



News Release

Date: August 24, 2021

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Sacramento Region Air Agencies Awarded U.S. EPA Grant to Help Reduce Particulate Matter Pollution

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, working in partnership with El Dorado County Air Quality Management District, Placer County Air Pollution Control District, and Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, has been awarded over \$2.7 million in federal funding for clean air projects to reduce particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution. The four Air Districts are contributing more than \$5 million in cost share for a total infusion of more than \$8 million to the regional economies. This grant award is an example of the power of partnerships and of growing collaboration in the region.

The grant from U.S. EPA's Targeted Airshed Program will reduce ambient PM_{2.5} pollution primarily by replacing residential non-certified, higher emitting wood burning fireplaces and stoves with EPA-certified cleaner alternatives. In addition, the grant will support road paving to mitigate entrainment of road dust, which contributes to ambient PM concentrations. Residents residing in the jurisdictions of El Dorado County AQMD, Placer County APCD or Yolo-Solano AQMD will be eligible to apply for funding for cleaner burning appliances. Road paving will occur in El Dorado County through a coordinated effort between El Dorado County AQMD and El Dorado County Transportation Department.

The Sacramento region does not meet all national ambient air quality standards. Thus, additional emission reductions are necessary to protect public health and reach attainment of the federal standards. Meeting these standards is necessary to protect public health and for the region to remain eligible for federal transportation dollars. In the region, over 50% of PM pollution in the winter months is caused by woodburning appliances. Replacing these devices with cleaner products can dramatically improve air quality and protect the health of those using the appliances and neighboring residents. Other sources of PM include road dust, vehicle emissions, and other uses of internal combustion engines.

PM_{2.5} particles travel deeply into the respiratory tract and easily reach the lungs. Exposure to these particles can cause short-term health effects such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing, sneezing, runny nose and shortness of breath. Studies also suggest that long-term exposure to particle pollution results in increased rates of chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function and premature death from lung cancer and heart disease.

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