



Serving Sutter and Yuba Counties

541 Washington Avenue
Yuba City, CA 95991
(530) 634-7659
FAX (530) 634-7660
www.fraqmd.org

Christopher D. Brown, AICP
Air Pollution Control Officer

February 10th, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2020-2021 State Budget & Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan – Air Quality and Public Health Concerns

Dear Governor Newsom, President Pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) Board, representing Sutter and Yuba Counties, I am writing to respectfully share our significant concerns with the introduced state budget in regard to air quality and public health.

As you know, the local air districts like FRAQMD play a pivotal role in ensuring the state's air quality goals are met. These goals include attaining the health-protective national and state ambient air quality standards, reducing air toxics, working closely with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to implement the state's climate change programs, and ensuring community health is protected from the effects of air pollution.

Agricultural Diesel Replacement and Upgrades Funding Reduced

Insert Auto Text: Filename

FRAQMD is most concerned about the proposed reductions in Cap and Trade funding for the Agricultural Replacement Measure for Emissions Reductions Program (FARMER) from \$65 million in the 2019-2020 budget to \$50 million in this year's budget. On top of a reduction from \$132 million in the 2018-2019 Budget. FARMER provides funding through local air districts to reduce emissions from all types of agricultural equipment including heavy-duty trucks, agricultural pump engines, tractors and other equipment used in agricultural and forestry operations. Incentives for purchasing the cleanest available vehicles and equipment are crucial to achieving emission reductions of criteria air pollutants, toxic air contaminants and greenhouse gases from the agricultural and forestry sectors. Therefore, we respectfully request that you increase funding to \$175 million, which would enable districts to expeditiously and significantly reduce harmful air pollutant emissions from the agricultural sector, especially in the Sacramento Valley.

Without continued funding for the FARMER and other incentive programs, FRAQMD simply cannot meet our health-based air quality goals.

AB 617 Community Air Protection Program Local Implementation Funding Cut in Half

FRAQMD is also concerned that the budget cuts critical local implementation funding for the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program in half. The enacted 2019 – 2020 budget included \$50 million (\$20 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and \$30 million from the Air Pollution Control Fund (APCF)) for implementation activities. The 2020 – 2021 budget only proposes \$25 million from GGRF and no funding from APCF. This massive cut will have negative public health consequences for people living in the disadvantaged communities in the FRAQMD. Local Air Districts have been working diligently with communities to implement this worthy community-focused program that will improve the lives of people that for too long have lived in communities with severe air pollution, but in order to do that successfully, it takes intensive resources.

This 50% cut will dramatically slow the work being done by communities and air districts to clean up air pollution in communities. The scope and effectiveness of our efforts will suffer and FRAQMD will not be able to provide staff resources to perform functions that are critical to the success of the AB 617 program.

CAPCOA has stated that an appropriation of \$100 million per year is the appropriate funding level necessary to ensure the program's success. We respectfully request that you fully commit to this important program by increasing ongoing local implementation funding, and that future budgets recognize the need to provide increased, appropriate and importantly, sustained levels

of local implementation funding when in-need communities are added to the program. If communities and air districts are to be successful, state funding must be adequate and ongoing.

AB 617 Community Air Protection Program Clean Air Project Funding Reduced

Adding to our concerns, the proposed state budget reduces Cap and Trade funding for Community Air Protection Program clean air projects from \$245 million in the 2019-2020 enacted state budget to \$200 million. These emissions reductions projects will expediently cut both stationary and mobile source emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in disadvantaged communities, resulting in improved public health. Again, incentive funding will result in improved air quality in communities in FRAQMD that have, for a long time, been overburdened by pollution from diesel trucks, equipment and trains. This funding will help protect vulnerable people from toxic air pollutants and is of paramount importance. We respectfully request that you increase funding to \$350 million, which more accurately reflects both current program needs.

Other Vehicle Incentive Programs Reduced

Criteria pollutant and toxic air contaminant emissions from the mobile source sector make up approximately two-thirds of air emissions in the state. FRAQMD notes that in addition to reduced funding for the FARMER program, the following programs have been significantly reduced from funding levels in the 2019-2020 enacted budget:

- Clean Vehicle Rebate Program – Reduced to \$125M from \$238M
- Clean Trucks, Buses and Off-Road Freight Equipment – Reduced to \$150M from \$182M

In order to make any significant progress towards our climate and air quality goals, funding in these areas must at the very least be maintained at current levels, and significantly expanded into the future.

CAPCOA is committed to reducing air pollution in California and ensuring that every one of the state's 40 million residents can breathe clean, healthful air. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share our concerns. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Brown AICP at (530) 634-7659 x203.

Sincerely,

Jay Pendergraph
Chairman, Feather River Air Quality Management District

cc: The Honorable Jim Nielsen Vice Chair Standing Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
The Honorable Assemblyman James Gallagher Assembly District Three
The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Committee on the Budget
The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 2 on Resources,
Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 on Resources
and Transportation
Members of Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
Members of Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Christine Hironaka, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Rachel Machi Wagoner, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance
Kate Gordon, Director, Office of Planning and Research and Climate Advisor to
Governor Newsom
Mary Nichols, Chair, California Air Resources