



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

# 2019 NACAA Spring Membership Meeting Wildfire Air Quality Response Program

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A background image showing a wildfire with bright orange and yellow flames rising from a forest of dark green trees. The sky is a hazy, dark blue-grey color.

# Background

- The October 2017 wildfires in Sonoma and Napa counties, the November 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County, and fires outside the state have had major air quality impacts in the Bay Area.
- The smoke impact in the Bay Area reached unprecedented unhealthy levels and the Bay Area Air Quality Management Air District, provided support via air quality and smoke information, monitoring and N95 masks.
- Recurring and unprecedented wildfires throughout California have prompted a discussion on the Air District's role in wildfires.



# Wildfire Air Quality Response Program

A comprehensive, multi-faceted Wildfire Air Quality Response Program intended to prepare, prevent, and respond to future wildfires, and ensure health-protective measures and strategies are in place during wildfire smoke events.



## **California North Bay wildfires:**

*Curbed SF Image credit: Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images*



# Wildfire Air Quality Response Program

- Regulatory Strategy
- Legislative Strategy
- Grants and Incentives Strategy
- Community Resources Strategy



# Regulatory Strategy

- Amend Regulation 5: Open Burning to encourage controlled burns for fuels reduction and fire prevention
  - Potentially waive fees for prescribed burning conducted by public agencies and landowners
  - Expand chipper program
- Develop Regulation 15: Wildfire Episode Plan to notify the public of unhealthy levels of  $PM_{2.5}$  and to protect at-risk populations
  - Prohibit all open burning and use of residential wood-burning devices
  - Voluntary curtailment of BBQs, outdoor grills, smokers, and wood-fired stoves/ovens

**Goal:** Create legislation that would direct the Air District, working with cities and counties, to create clean air centers throughout our nine-county jurisdiction.

- Draft bill in collaboration with Air District partners
- Work with cities and counties to identify possible locations and costs
- Seek funding to build/retrofit centers with high efficiency filtration





# Grants and Incentives Strategy

**Goal:** Provide schools, senior and community centers, or other spaces with improved air filtration

- Establish a definition for “Clean Air Center” and the qualification criteria
- Engage HVAC industry to identify high-performance air filtration options and determine feasibility and cost estimates
- Identify potential funding mechanisms to provide grants for high performance
- Develop grant program to distribute funding



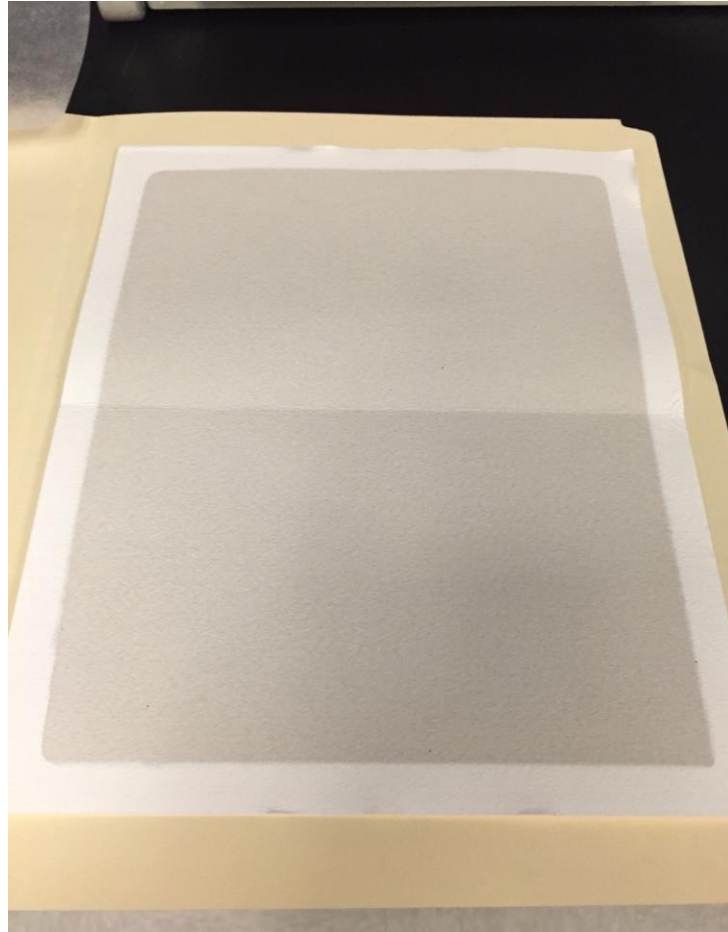
# Community Resources Strategy

**Goal:** Centralize information online for easy access to Air District and local community resources

- Build District website for wildfires
- Partner with county health officers and local officials to develop guidance including:
  - Proper use of N95 masks
  - Creating clean air rooms or replacing filters in the home
  - School Air Quality Guidance



# PM 10 Air Monitor





# Questions

