



Serving Sutter and Yuba Counties

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Complaint Response:
Results of Investigation into Odor Complaints Received October 6-12, 2016

The Feather River Air Quality Management District is a local bi-county government agency with regulatory authority over stationary and portable sources of air contaminants and tasked with promoting and improving the air quality of Sutter and Yuba counties. The District received 143 complaints about an odor between October 6, 2016 and October 12, 2016. The odor was noted from Live Oak to Plumas Lake and from Marysville to Sutter. The District investigated the complaints, and along with assistance from other state and local agencies, determined the source to be from the application of chicken manure fertilizer to organic orchards. This is reported to be a standard farming practice that has been done for many years, but for reasons remaining under investigation caused significant odors this year.

While many aspects of agricultural operations such as diesel engines and post-harvest processing are subject to District regulatory authority, the California Health and Safety Code section 41705 specifically exempts odors from agricultural operations from the nuisance provisions. The District is working with the landowners and other local agencies to minimize future impacts to local residents; however these efforts are voluntary on the part of the landowners.

The District would like to thank all those who called and emailed to assist us in the investigation. We will not be responding to every call and email, please contact the District if you would like to speak with someone regarding your complaint.

In the future, if you are impacted by odors, smoke, dust, or other air contaminants, please contact the District either by phone: (530) 634-7659 or email: fracmd@fracmd.org. Please provide your name, address of impact, contact information, date and time of the impact and any other information that may assist the District with the investigation. There is additional information on the District and local air quality issues available online at www.fraqmd.org.

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