

FEATHER RIVER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM
4/06/2020

TO: FRAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Christopher D. Brown AICP, APCO

SUBJECT: Approve the Personnel Committee recommendation to add the position of Air Quality Planner I.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Personnel Committee recommendation to add the position of air Quality Planner I.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do approve the addition of Air Quality Planner I position.

BACKGROUND:

A Personnel Committee meeting was held on March 05, 2020 and recommendation was made to approve the position of Air Quality Planner effective July 1, 2020.

The District Planning Department administers the District's grant programs in addition to preparing attainment plans, California Environmental Quality Act reviews, compliance and oversight of the AB 2588 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program, and public outreach. The Planning Department workload has been managed by one staff position since 2009.

While much of the Planning Department workload has stayed relatively stable since 2009, the grant program workload has significantly increased. The California Climate Investments programs have increased funding to the District for cleaner equipment and vehicles used in agricultural operations and in the disadvantage communities in Marysville, Linda, Olivehurst, and Yuba City. The FARMER and Community Air Protection Program have added \$280,469.00 in administrative funding to implement the programs in the District since FY 18/19. In addition, smaller grant programs such as the Community Air Protection Implementation Funds, AB 197 Emission Inventory Grant, Woodsmoke Reduction Program, and Carl Moyer State Reserve and Rural Assistance Programs have been awarded to the District over the past few fiscal years. For detailed funding amounts please see the attached table.

The additional grant programs have been awarded to the District based on successful implementation of previous programs and our ability to quickly achieve the emission reductions and/or desired outcomes from the State of California. These additional grant programs not only result in emission reductions for the residents of Yuba and Sutter counties, they provide funding to local dealers to sell the cleaner equipment, less cost to the regulated sources from the preparation of their emission inventory, and more outreach opportunities to the communities impacted by air pollution.

The workload from the additional grant programs is reaching an unmanageable level for the single staff position in the Planning Department. The recommendation from staff to add a second position primarily administering grant programs would ensure the continued high level of success in the District's grant programs and our ability to continue to apply for and receive grant funding from the State of California and other entities as available.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The maximum salary cost for addition of the Air Quality Planner I position would be \$60,804 annually. Benefits based on the higher tiered benefits would cost \$33,085 annually, totaling \$93,888. Upon approval, the Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget will include this position beginning July 1, 2020.