



Mendocino County
Air Quality Management District

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DATE: April 8, 2019

TO: The Mendocino County
Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Barbara A. Moed
Air Pollution Control Officer

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Air Quality Management District to enter into an Agreement with the Air Resources Board Accept Funds for Implementation of the District's Smoke Management Program and Activities Related to Prescribed Burning Pending Board Resolution Approving the Final Agreements.

In 2018, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, several bills to improve forest resiliency and to reduce the risk of wildfires in California. These include:

- Senate Bill (SB) 901 addresses numerous issues concerning wildfire prevention, response and recovery, including funding for mutual aid, fuel reduction and forestry policies, wildfire mitigation plans by electric utilities, and cost recovery by electric corporations of wildfire-related damages and authorizes \$1 billion for healthy forests and fire prevention. The bill provides \$200 million in funding per year for five years. Of that, \$165 million goes to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) for healthy forest and fire prevention programs and projects to improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from uncontrolled wildfires. The other \$35 million goes to Cal Fire to complete prescribed fire and other fuel reduction projects through proven forestry practices consistent with the recommendation of the State's Forest Carbon Plan, including the operation of year-round prescribed fire crews and implementation of a research and monitoring program for climate change adaptation.
- SB 1260 requires Cal Fire and the state Air Resources Board (ARB), in coordination with local air districts, to develop and fund a program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to enhance air quality and smoke monitoring, and to provide a public awareness campaign regarding prescribed burns. The program may include, but not be limited to, purchasing new, year-round rapidly deployable air quality monitors. The program shall include adequate funding, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for local district participation and implementation costs.
- SB 856, which appropriates, among other things, \$2 million to ARB for local air districts to support the implementation of SB 901 and SB 1260 related to air monitoring of prescribed fires and public outreach.

Of the \$2 million appropriated under SB 856, ARB is proposing that approximately \$1 million be made available through direct grants to local air districts to implement their smoke management programs, to enhance air quality and smoke monitoring, and to provide public awareness regarding prescribed burns. ARB is proposing that a portion of the remaining approximately \$1 million will be made available to local air districts, on a reimbursement basis, through a contract with CAPCOA. This component of the funding is intended to cover local air district costs associated with training, travel, and deployment of air monitors in support of the use of prescribed fire by land managers. Additional funding is proposed for Fiscal Year 2018-19, which will provide for future projects.

To access this funding, local air districts must enter into a contract or grant agreement with ARB for a portion of the first \$1 million dollars in funding that will support direct costs associated with operating their smoke management programs. The proposed funding for the District for this fiscal year will be approximately \$84,000. For the remaining funds, once ARB enters into a contract with the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), CAPCOA will in turn enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local air districts to access reimbursement for eligible training, travel and air monitor deployment costs.

Agreements for participation in the state program are expected to be finalized by the end of April, 2019. In order for ARB to encumber the funds this fiscal year, ARB is requiring districts to enter into an agreement as soon as the agreements are finalized at the state level. ARB has agreed to allow districts to sign agreements pending a Board Resolution approving the final agreements. Due to the limited time frame, District staff are requesting authorization for the Air Pollution Control Officer, as agent, to sign an agreement with ARB, when issued, to accept funds for implementation of the District's Smoke Management Program as well as for support of the District's activities associated with prescribed burning and smoke management pending Board resolution approving the final Agreements.