



# Mendocino County

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-0463, **Version:** 1

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Brown

**Meeting Date:** May 21, 2019

**Department Contact:** Barbara Moed

**Phone:** 463-4354

**Item Type:** Regular Agenda

**Time Allocated for Item:** 15 min

**Agenda Title:**

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Direction Given to the Air Pollution Control Officer to Work with Fire Agencies and Community Partners to Identify Barriers to Fire Fuel (Vegetation) Management and Develop a Plan to Streamline AQMD Processes that Support Vegetation Management, Including Investigation of the Feasibility of Implementing a Unified Application and Payment Model for Burn Permitting (Sponsor: Supervisor Brown)

**Recommended Action/Motion:**

Confirm direction given to the Air Pollution Control Officer; and provide clarification as may be necessary regarding the intended scope and leadership role of the AQMD in working with partners to streamline processes related to vegetation management through broadcast and pile burning.

**Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:**

On May 14, 2019, the Air Pollution Control Officer was directed to work with fire agencies and community partners to identify barriers to fire fuel (vegetation) management and develop a plan to streamline AQMD processes that support vegetation management efforts, including investigation of the feasibility of implementing a unified application and payment model for burn permitting. In addition to this formal direction, Supervisors expressed interest in the following:

1. AQMD staff pursuing the establishment of two areas in the County (inland and coastal) for determination of permissive burn days.
2. Clarity on the location of data collection stations used by the State for burn day determination.
3. AQMD process/threshold for determining a smoke-related public nuisance.
4. Clarification on the role of Legal Counsel for the AQMD

**Summary of Request:**

The effects of devastating and historic wildfires in recent years have had significant impact on Mendocino County. In addition to the loss of hundreds of homes, thousands of acres have been burned and air quality has been extremely poor for weeks at a time. New state legislation has been passed that establish a clear expectation and new funding for CAL FIRE to significantly increase efforts to manage vegetation, including prescribed burning as a way to reduce the impact of uncontrolled burning. Additionally, property owners are being encouraged to more actively manage vegetation which in many instances will result in the burning of brush piles. The Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is directly involved in related processes. As such, the Board of Supervisors, sitting as the Board of Directors for the AQMD, has a unique opportunity to direct

staff to work with community partners and determine if there are ways that the AQMD can streamline processes or more effectively support vegetation management efforts to reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfire along with the significant negative impacts to air quality.

**Alternative Action/Motion:**

Provide direction to staff

**Supervisorial District:** All

**vote requirement:** Majority

**Supplemental Information Available Online At:** [mendoair.org](http://mendoair.org)

**Fiscal Details:**

**source of funding:** N/A

**current f/y cost:** N/A

**annual recurring cost:** N/A

**budgeted in current f/y:** N/A

**if no, please describe:**

**revenue agreement:** N/A

**budget clarification:**

**Agreement/Resolution/Ordinance Approved by County Counsel:** N/A

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**CEO Liaison:** Executive Office

**CEO Review:** Choose an item.

**CEO Comments:**

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Executed By: Lindsey Dunham, Deputy Clerk I

Date: May 22, 2019

Final Status: **Direction Given to Staff**

