



# Mendocino County

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-0438, **Version:** 1

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisor Brown

**Meeting Date:** May 14, 2019

**Department Contact:** Barbara Moed  
**Department Contact:**

**Phone:** 463-4354  
**Phone:**

**Item Type:** Regular Agenda

**Time Allocated for Item:** 15 min

**Agenda Title:**

Discussion and Possible Action to Direct Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Staff to Identify Barriers to Fire Fuel (Vegetation) Management through Controlled Burning, and Develop a Plan to Streamline AQMD Processes that Support Vegetation Management Efforts  
(Sponsor: Supervisor Brown)

**Recommended Action/Motion:**

Direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to work with fire agency and community partners to identify barriers to fire fuel (vegetation) management and develop a plan to streamline AQMD processes that support vegetation management efforts.

**Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:**

None directly related to this request.

**Summary of Request:**

On April 30, 2019, the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors and fire agencies alerting them that effective May 1, AQMD would be expanding its permitting processes. On May 8, the AQMD sent a second letter rescinding the new permitting process pending further consultation with the Board.

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 which established 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:**

Take no action, or provide direction to staff.

**Supervisory District:** All

**vote requirement:** Majority

**Supplemental Information Available Online At:** N/A

**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:** Yes

**CEO Comments:**

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**Executed By:** Lindsey Dunham, Deputy Clerk I

**Date:** May 15, 2019

**Final Status:** **Direction Given to Staff**

