

Yuba - Sutter Air Matters



Volume 3; Issue 2 Second Quarter 2018

Local Agency Workshops April 24, 25

The FRAQMD is hosting Local Agency Workshops on Tuesday April 24 and Wednesday April 25. Local City and County Building, Planning, and other interested staff are invited to attend.

The FRAQMD staff will cover air district rules and regulations, permitting, fees, and new legislation like AB 617

about Community Air Protection Programs. The Workshop will begin at 10am and last no more than 2 hours.

To sign up for the Workshop, email sspaethe@fraqmd.org or call 530-634-7659. There is no charge to attend.

Woodsmoke Reduction Pilot Program

The Woodsmoke Reduction Pilot Program is an upcoming incentive program funded by California Climate Investments and administered by local air districts. This program provides vouchers to replace non-EPA certified wood-burning stoves and fireplace inserts with either an EPA certified woodstove or insert, a natural gas or propane stove, or an electric heating device.

For certain communities designed by the state and for low-income households, the vouchers may cover the entire cost of the replacement (up to \$3,500). A standard voucher of \$1,000 is available to all households regardless of location or income in Yuba and Sutter counties to use to reduce the replacement cost.

Home owners and tenant occupied residential homes in Yuba and Sutter counties are eligible. Tenant applicants must obtain owner approval prior to receiving a voucher.

The Program will begin in May 2018. Applications will be available when the program begins. To apply, fill out an Application and take a photo of your old device. Send the completed Application and photo to the air district by mail, email, or drop off at the office Feather River Air Quality Management District, 541 Washington Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991, email: fraqmd@fraqmd.org.

Once the program begins, vouchers will be issued first come, first served, and expire 4 weeks from the date they are issued. Within the 4 weeks, the appli-

cant must shop around from the list of participating retailers, select a replacement device, and give the voucher to the retailer. Installation is not required to be completed within 4 weeks. Vouchers are only good at participating retailers and for installations done by licensed contractors; do-it-yourself installations are NOT allowed under this program.

Retailer trainings will be held on May 1st at FRAQMD in Yuba City, May 2nd in Chico, and May 3rd in Redding and Grass Valley. Visit <https://www.fraqmd.org/woodstove-and-fireplace-grants> or call (530) 634-7659 for more information. Additional details will be added to the website as they become available.

May Is Bike Month!

May is Bike Month is a campaign that takes place in the six-county Sacramento Region each year. The focus of the campaign is to promote bicycle use as a mode of transportation whether for running errands, commuting, or recreation. Participants sign up at the website <http://www.mayisbikemonth.com/> and log their miles. The Yuba-Sutter area May Is Bike Month events are listed on the website.



Mini Grants are available to host an Energizer Station in Yuba or Sutter counties. Mini Grants are available first come/first served until May 31. An application must be received and approved prior to holding the event.

2018 FRAQMD Board

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James Whiteaker, Sutter County

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The FRAQMD Board typically meets at 4pm on the first Monday of the even months

2nd Quarter Dates of Interest:

- April 24: Local Agency Training
- April 25: Local Agency Training
- May 1: Ozone Season begins
- May 1: Retailer Training Woodsmoke Reduction Pilot Program—Yuba City
- May 1-31: May Is Bike Month
- May 28: Memorial Day—FRAQMD Closed
- June 4: FRAQMD Board Meeting

Feather River Air Quality Management District

Christopher D. Brown, AICP
Air Pollution Control Officer

541 Washington Avenue
Yuba City, CA 95991

Phone: 530-634-7659
Fax: 530-634-7660
Webpage: www.fraqmd.org

Residential Burn Line: 530-741-6299

April 2nd Board Meeting

At this Board Meeting the Board considered accepting funds for several grant programs:

- ◆ Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emissions Reductions (FARMER Program)
- ◆ Carl Moyer Rural Assistance Program Year 19/20
- ◆ Carl Moyer Year 20 State Reserve Program

June 4th Board Meeting

At the June 4th Meeting, the Board will consider the proposed budget.

If you have questions about the FRAQMD Board of Directors please contact Shelley Channel at (530) 634-7659 ext 211.

Mini Grants Available

The Mini Grant Program is now accepting applications for small projects (\$2,000 and less) such as public bike racks, May Is Bike Month energizer stations, public EV chargers and public education. Mini Grants are awarded on a first come/first served basis.

The deadline to apply for a Mini Grant is May 31, 2018.

For more information on FRAQMD grant programs or to be added to a mailing list for a specific grant program, please contact Sondra Spaethe at sspaethe@fracmd.org or (530) 634-7659 ext 210.

Ozone Season Starts May 1st

“Ozone Season” occurs May 1st through October 31st, and signifies the time of year when ozone levels can exceed the health based standards. Air pollution can harm everyone, and ozone is especially harmful to those with respiratory and heart illness, older adults, young children and people who are active outdoors.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowered the ozone standard in 2015 to 70 parts per billion (ppb). The Yuba City-Marysville area, all of Yuba County, and most of Sutter County are meeting the new standard. A design value is the 3-year average of the 4th highest 8-hour average ozone levels. The Yuba City monitor had a design value of 65 ppb in 2016.

The Sutter Buttes Monitoring Station is a special purpose station and has its own “nonattainment area” which is located around the South Butte above 2,000 feet elevation. South Sutter County is part of the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area and is not meeting the 2015 Ozone Standard.

Here are some ways to reduce ozone emissions:

- * Don't top off your gas tank
- * Avoid refueling when it's hot outside
- * Plan your trips so you reduce the times you start and stop your vehicle
- * Ride a bike, walk or take transit instead of driving
- * Turn up the thermostat on your air conditioner
- * Pack a lunch to eat rather than driving to buy lunch
- * Keep your vehicle well maintained and your tires properly inflated
- * Use low VOC paints and thinners

Residents can check current air quality levels and sign up to receive daily air quality forecasts at www.airnow.gov. The AIRNow service is directly linked to the monitor in Yuba City and current conditions. For more information visit <http://www.fraqmd.org>.

Community Air Protection Program (AB 617)

The State of California adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) with the intent to identify and reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. The bill mandated several things including: community air monitoring; community emissions reduction programs; funding to support cleaner technologies in these communities; and grants to support community participation in the AB 617 process. AB 617 also includes new requirements for accelerated retrofit of pollution controls on industrial sources, increased penalty fees, and greater transparency and availability of air quality and emissions data, which will help advance air pollution control efforts throughout the State.

The District adopted changes to its Mutual Settlement Policy in December 2017 in response to AB 617. On April 2, 2018, the District Board of Directors adopted by resolution the grant award with CARB to implement the AB 617 program. In April, the District will provide information on AB 617 to Local Agency staff. And later this year, the District will hold community meetings in SB 535 communities in Yuba and Sutter counties.

The District is undergoing a technical review of communities and emissions within Yuba and Sutter counties. If a community is identified as one of the most impacted statewide, the District will be recommending it to CARB by April 30, 2018. CARB will be adopting the first year communities by October 1, 2018, as well as sites for community monitors.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fraqmd.org/community-air-protection-program>.