

FEATHER RIVER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM
02/23/2026

TO: FRAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Christopher D. Brown, AICP, APCO

SUBJECT: Approve Resolution #2026-01 authorizing acceptance of a grant up to \$100,000 from the California Air Resources Board and participation in the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emissions Reductions (FARMER) Program Fiscal Year 2024-25 and authorize the APCO to execute related documents.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution #2026-01 authorizing acceptance of a grant up to \$100,000 and participation in the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emissions Reductions (FARMER) Program Fiscal Year 2024-25 and authorize the APCO to execute related documents.

ALTERNATIVES:

Not approve the Resolution and release funding to other air districts.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2017, Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill (AB) 134 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 254, Statutes of 2017) and AB 109 (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2017). Together, these two bills appropriated \$135 million from the State Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/18 to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the reduction of criteria, toxic, and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector.

CARB proposed the FARMER Program to implement funding allocated by AB 134 and AB 109. CARB adopted the FARMER Program Guidelines at the March 22, 2018, Board Meeting. Table 1 displays the funding years and amounts previously awarded.

Table 1: Past FARMER Grant Funding Totals

Funding Year	Grant Agreement	Funding Amount
Year 1	G17-AGIP-06	\$2,257,800.00
Year 2	G18-AGIP-14	\$2,055,572.00
Year 3	G19-AGIP-11-1	\$916,556.00
Year 4	G21-AGIP-04	\$2,436,800.00
Year 5	G22-AGIP-04	\$1,718,800.00
Year 6	G23-AGIP-04	\$859,400.00

During the first two funding years of the FARMER Grant Program, the District Board approved transferring FARMER Grant funding to Sacramento Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) in order to implement an on-road heavy duty agricultural truck grant program for Yuba and Sutter County Residents. In the FARMER funding years that followed, the District did not fund the on-road heavy duty agricultural truck program for Yuba and Sutter County residents due to a decline in funding, eligibility, and level of interest.

DISCUSSION:

The January 16, 2026, solicitation memo from CARB proposes \$23,100 for the District to participate in the program. Resolution #2026-01 authorizes acceptance of up to \$100,000 if additional funds are available.

The FARMER Program funds are used to reduce agricultural sector emissions by providing grants, rebates, and other financial incentives for agricultural harvesting equipment, heavy-duty trucks, agricultural pump engines, tractors, and other diesel equipment used in agricultural operations.

The 2024 FARMER guidelines define agricultural operations as:

“Agricultural operations” means (1) the growing or harvesting of crops from soil (including forest operations) and the raising of plants at wholesale nurseries, but not retail nurseries), or the raising of fowl or animals for the primary purpose of making a profit, providing a livelihood,

or conducting agricultural research or instruction by an educational institution, or (2) agricultural crop preparation services such as packinghouses, cotton gins, nut hullers and processors, dehydrators, and feed and grain mills. Agricultural crop preparation services include only the first processing after harvest, not subsequent processing, canning, or other similar activities. For forest operations, agricultural crop preparation services include milling, peeling, producing particleboard and medium density fiberboard, and producing woody landscape materials.

The Guidelines adopted by CARB for the FARMER Program include project types that have been successfully implemented in other incentive programs, such as the Carl Moyer Program. Project types include, but are not limited to:

- On-road heavy-duty truck replacement and repower projects
- Off-road equipment replacement and repower projects for:
 - Off-road mobile, diesel agricultural equipment
 - Off-road mobile, large spark-ignition (LSI) equipment
 - Agricultural irrigation pump engines

Statewide, the FARMER Program seeks to expend at least 50% of the funding to projects within and benefiting Disadvantaged Communities and 5% of the funding to projects within and benefiting low-income communities, as outlined in AB 1550 and SB 535. The vast majority of potential FARMER projects benefitting AB 1550 or SB 535 areas and include the Sutter Basin from Meridian to Robbins and the north-east corner of Live Oak and area extending to the borders with Butte and Yuba counties. To a lesser extent, other areas benefitting AB 1550 or SB 535 communities with potential FARMER include portions of Yuba City, Marysville, Linda and Olivehurst, Beale Air Force Base, and the north-east corner of Yuba County which includes Brownsville and Camptonville.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The adoption of Resolution #2026-01 would accept funding up to \$100,000 to implement the FARMER Program in Yuba and Sutter counties. Up to 15% of the funding may be used toward program administration. The District budgeted \$300,000 for this program in FY25/26.

ATTACHMENTS:

A - Resolution #2026-01

ATTACHMENT
Resolution #2026-01

**RESOLUTION #2026-01 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING
PARTICIPATION IN THE FUNDING AGRICULTURAL REPLACEMENT MEASURES
FOR EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS (FARMER) PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the State of California adopted Senate Bill (SB) 154 (Chapter 43, Budget Act of 2024); and

WHEREAS, SB 154 appropriated \$2 million from the Air Pollution Control Fund to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the reduction of criteria, toxic, and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS, the CARB has adopted the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emissions Reductions (FARMER) Program to achieve emission reductions from the agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS, the CARB has tentatively allocated \$23,100 to the District to implement the FARMER Program in the district; and

WHEREAS, the FARMER Program may fund FARMER Program-eligible agricultural projects, zero-emission agricultural utility terrain vehicles, and additional project categories as approved by the CARB Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, the District has a historically oversubscribed Carl Moyer Program which includes the replacement of off-road agricultural engines and equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Feather River Air Quality Management District authorizes participation in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 FARMER Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) is authorized to accept a grant disbursement from CARB for the FARMER Program up to \$100,000 in project and administration funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the APCO is further authorized to enter into an agreement with the CARB for implementing the District FARMER Program by soliciting projects for funding, performing required inspections, entering into contracts with participants, awarding grants, recording, and reporting in accordance with the FARMER Program Guidelines provided by CARB.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Feather River Air Quality Management District on February 23, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Chairman

ATTEST:

APPROVED FOR LEGAL FORM:
