



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

TO: Board of Directors, Air Pollution Control District

FROM: Gary E. Willey, Air Pollution Control Officer *MSW*

DATE: May 22, 2019

SUBJECT: Request to Authorize Participation in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program

SUMMARY

Your Board is requested to authorize participation in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program supporting prescribed burning reporting and monitoring activities. In addition, your Board is requested to authorize the APCO to accept and administer current and any future funding for the CARB's Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION

That your Board authorize APCD participation in the CARB's Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program with the following actions:

1. Approve the attached in-perpetuity resolution for APCD to accept and administer current and any future funding for CARB's Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program;
2. Authorize the APCO to enter into all contracts and agreements necessary to implement the current and any future CARB Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Programs.

DISCUSSION

For decades, local air districts have operated smoke management programs which are intended to manage emissions from the use of fire, which includes the use of fire for residential burning, agricultural burning, and prescribed fire on the landscape. With the exception of residential and smaller Ag burning, this entails the submittal of smoke management plans by entities desiring to burn, which are reviewed by District staff, and requirements to obtain a District issued burn permit. While air monitoring may be required, such requirements are not typically included in a burn permit due to resource constraints.

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 which 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.
- SB 1260 which requires CAL FIRE and CARB, 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 CARB 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, CARB 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. CARB 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.

Your Board’s action today will allow the District to enter into a grant agreement with CARB that will support direct costs associated with operating the District’s Smoke Management Program and will allow the District to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CAPCOA to access reimbursement for eligible training, travel and air monitor deployment costs.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Staff will continue to work closely with CARB to comply with reporting and other requirements of the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program, as well as with CAPCOA to fulfill any requirements associated with the MOU to access reimbursement for eligible training, travel and air monitor deployment costs.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

CARB’s Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program is expected to provide up to \$25,000 in FY 19/20 funding to support Smoke Management Program efforts, public outreach efforts regarding prescribed fires, and enhance air quality and monitoring. We will propose a budget adjustment request for your Board’s approval when the grant award amount is finalized.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose not to participate in CARB’s Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant Program, in which case the APCD would still be required to administer the Smoke Management Program, provide public outreach regarding prescribed burning activities, and support monitoring efforts during prescribed burns.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

22 day May, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-2

**RESOLUTION OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
TO ACCEPT FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT'S SMOKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PRESCRIBED BURNING**

The following resolution is hereby offered and read:

WHEREAS, Local air districts operate smoke management programs which are intended to manage emissions from the use of fire, which includes the use of fire for residential burning, agricultural burning, and prescribed fire on the landscape; and

WHEREAS, In San Luis Obispo County, with the exception of residential and agricultural burning, prescribed burning entails the submittal of smoke management plans by entities desiring to burn, which are reviewed by District staff. While air monitoring, spot forecasting and agency/ burner coordination may be required, such requirements may not be included in the prescribed burn due to fire agency resource constraints; and

WHEREAS, SB 1260 requires the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), 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 shall include adequate funding, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for local district participation and implementation costs; and

WHEREAS, SB 856 appropriates \$2 million to CARB for local air districts to support the implementation of SB 901 and SB 1260 related to air monitoring of prescribed fires and public outreach; and

WHEREAS, CARB is proposing that approximately \$1 million of these funds 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; and that a portion of the remaining approximately \$1 million be made available to local air districts, on a reimbursement basis, through a contract with the California Air Pollution Control

Officers Association (CAPCOA), for costs associated with training, travel, and deployment of air monitors in support of the use of prescribed fire by land managers; and

WHEREAS, because of delays associated with CARB developing appropriate grant agreements with local air districts and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CAPCOA, District staff are not yet in a position to bring a proposed grant agreement or contract to the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors (District Board); and

WHEREAS, because the funding must be statutorily encumbered by CAPCOA this fiscal year, CARB is requiring the signing of the grant agreements prior to June 1, 2019; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors does hereby authorize the acceptance of funds from CARB and/or CAPCOA for implementation of the District's Smoke Management Program, as well as for support of District activities associated with prescribed burning and smoke management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Air Pollution Control Officer to negotiate, sign, and amend, as needed, future agreements and contracts related to these activities, and to accept related grant funding.

On motion of Director _____ seconded by Director _____ and passed and adopted on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstaining:

Chair, Air Pollution Control District Board
San Luis Obispo County

Attest:

Alyssa Roslan, Air Pollution Control District Board Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Effect:

Jeff Minnery, District Counsel

Date:_____