

# **NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **2023 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Preserving air quality and protecting the public health and welfare in Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties.

These goals are in addition to ongoing programs and projects the District performs to protect public health identified in Overall Work Plan. Goals are listed in the order of highest priority.

### **2023 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal #1:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1A. Fulfill commitments as required by the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Portola Fine (PM2.5) Nonattainment Area
- 1B. Pursue additional strategies to further reduce fine particulate matter in the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

**Goal #2:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the federal ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County.

#### **Objectives:**

- 2A. Continue to Develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 federal Ozone Standard in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to address ozone precursor emissions that affect western Nevada County, meeting applicable Clean Air Act requirements.
- 2B. Develop, maintain and document programs to ensure local emissions are adequately quantified and SIP requirements are fulfilled.
- 2C. Continue work with EPA and CARB on implementing Transportation Conformity, which is a required SIP component under the Clean Air Act.

**Goal #3:** Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks with Funding from Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB 2766 and AB 923 programs

#### **Objectives:**

- 3A. Implement Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766 and AB 923 grant programs for owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.
- 3B. Pursue Avenues to Increase Funding for Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766 and AB923

**Goal #4:** Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District

**Objectives:**

- 4A. Work with CARB and CAPCOA to implement and maintain the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Grant
- 4B. Attend meetings with CalFIRE, USFS, Large Land Owners and prescribed burning associations.
- 4C. Continue to deploy portable particulate matter air quality monitors to quantify smoke impacts from prescribed burns

**Goal #5:** Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

**Objectives:**

- 5A. Maintain and improve (as needed) air quality monitoring in all three counties to assure protection of public health.
- 5B. Continue to support efforts to utilize biomass as a fuel to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed/residential open burning
- 5C. Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.
- 5D. Pursue and provide alternatives to the open burning of residential yard waste to residents.
- 5E. Pursue funding for providing clean air shelters for communities impacted from wildfire smoke.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District  
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #1:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

**Objectives:**

- 1A. Fulfill commitments as required by the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Portola Fine (PM2.5) Nonattainment Area
  
- 1B. Pursue additional strategies to further reduce fine particulate matter in the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**GOAL#1:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

**Objective 1A:** Fulfill commitments as required by the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Portola Fine (PM2.5) Nonattainment Area

### **Background:**

The EPA officially designated the Greater Portola area in Plumas County as a Moderate PM2.5 nonattainment area on April 15, 2015 for the 2012 annual PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The District submitted a required SIP to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) which contained rules and regulations which will demonstrate attainment of the air quality standard by December 31, 2021. The EPA approved of the Portola Plan on December 18, 2018 with the deadline of achieving attainment by December 31, 2021. Despite achieving the emission reduction goals established in the Portola Plan, the area did not meet the annual PM2.5 NAAQS by the deadline of December 31, 2021. On December 29, 2022 the EPA reclassified the Greater Portola area as Serious nonattainment for the 2012 annual NAAQS.

### **Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:**

1. Implement up to 120 residential wood stove replacement projects in 2023. As of December 31, 2022, 520 wood stove replacements have been completed since the replacement program began in 2016.
2. Continue to install electric mini split heat pumps in the City of Portola in homes with EPA compliant wood stoves.
3. During the first quarter of 2023, progress will continue to be evaluated. However, with designation to serious nonattainment, a new State Implementation Plan will need to be developed for the Greater Portola Area.
  - a. Pursuant to CAA section 189(b)(2), the SIP revision that satisfies serious nonattainment elements will be due 18 months from the effective date of January 30, 2023
  - b. Therefore, upon reclassification to Serious, the latest permissible attainment date under section 188(c)(2) of the Act for the purposes of the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS in the Portola nonattainment area is December 31, 2025.
4. The District will begin drafting new contingency measures as required by the State Implementation Plan committed to by the Board and begin working with the California Air Resources Board.
5. The Second Quantitative Milestone Report for 2016-2022 has been completed and submitted to CARB for review and due to EPA January 16, 2023 for approval. This will be the final Quantitative Milestone Report for the Moderate PM2.5 SIP
6. Mandatory Wood Burning Curtailment Program in Portola
  - a. The District hired an outside forecasting firm to issue daily wood burning curtailment days and will continue to work with them in 2023.
  - b. Ensure curtailment information (wintertime health advisories) are available to residents via email, the website, and District automated phone line.
  - c. Continue the mandatory enforcement program during curtailment. Distribute handouts and implement processes for observing smoke from residential wood heating with input from the City of Portola.

- d. Maintain device tracking for Portola addresses with EPA compliant heating devices for enforcement.
- 7. Educational Campaign
  - a. Utilize BurnWise Coordinator to increase the pace of pre assessments, follow-up visits and surveys with change-out participants.
  - b. Ensure wood sheds are provided to program participants to improve fuel quality.
  - c. Schedule outreach events at least once a year.
  - d. Additional outreach efforts will be made. An outside firm, Progressive Source Communications, was hired to develop educational videos, outreach materials and social media engagement that will be utilized throughout 2023.
- 8. Continue implementation of the 2015, 2018 and 2020 EPA Targeted AirShed Grants:
  - a. Change out another 460 wood stoves by the end of 2026.
  - b. Assist with funding residential yard waste collection.
  - c. Provide chimney sweep vouchers and education to program participants.
  - d. Research weatherization funding projects within the non-attainment area.
  - e. Provide wood sheds to approximately 115 program participants by the end of 2026.
  - f. Continue to work with the City of Portola to implement an enforcement program during wood stove curtailment days.
  - g. Continue to collaborate with EPA and CARB on all grant elements
  - h. Explore options for providing/ensuring dry and seasoned wood to the non-attainment area.
  - i. Install indoor and outdoor air quality devices for residents to monitor air quality throughout the nonattainment area.

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**GOAL#1:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

**Objective 1B:** Pursue additional strategies to further reduce fine particulate matter in the Greater Portola Federal PM2.5 Nonattainment Area.

**Background:** In addition to the wood stove change-out program and the requirements of the City of Portola's Wood Stove and Fireplace Ordinance, the District included strategies as part of the SIP. Due to the redesignation to serious nonattainment, a new SIP will be developed. Strategies from the previous SIP will continue to be implemented and new strategies will be developed.

### **Action Plan/Steps Implemented:**

1. Implement and maintain a public education campaign
  - a. Partner with other events and markets throughout 2023
  - b. Work with local retailers to publish and distribute proper wood stove use educational materials
  - c. Continue to work with local media to promote clean wood burning practices
2. Implemented Mandatory Woodstove Curtailment Program
  - a. Curtailment forecasting by Sonoma Technology, Inc.
3. Distribute stove thermometers and wood moisture meters to residents
4. Research and implement a seasoned wood program - Ongoing
5. Pursue funding for green waste program
  - a. Work with the local solid waste provider to explore green waste options for residents in the non-attainment area.

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #2:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Acts for the ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County.

### **Objective 2A:**

Continue to Develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 federal Ozone Standard in coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to address ozone precursor emissions that affect western Nevada County, meeting applicable Clean Air Act requirements.

### **Background:**

Western Nevada County is currently Serious Nonattainment for the federal 2015 Ozone Standard with an attainment date of August 2027.

In October 2015 EPA lowered the federal ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) to 70 ppb. In November 2018 EPA signed a final Implementation Rule for the 2015 ozone NAAQS outlining requirements for nonattainment areas. The requirements are similar in most respects to those for the 2008 ozone NAAQS, although there are some new requirements for evaluating Reasonably Available Control Measures (especially intrastate transport analysis provisions), Reasonably Available Control Technology implementation, Reasonable Further Progress (milestone compliance demonstrations), interprecursor trading for ozone offsets pursuant to New Source Review activities, and emissions inventories/Emissions Statements.

### **Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:**

1. Participate in SIP coordination meetings with air districts, EPA and the State during the continued development of the SIP. Proposed adoption date of SIP – Spring 2023.
2. The primary goal of this district will be to assure that ozone transport continues to be a high priority and is addressed in all technical aspects during the development of the SIP. Continue to take a proactive role in lobbying for greater ozone controls on upwind sources to decrease ozone transport to western Nevada County. Possibly attend Board meetings of the upwind air districts of the Bay Area and Sacramento if crucial control measures to reduce ozone precursors are being considered.
3. As necessary, hold community meetings to discuss the SIP process, the role the upwind contributing counties play, and Nevada County's strategy to reduce emissions.
4. Participate in CAPCOA Planning Managers to help keep up with all relevant developments.
5. Evaluate adequacy of existing SIP elements under the new Implementation Rule, including the NSAQMD's New Source Review rule, Reasonably Available Control Technologies, Emissions Statements, Transportation Conformity procedures and Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance and initiate corrections/updates as needed.
6. Key elements of the SIP must be completed and submitted to the California Air Resources Board by Spring 2023.

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #2:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County

### **Objective 2B:**

Develop, maintain and document programs to ensure local emissions are adequately quantified and SIP requirements are fulfilled.

### **Background:**

The California Air Resources Board realizes that attainment in Nevada County is dependent primarily upon the upwind areas' (Sacramento and Bay Area) emission reductions. Grant programs such as Carl Moyer and AB2766 are very cost-effective strategies for reducing emissions of ozone precursor pollutants. These programs also have the co-benefit of reducing diesel particulate matter, which the California Air Resources Board has formally found to be a toxic air contaminant.

Since all of the AB2766 and other mobile source incentive projects are evaluated for tailpipe emission reductions, all of the projects have a great potential to be utilized as SIP credit in western Nevada County.

Emissions quantification is a key component of the Attainment Demonstration

### **Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:**

1. Implement the Carl Moyer Heavy Duty Diesel Engine Incentive Program, and the AB2766 DMV Surcharge emissions reductions programs providing pass-through grants that reduce ozone precursors and diesel particulate matter. For Carl Moyer, staff will participate in monthly meetings with California Air Resources Board (CARB) and other air districts. ARB requires several reports per year on implementation progress. Staff will continue to apply for funding and advertise to gain greater participation. Staff will regularly report Carl Moyer progress to the Board through quarterly reports and the approval of individual contracts.
2. Annually, staff will present a Request for Proposal for AB2766 to the Board for approval. Staff will distribute the approved RFP, screen applicants, prepare final report for the Board's approval of individual projects.
3. Emissions quantification inputs will continue to be obtained through stationary source reporting requirements, processed in accordance with established methodologies and reported to CARB via CARB's emissions reporting platform.
4. Continue to coordinate with the Nevada County Transportation Commission to maintain up-to-date on-road mobile source emissions estimates.



## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #2:** Implement the requirements of the Federal and California Clean Air Act for the ozone nonattainment area of western Nevada County

**Objective 2C:**

Continue work with EPA and CARB on implementing Transportation Conformity, which is a required SIP component under the Clean Air Act.

**Background:**

CARB and EPA are working together with districts, FHWA, Caltrans and other agencies to satisfy transportation conformity implementation requirements under the federal Clean Air Act.

**Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:**

1. Continue communications with CARB and other agencies regarding transportation conformity procedures and rule changes.
2. Work on developing a Transportation Conformity rule if EPA determines that one is necessary (currently an established process is adequate, but this is under review and CARB has begun considering a statewide transportation conformity rule/approach).
3. Participate in CAPCOA Planning Managers and the statewide Transportation Conformity Working Group to keep up with all relevant developments.

**Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District  
Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #3:** Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks and Agricultural Equipment with Funding from Carl Moyer, AB 2766, AB 923, AB 617 and FARMER programs

**Objectives:**

- 3A. Implement Carl Moyer, AB2766, AB 923, AB617and FARMER grant programs for owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.
- 3B. Pursue Avenues to Increase Funding for Carl Moyer, FARMER.

## Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives

**GOAL#3:** Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks with Funding from Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB 2766, AB617 and AB 923 programs

**Objective 3A:** Implement Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766, AB617 and AB 923 Grant programs for owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Engines.

**Background:** The District has been working with local truck owners/operators to disburse grant funds for the Carl Moyer Heavy Duty Diesel Program. The program offers funding for repowers and retrofits only. It has become increasingly difficult for on-road vehicles to qualify for the funding since Carl Moyer funding can not be applied to a vehicle that will have to comply with a state diesel regulation within three years. However, the District modified the program to allow funding for off-road vehicles and the applicants have dramatically increased. The District modified its Carl Moyer Policies to include utilizing AB617 funding for Carl Moyer-type projects located in AB1550 areas. AB2766 Funding does not carry such constraints as the Carl Moyer program, however, this is a competitive grant in all three counties. The District administers approximately \$175,000 annually district-wide through the Carl Moyer Program. The District also can administer more funding through the following occasionally funded programs; FARMER and AB617.

AB923 funding is available only to heavy duty vehicles in Plumas County for Carl Moyer-like programs or for the infrastructure or alternatively fueled stations for alternatively fueled school buses.

### **Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:**

1. Turn in applications for funding for Carl Moyer and FARMER.
2. Request Board Approval through the Authorization of Resolutions to implement Carl Moyer programs for FY 2022/2023.
1. Maintain the CARL Database for Carl Moyer programs.
2. Turn in required reports for FARMER and AB617 funding.

**GOAL#3:** Continue to Assist Owners of Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks with Funding from Carl Moyer, AB 2766, AB617 and AB 923 programs

**Objective 3B:** Pursue Avenues to Increase Funding for Carl Moyer, FARMER, AB2766, AB617 and AB923

**Background:**

Carl Moyer –

Legislation (AB8) limits rural air districts to \$200,000 annually without a match.

This can be increased to \$290,000 with a required match of \$43,541.

Match can come from either AB2766 funds or AB923.

FARMER – This program was first implemented in 2019. Pursue additional funding by requesting funds through the Governor’s annual budget or through legislation.

AB2766 –

District administers approximately \$220,000 annually

Each county is limited to \$4/vehicle of DMV registration fees.

Plumas – \$4/vehicle

Sierra – \$2/vehicle

Nevada – \$4/vehicle

AB923 –

Each county is limited to \$2/vehicle but the County must have the max \$4 before it can qualify to receive the AB923.

Plumas county is the only county that receives AB923, the District receives about \$35,000 annually.

AB617 – The District has a remaining balance of funding from AB617 incentive funding. This funding can be used to fund a Carl Moyer-like program.

**Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:**

1. Review and comment on draft Governor’s budget.
2. Follow legislation that impacts either Carl Moyer or FARMER funding.
3. Actively support legislation that provides funding for either Carl Moyer or FARMER.

**Goal #4:** Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

**Objectives:**

- 4A. Work with CARB and CAPCOA to implement and maintain the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program
- 4B. Attend meetings with CalFIRE, USFS, Large Land Owners, local Fire Safe Councils and prescribed burning associations.
- 4C. Continue to deploy portable particulate matter air quality monitors to quantify smoke impacts from prescribed burns

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #4:** Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

**Objective 4A:** Work with CARB and CAPCOA to implement and maintain Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program on an annual basis.

**Background:** The Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program is part of California Climate Investments. Funding for this Program comes from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). This is a grant that is administered by the California Air Resources Board. The Grant is intended to provide resources to air pollution control districts for an enhanced smoke management program. This includes enhanced reporting of prescribed fire activity, air monitoring of prescribed fires, and resources for air district staff to attend regional training sessions on different elements of the State's Smoke Management Program.

### **Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:**

1. Air District will take a Resolution to the Board for approval and submittal to CARB on an annual basis.
2. The District will submit a disbursement request to CARB on an annual basis.
3. Quarterly progress reports will be submitted in a timely manner to CAPCOA. These reports will include the spending of state funds.
4. The District will work with CAPCOA to submit a final report to CARB by January 31, 2024.
5. The District will receive training and report acreage, location, types of fuel, burned in the CARB-maintained database of PFIRS.
6. The District will coordinate with CARB and CAPCOA on public messaging and outreach regarding the public benefits of prescribed burning versus extreme fire events.
7. The District will coordinate with CAPCOA to ensure that all prescribed burns larger than 10 acres or estimated to produce more than one ton of particulate matter shall have a smoke management plan.

**Goal #4:** Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

**Objective 4B:** Attend meetings with CalFIRE, USFS, Large Land Owners, local Fire Safe Councils and prescribed burning associations.

**Background:** Due to predicted increased prescribed burning, the District is proactively meeting with the agencies and groups which are actively burning. The District is providing information so that these agencies and groups can more easily accomplish greater acreage.

**Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:**

1. Distribute the developed flow chart for open burning process for residents and large land owners. This will allow them to better understand the requirements for the process.
2. Assist agencies and groups to burn with a minimum of smoke impacts.

**Goal #4:** Continue to work with large land owners, USFS, and CalFIRE to assure that smoke impacts are minimal with predicted increased prescribed burning throughout the Air District.

**Objective 4C:** Continue to deploy portable particulate matter air quality monitors to quantify smoke impacts from prescribed burns

**Background:** An integral part of the Prescribed Burn Reporting and Monitoring Support Program is a monitoring of the smoke impacts of prescribed burning on communities.

**Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:**

1. The Air District will coordinate with CAPCOA on an appropriate number of prescribed burns to monitor.
2. Air District staff will attend training that CAPCOA will be coordinating on the use and deployment of portable air quality monitors.
3. Air District staff will work with CAPCOA to be reimbursed for costs associated with monitoring prescribed burns.
4. Air District staff will coordinate with CARB on compiling and releasing air quality data.



**Goal #5:** Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

**Objectives:**

- 5A. Maintain and improve (as needed) air quality monitoring in all three counties to assure protection of public health.
- 5B. Continue to support efforts to utilize biomass as a fuel to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed/residential open burning
- 5C. Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.
- 5D. Pursue and provide alternatives to the open burning of residential yard waste to residents.
- 5E. Pursue funding for programs that protect residents' impacts from wildfire smoke.

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #5:** Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

**Objective 5A:** Maintain and improve (as needed) air quality monitoring in all three counties to assure protection of public health.

### **Background:**

The District's air monitoring program assists the county residents by informing sensitive individuals of air pollution levels; both long term trends and current, up-to-date impacts. Although western Nevada County exceeds the federal ozone standard primarily due to transport from the upwind areas, real time air monitoring allows the District to issue Health Advisories to schools, coaches, hospitals, nursing homes and other sensitive individuals. Additionally, smoke impacts can sometimes be severe during forest fires and large prescribed burns in all areas of the District. Again, the District plans to be prepared to continue monitoring smoke levels on a real-time basis with monitors placed in strategic (densely populated) areas. The District plans to enhance its monitoring program by utilizing specific fund balance accounts to purchase back-up monitors and spare parts, additional training to troubleshoot breakdown of equipment, and repair its equipment in its air monitoring laboratory. Additionally, the District is positioning itself to expand its monitoring network in Sierra, Plumas and Nevada County as continuing growth and need expressed by residents occurs. District staff will present these expenditures for enhanced monitoring to the District Board for approval through the budget process.

### **Action Plan/Steps for Implementation:**

1. Present budget expenditures for air monitoring to Board May/June 2023
2. Maintain Monitoring Network to improve usefulness to public during wildfire smoke impacts as needed.
3. Upgrade the sites to improve operator access (Quincy and Portola) Summer 2023
4. Continue to increase public awareness of monitored air quality values and trends through website improvements.
5. Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.

## Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives

**Goal #5:** Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

**Objective 5B:** Continue to support efforts to utilize biomass as a fuel to reduce smoke impacts from prescribed/residential open burning

### **Background:**

Historically, the District and the public have benefited from working with local biomass plants (SPI-Quincy and Collins Pine- Chester, and temporarily shut-down Loyalton facility) to utilize greater amounts of both residential yard waste and forest waste as fuel. The District and the biomass plants have accomplished this by promoting alternatives and pre-treatments to fire used for land management and land development clearing. This dramatically decreased smoke impacts in Plumas and Sierra counties and provided a much-needed fuel source to the energy-generating facilities.

Historically, yard waste generated in Eastern Plumas County and Sierra County has been in demand as a fuel source to the temporarily shut down Loyalton Biomass Facility, rather than being burned in uncontrolled open burn piles. The District is committed to supporting the transportation of residential and other green waste to the facility for clean processing once the facility is reopened and processing again.

### **Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:**

1. The District will continue to work cooperatively with the biomass plants located in Chester – Collins Pine, Quincy – SPI and Loyalton to assure they are in compliance and their permits are in order.
2. The District will pursue funds and mechanism for supplementing transportation of materials to Loyalton Biomass Facility once it is opened again.
3. The District will continue to support the biomass industry's attempts at legislation and/or state-wide policy to secure incentives to utilize biomass that would otherwise be disposed of through open burning.
4. District will continue to support new industries that utilize biomass (e.g. ethanol, mechanized burners, commercial composting, etc.) in lieu of open burning.

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #5:** Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

**Objective 5C:**

Continue to advertise and provide public health advisories during poor air quality episodes, including the health effects of air pollutants of concern, how the public can minimize their exposure, and how the public can voluntarily help curtail an episode.

**Background:**

Since 1999, the District has notified the public when they are at risk due to unhealthy air quality. Additionally, the District provides education on what types of health risks they are exposed to, how to minimize their exposure, and how to modify their behavior to reduce the local contribution to the air quality problem.

Monitored Particulate Matter levels that are attributable to uncontrolled natural events such as wildfires may be excluded from decisions regarding an area's nonattainment status — if it can be shown that there is a clear causal relationship between measured exceedances and the wildfire. The supporting documentation required to make that case is significant. In order to qualify as a natural event, the U.S. EPA requires the Air District include the following elements: 1) public notification and education, 2) efforts to minimize public exposure to high concentrations of Particulate Matter due to future natural events, and 3) efforts to abate or minimize emissions from contributing sources of Particulate Matter.

**Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:**

1. Continue to refine the District's Public Health Advisory procedures.
2. Expand system to include greater numbers of notifications when a health advisory is being issued. Aggressively pursue educating the public and health officials about being included in the notification list.
3. Present a yearly update to the BOD on health advisories issued.

## **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Plan of Action for Achieving Objectives**

**Goal #5:** Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

**Objective 5D:** Pursue and provide alternatives to the open burning of residential yard waste to residents.

**Background:** The District has been an active partner with county agencies, fire safe councils, waste management companies, biomass facilities, cities and communities to provide alternatives for residents to remove yard waste from their homes and properties. Alternatives include green waste pick-up, green waste drop-offs, chipping programs.

While these programs provide a valuable assistance to residents, there are still large amounts of green waste that needs to be removed from around resident properties to decrease fire fuels. The District is actively working with other Air Districts, Fire Safe Councils and State Legislation to increase the reduction of these fuels around homes.

### **Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:**

1. Continue to pursue the use of Air Curtain Incinerators for improved burning of residential yard waste.
2. Continue to work with Plumas and Sierra County to provide permit for burning the community residential yard waste burn pile at designated Executive Order sites in Chester, Calpine, Sierra City, Alleghany and Loyalton.
3. Continue to work with local waste management company to remove collected residential yard waste from the Portola federal nonattainment area.
4. Continue to be active members on local fire safe council in Plumas and Nevada Counties.
5. Assist or develop legislation to provide funding for residential waste removal.
6. Continue to provide informational flyer for residential waste removal in Plumas and Sierra Counties and Nevada County.
7. Continue to work with local biomass facilities to burn green waste for fuel.
8. Continue to work with open burning at community locations in Graeagle and Whitehawk.
9. Continue to meet with state legislators to inform them of the importance of removing green waste from residences for fire reduction.

**Goal #5:** Develop and implement air quality strategies to assure continued and enhanced services to county residents.

**Objective 5E:** Pursue funding for programs that protect residents' impacts from wildfire smoke.

**Background:** The District has actively pursued funding through legislation for protecting residents from harmful wildfire smoke. The Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations Incentive Pilot Program was created pursuant to the adoption of AB 836 (Wicks) in 2019. The passage of AB836 allocated \$5 million statewide to create a statewide network of clean air centers where Californians who are being impacted by wildfire smoke may go to seek respite.

Guidelines from the California Air Resources Board require that any facility which receives funding from this program must be open to the public during wildfire smoke events. During 2022, the District applied for and received \$48,200.68 to purchase filtration devices and extra filters. Locations that serve as community evacuation shelters and/or heat/smoke shelters have been identified, contacted and agreed to receive the filtration devices and extra filters. The District is currently receiving these filtration devices and are in the process of distributing the air filtration devices in communities throughout all three counties.

**Action/Plan Steps for Implementation:**

1. Continue to receive and distribute the clean air filtration devices to community.
2. Pursue additional funding from both state and federal sources to obtain additional filtration devices.