



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Final AB 661 Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan Approved *Plan Provides Best Practices and Tools for Wildfire Response Across Sectors*

Sacramento, Calif. – After two years of focused work by Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) staff and numerous partners and stakeholders, the Sac Metro Air District’s Board of Directors approved and publicly released the agency’s *Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan* (Emergency Plan) on Thursday, September 22, 2022.

Following the passage of AB 661 (McCarty, 2019), the Emergency Plan was developed by the Sac Metro Air District in close coordination with various city and county government partners, school districts, and local businesses. The Emergency Plan provides key health protective guidance for wildfire smoke events and serves as an important information source for Sacramento’s school districts, local agencies, businesses, and the public. The Emergency Plan, and the process used to develop it, will help inform future efforts throughout the state.

Led by the Sac Metro Air District, the development of the Emergency Plan also involved Sacramento County Public Health, Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services, Sacramento County Office of Education, and other school and city personnel from the City of Citrus Heights, City of Elk Grove, City of Folsom, City of Galt, City of Isleton, City of Rancho Cordova, and the City of Sacramento and their respective emergency services personnel within Sacramento County.

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye, Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem and Sac Metro Air District Chair Eric Guerra, and Sac Metro Air District Stationary Sources Division Manager Amy Roberts shared remarks about the Emergency Plan’s approval.

“The Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan, based on our legislation, will help us combat the public health impact of climate change and wildfires. With new resources, this plan will improve the coordination and integration of wildfire smoke responses throughout Sacramento County and provide the public with tools they can use to protect their health. I commend the Sac Metro Air District for their work and partnership in creating this plan with Sacramento County Public Health and many other partners and stakeholders.” – Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, author of AB 661.

“Sacramento County Public Health is pleased to have played an integral role in developing the health guidance in the Sac Metro Air District’s *Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan*. Air pollution from wildfire smoke is a serious threat to public health and has significant impact on individual health. Wildfire smoke is especially dangerous for those with heart and lung conditions, children, the elderly, and our unhoused population. This Emergency Plan lays out practical steps that schools, businesses, public agencies, and community members can take to protect themselves and their constituents. Thank you to the Sac Metro Air District for leading this important public health initiative.” - Sacramento Public Health Officer, Dr. Olivia Kasirye

“As Chair of the Sac Metro Air District, I want to thank our staff and partners for pressing forward and developing this Wildfire Smoke Emergency Plan despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic and a lack of initial funding to do this critical work. The tools and recommendations developed by the Sac Metro Air District and its partners go a long way toward ensuring our schools, businesses, and communities can protect themselves during wildfire smoke events. While this plan is the culmination of two years of a coordinated effort, it is only the beginning of better communication, increased coordination and more support for our communities and their most vulnerable residents.” – Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem and Sac Metro Air District Chair, Eric Guerra.

“The Sac Metro Air District is extremely proud to have spearheaded this effort to protect public health during wildfire smoke events. With support and input from our local partners, the District has developed a suite of best practices and tools that will help our region prepare and quickly respond to wildfire smoke events. With large and destructive wildfires becoming a common occurrence in California, we know that it is not a matter of ‘if’ but ‘when’ the next fire will strike. With this Emergency Plan, and the processes we have created, our community will be better equipped when it does.” – Sac Metro Air District Stationary Sources Division Manager, Amy Roberts

The Sac Metro Air District’s *Wildfire Smoke Air Pollution Emergency Plan* has been posted on District’s website at www.airquality.org/WildfireSmoke.

About Sac Metro Air District

The Sac Metro Air District is the leading regional agency responsible for monitoring air quality, reducing air and climate pollution, enforcing air quality regulations, and promoting decarbonization efforts. As a public health agency, the District also is focused on the region meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. For more information about the Sac Metro Air District, please visit www.AirQuality.org.

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