

FEATHER RIVER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM
02/23/26

TO: FRAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Christopher D. Brown AICP, APCO

SUBJECT: Declare the MetOne EBAM (Emergency Beta Attenuation Monitor) and associated components surplus and authorize the APCO to transfer the EBAM and associated components to North Coast Unified AQMD.

RECOMMENDATION:

Declare the MetOne EBAM (Emergency Beta Attenuation Monitor) and associated components surplus and authorize the APCO to transfer the EBAM and associated components to North Coast Unified AQMD.

ALTERNATIVE:

Take no action.

BACKGROUND:

The District purchased this equipment in 2012 when the local air monitoring network was much more limited. Today the local air monitoring network is better able to provide information in emergencies.

The EBAM is a portable air monitor designed especially for addressing wildfire smoke. The unit is portable, has a satellite modem and various wind sensors. While useful at times the EBAM is limited because it is subject to theft and vandalism if left out in the open, so it needs to be deployed in a fenced in area with access to line power. This limits its effectiveness, especially when PG&E implements power shutoffs.

On going maintenance costs include calibrations, battery replacements, replacement tapes (not cheap) and a \$600 annual cost for airtime. These costs are incurred even if the equipment is not used. In addition, due to the beta source used in the unit there are expensive costs for disposal.

The District has reached out to the other California Air Districts and North Coast Unified AQMD (Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte Counties) has several EBAMs in use and is looking for a spare unit. Since our unit was built to state specifications it is an exact match for their equipment.

EQUIPMENT LIST:

Met ONE EBAM configured for PM 2.5 sampling

Met ONE Temperature, Humidity, Wind Speed and Wind Direction sensors

Met ONE EBAM Tripod, cables, Data Modem, Batteries and various power supplies

Two Pelican Cases storage for the equipment

Delta-Cal tester for conducting flow checks on the EBAM

Various other small items related to the operation and storage of the equipment

FISCAL IMPACT:

Transferring the EBAM to North Coast Unified AQMD will save FRAQMD annual maintenance costs of ~\$1,000 per year.