

**Air Pollution Control District Governing Board**  
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District  
**AGENDA ITEM # 03**

**DATE:** November 4, 2021

**TO:** Air Pollution Control District Governing Board

**SUBJECT:**

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

1. Receive an update on development of a draft proposed San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Incident Response Plan.
  
2. Direct staff to return to the Board in January 2022 with a proposed final plan addressing the Board's and the public's input.

**OVERVIEW:**

Staff have developed a draft proposed San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Incident Response Plan (IRP). The draft plan outlines APCD's potential responses to major releases of air contaminants that may cause adverse health consequences to the public and result in a multi-agency response. This draft IRP identifies that APCD is not a first responder agency or emergency response coordination body but will work within the Incident Command System (ICS) to minimize public exposure to air contaminants using APCD's area of expertise. This expertise includes ambient air sample collection, ambient air monitoring, laboratory analysis, odor inspection, investigation, enforcement, and public information. The draft IRP also outlines the general framework of the ICS, the various agencies involved in responding to incidents and their roles, as well as outlining how APCD fits into the Unified Command with the various responding agencies' resources and the actions APCD can take. This draft IRP also generalizes the levels of response, depending on the severity of the incident's impact on the surrounding community. Lastly, the draft 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 your board, a 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 draft IRP was developed with input from the public and agencies including the County's Office of Emergency Services and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The draft IRP also incorporates recommendations from CARB as outlined in its After-Action Review of San Diego County's Air Monitoring Response to the July 2020 USS Bonhomme Richard Fire. Additionally, the development of this draft IRP was informed by best practices from other air

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districts in the State as well as by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Incident Command System, which is used nationwide to manage incidents regardless of size or type.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT:**

N/A

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

N/A

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH:**

A draft of the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Incident Response Plan was available for public comment from September 30 to October 28, 2021. The document was made available in English and Spanish on APCD’s website and it was advertised via social media and email listservs. APCD held a public workshop on October 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. where staff presented a summary of the plan, answered questions, and received input on the IRP.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Attachment A - [Draft San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Incident Response Plan](#)

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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