

FEATHER RIVER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM
04/08/2019

TO: FRAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: Christopher D. Brown, AICP, APCO
SUBJECT: Update on Camp Fire Clean-up Truck Traffic

RECOMMENDATION: Informational item – no recommendations

BACKGROUND:

The Camp Fire began on November 8th, 2018 and continued until November 25th, 2018. The Fire caused at least 86 deaths and caused an estimated \$16.5 Billion in damages in Butte County.

The cleanup is estimated to be the largest cleanup in California since the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.

The Cleanup is estimated to take 18 months and will involve hauling large amounts of debris to landfills throughout the North State, including the Ostrom Road Landfill just south of Beale Air Force Base. Up to 5,000 truck trips per day are expected during the summer of 2019, during which time Marysville is expected to be significantly impacted with traffic.

Because the cleanup is part of a declared emergency the Governor has waived compliance with Air Resources Board truck regulations for the duration of the cleanup. This means the truck fleet may have significantly higher emissions than a normal truck fleet.

Currently the Yuba City/Marysville planning area is just below (0.068PPM) the allowable level for the 8-hour federal ozone (0.070PPM). It is foreseeable that this volume of truck traffic will result in an ozone exceedance for the area. Diesel engines generate large amounts of NOx which directly contributes to ground level ozone.

In addition to the ozone impact, diesel exhaust contains a large number of cancer-causing compounds such as arsenic, nickel, benzene and formaldehyde. These compounds are often released as ultrafine particles which are inhaled and become lodged in the lungs.

Exposure to diesel exhaust also causes increased symptoms in those who have asthma or other cardiovascular diseases.

In addition, the District did receive a request for a Variance from Recology to increase their throughput at the Ostrom Road facility so the waste could be accepted. This was approved after a two-hour hearing on March 18th.

DISCUSSION:

Since learning of the planned truck route through Marysville the District has undertaken the following actions –

- 1.) Coordinated our efforts with the Butte County AQMD.
- 2.) Attended CalOES briefing on traffic plan.
- 3.) Spoke with representatives of CalOES, OEHHA, CDPH, US EPA, CALEPA, ARB and CARPA in an effort to gather more information.
- 4.) Requested assistance from CDPH, US EPA and ARB, which was initially denied.
- 5.) Briefed ARB Board member and Sacramento Supervisor Phil Serna on the issue.
- 6.) Attended ARB Board meeting on March 21st at which time assistance was offered.

The District will be meeting with ARB staff on April 18th to discuss the monitoring and modeling plans. Representatives from other impacted Air Districts are also planning to attend.