

FEATHER RIVER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM
06/06/2022

TO: FRAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Christopher D. Brown, AICP, APCO

SUBJECT: Approve Resolution #2022-11 to accept funding of \$27,500 for the ARB/CAPCOA Prescribed Fire Grant Program and authorize the Chairman and APCO to execute related documents.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution #2022-11 to accept funding from the State of California and/or the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and authorize the Chairman and APCO to execute related documents.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not Approve Resolution #2022-11 and do not participate in the program.

BACKGROUND:

Everyone in California is aware of the danger of wildfires in the state as well as the health and safety impacts of fires on California residents. The legislature responded to this fire danger by passing several bills in 2018, following the devastating Camp Fire. Among them, SB1260 and SB901, were intended to remove barriers to prescribed burning and forest management and provide funding for a significant increase in these activities over the coming years. The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and district legislative staffs worked to ensure part of this funding went to air districts, since an increase in prescribed burning will logically require more burn permits, smoke management plans and coordination at the district level with federal, state, and local teams that will manage these burns.

After extensive discussion ARB provided funding to air districts supporting the need for increased monitoring and public outreach, half of the funding went to the 32 districts that ARB can directly fund to support staffing for the increases in burn permits and smoke management plans. A portion of the remaining funds was held at the state level and went toward reimbursable training costs for districts and reimbursable funding for district staffing costs of monitoring prescribed burns. ARB retains some funds for storing and maintaining monitoring equipment across the state in selected districts.

The district participated in this program for the fiscal years of 2018-2019 through 2021-2022. The current grant agreement was amended for two cycles during the COVID years rather than entering into a new agreement. This agreement expires on June 30, 2022.

DISCUSSION:

The resolution will authorize participation in the Year 3 Prescribed Fire Grant Program and authorize the District to accept funding of \$27,500.

The grant monies would support district staff in tracking, reviewing, allocating, recording, logging, and reporting prescribed burning in the current Open Burning Program. In general, the air district is currently conducting most activities proposed and would be adding the following tasks, though the final agreement and task details has not been issued yet.

1. Keep track of prescribed fires in the district and report this data quarterly. Use the ARB online tool called Prescribed Fire Information Reporting system (PFIRS) for recording data on burns where feasible.
2. Work with ARB to place air monitors at 60+ prescribed burns across the state over the next year.
3. Work with state agencies on messaging to the public about why more prescribed burning is needed, informing the public where burns are occurring, and providing increased access to air quality information.
4. Access training funding where needed to train district staff.
5. Access funding to support prescribed fire air monitoring.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Prescribed Fire Grant Program would add reporting and coordination efforts to district staff and provide \$27,500 in FY 22/23 to pay for these services.

ATTACHMENTS:

A – Resolution #2022-11

Attachment A – Resolution #2022-11

RESOLUTION #2022-11 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESCRIBED FIRE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State of California adopted Senate Bill (SB) 1260 (Jackson, 2018) and SB 901 (Dodd, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the SB 1260 directed the Air Resources Board, in coordination with the air quality management districts, to develop a program to enhance air quality and smoke monitoring, and to provide a public awareness campaign regarding prescribed burns; and

WHEREAS, the SB 910 allocated funding that will be made available to air districts to develop and implement such a program; and

WHEREAS, the Feather River Air Quality Management District issues prescribed burning permits for the disposal of vegetative waste from forest clearing operations, as well as provides public outreach and information on prescribed burns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Feather River Air Quality Management District affirms its interest in participating in the Prescribed Fire Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Air Pollution Control Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to accept funding up to \$27,500 and execute on behalf of the District a grant agreement with the ARB and/or CAPCOA, and all other necessary documents to implement and carry out the purposes of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Feather River Air Quality Management District at a regular meeting on June 6, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:
CLERK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD

Chairman

APPROVED FOR LEGAL FORM