network monitors for PM2.5, Ozone, Speciation, and Carbon.

Requested Action:

None, informational only

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Suzie Tarnay APCS-II

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item Number: VII.B

Agenda Description: Planning Document Comment Response / Program Update

Information:

Below are the planning document reviews completed for the fourth (4th) quarter, from October to December 2024

Quarter 3

Month	Nevada County	Grass Valley	PG&E	Other
October	10		3	
November	9	1	1	1 NID
December	14			1 Truckee
Total = 40	33	1	4	2

Requested Action:

None, informational only

Additional Information:

NSAQMD reviewed 40 projects this quarter, as compared to 44 last quarter. Ten projects involved the cannabis industry, the same as last quarter. Five projects were located on properties that are mapped as having ultramafic soils, again the same number as last quarter.

Suzie is now the Secretary of the CAPCOA Planning Managers Monthly Meeting and Annual Symposium.

Attachments: None,
informational only

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Tasha Coleman, APCS II

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item Number: VII.C

Agenda Description: Permitting – Quarter: 4

Information:

The district is responsible for permitting sources in Plumas, Sierra, and Nevada counties that emit criteria pollutants in the district’s jurisdiction.

- Stationary Sources: 27 facilities and 2 Title V facilities
- Stationary Engines (Generators): 232 facilities
- Vapor Recovery (Gasoline Dispensary Facilities): 68 facilities

Stationary Sources:

- Continuing to send Permit to Operates to our facilities for the fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025.

Quarter	First	Second	Third	Fourth	
Months	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	
PTO Issued	4	5	11	6	TOTAL: 26/29*

*Three facilities have terminated their PTO.

Stationary Engines: Diesel generators that are over 50hp.

- All payments for permits FY 2024-2025 have been received by the second quarter deadline.
- Some permits were revoked based on no payments.

Vapor Recovery (Gasoline Dispensary Facilities):

- Permits and invoices for FY 2024-2025 were sent out at the end of October 2024.
- Less than five permits are missing payments.

Burn Permits

- 825 acres were treated by Ranger Districts in the jurisdiction during the 4th quarter and 68 permits issued.

Quarter	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Months	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
Permits Issued	25	32	2	68

Requested Action:

None, informational only

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Tasha Coleman, Air Pollution Control Specialist II
Scott Coughlin, Air Pollution Control Specialist II

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item Number: VII.D

Agenda Description: Compliance and Enforcement Information

Complaints – 4th Quarter 2024:

Month	Total Complaints	Smoke Complaints	No Burn Day Violations	Garbage Burning	Field Investigations
October	12	0	4	1	5
November	10	2	0	4	2
December	24	12	5	2	8
Total	46	14	9	7	15

Information:

The District received 46 complaints during the 4th quarter of 2024, which is a 100% increase over the 3rd quarter of 2024. More than half of those complaints occurred in December alone. 45 of the 46 complaints took place in Western Nevada County, and 30% of total complaints concerned smoke. During the District’s investigations, it was found that many individuals are not well versed in proper burning techniques and/or do not know about Western Nevada County’s rules pertaining to the burning of leaves and pine needles. Due to the high population density of Western Nevada County compared to the rest of the District, it is anticipated that smoke complaints will be a continued issue. The District could benefit from conducting outreach about proper burning techniques as well as benefiting from possible rule changes (such as burn hours) to help mitigate smoke issues going forward.

Stationary Source Inspections – 4th Quarter 2024:

Type	Nevada County		Plumas/Sierra County		Total/Yr
	Quarter 4	Per 2024	Quarter 4	Per 2024	
Facilities	7/20	17/20	2/10*	7/10*	24/30
GDF	19/41	23/41	21/26	26/26	47/67

* 2 are Title V facilities

Information:

No stationary inspections are planned to be conducted during 2025, with the District’s focus instead being to conduct more Vapor Recovery inspections of Gas Dispensing Facilities (GDFs).

Requested Action:

None, informational only.

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

From: Mikki Battaglia, Targeted Airshed Grant Specialist

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item Number: VII.E

Description: Targeted Airshed Grants 2018 and 2020 Information

Information:

In the fourth quarter 2024 the grants completed a two week “free” green waste disposal event in October at IMD transfer station. November and December financial disbursements were put on hold by CARB while they resolved issues within their organization. The district paid vendors throughout November and December, however the accounting will be recorded in Q1 2025.

2018 TAG two-year extension was granted to CARB and the district. The grant was set to expire 4/2025. Within our grant extension request we included a budget reallocation and justification that was also approved by EPA. Funds remaining in the 2018 grant are \$1,274,426.65 and our deadline is 4/2027.

Working with the fire department, city of Portola, and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council we helped reactivate the city of Portola as a Firewise Community. Our involvement is driven by the need to help resolve green waste disposal needs, assist folks in securing wood sheds who are in need, and continue education about the benefits of improved air quality.

Curtailement/Enforcement: We hired Barry Segulyev through Adecco hiring agency this quarter. He makes opacity observations and mails letters to area residents while working with the city of Portola’s code enforcement officer.

Curtailement days Q4: 40/92 days or 43% of days were wood stove curtailement days

Change outs both 2018 and 2020 TAGs:

16 total, 10 in the county and 6 in city limits

Heat pump combos: 3 Heat pumps: 4 Wood Stoves: 8 Pellet stoves: 1

Chimney sweep vouchers Q4 (2018 TAG): 64 redeemed

Requested Action:

None, information only

To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

Date: February 24, 2025

Agenda Item Number: VII.F

Agenda Description: Grants Update

Information:

AB 2766 program

Grantees are now eligible to move forward with their project as awarded last year. Staff will start to review available funds for the 2026 grant year and will present information on that to the board in June.

FARMER Program

The District has received the funds awarded in December of 2024 and the single awarded applicant is moving forward with the equipment purchase.

Carl Moyer Off Road Equipment program

The Carl Moyer program waitlist is still currently closed with 13 applicants on the list. Staff is currently working with David Barstow of Nevada County, if the applicant decides to proceed staff will schedule and perform a pre-inspection of the existing equipment. Once that equipment is verified staff will present a contract to the Board for review and work with the applicant to complete purchase. The District currently has funds for approximately two pieces of off-road equipment.

Carl Moyer Lawn and Garden program

Staff is working with the City of Portola and the Truckee Unified School District to enter into contracts for funds and hopes to enter into contracts with vendors soon in order to operate the Commercial grant program.

Carl Moyer Electric Charging Infrastructure

Staff is working with the Truckee Unified School District to award the remaining funds prior to the June expenditure deadline, for School Bus electric charging infrastructure.

Carl Moyer All Electric Off Road Equipment Replacement

Staff is working to update its Carl Moyer guidelines in order to be eligible to expend these funds. CARB has streamlined its grant guidelines and all Air Districts are currently updating their guidelines.

Woodsmoke Reduction Grant

All funds for this grant are currently obligated.

Requested Action:

None, informational only