



Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

AGENDA ITEM #F.1

DATE: January 19, 2022

TO: Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED SAN DIEGO COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN

REQUESTED ACTION:

1. Approval of the proposed San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Incident Response Plan
2. Authorize the Air Pollution Control Officer or their designee to update/revise the Incident Response Plan, as necessary

OVERVIEW:

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) primary role in response to major releases of air contaminants that may cause adverse health consequences to the public is to monitor the region's air quality, determine if the air quality is meeting Federal and State Standards, identify locales of greatest risk to the public, and share information with relevant agencies and the public. APCD staff have developed a proposed Incident Response Plan (IRP) which outlines APCD's potential responses to those incidents requiring a multi-agency response. The proposed IRP identifies that APCD is not a first responder agency or emergency response coordination body but will work within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Incident Command System (ICS) to minimize public exposure to air contaminants using APCD's areas of expertise. This expertise includes ambient air sample collection, ambient air monitoring, laboratory analysis, odor inspection, investigation, enforcement, and public outreach/information. The proposed IRP also outlines the general framework of the ICS, the various agencies involved in responding to incidents and their roles, as well as how APCD fits into the Unified Command with the various responding agencies' resources and the actions APCD can take. This proposed IRP also generalizes the levels of response, depending on the severity of the incident's impact on the surrounding community. Lastly, the plan discusses communication pathways to and from APCD as well as steps the public can take for better incident preparation and information.

When adopted by the Board, the District IRP will support the implementation of Action A1 of the Portside Community Emissions Reduction Plan, the goal of which is to have APCD contribute in an advisory or support capacity to emergency response agencies utilizing the APCD's resources and expertise for air sample collection, air monitoring, laboratory analysis, inspection, investigation,

enforcement, identifying air emissions, health effects, media coordination and general public messaging during an incident impacting air quality.

The proposed IRP was developed with input from the public, agencies including the County's Office of Emergency Services, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9, and this Governing Board. The proposed IRP also incorporates recommendations from CARB as outlined in its draft After-Action Review of San Diego County's Air Monitoring Response to the July 2020 USS Bonhomme Richard Fire. Additionally, the development of this proposed IRP was informed by best practices from other air districts in the State as well as by the ICS, which is used nationwide to manage incidents regardless of size or type.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Replacing existing incident response monitoring equipment is estimated to result in costs of approximately \$75,000. Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adopted Budget. There will be no change in net Operational Fund cost and no additional staff years.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:

Pursuant to Section 15060(c)(2) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, CEQA applies only to government actions that will result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The approval of the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Incident Response Plan is not a project subject to CEQA; CEQA does not apply to this action.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

November 4, 2021 (Item #3), Update of the Development of the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Incident Response Plan

RECOMMENDED BY:

Domingo Vigil, APCD Deputy Director

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