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Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Krista Nightingale, Air Quality Specialist (961-8893)

SUBJECT: Wood Smoke Reduction Program Extension

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase spending limit for the Wood Smoke Reduction Program to \$42,000.

DISCUSSION:

At the March 2017 meeting, your Board adopted a Resolution authorizing the creation of the Wood Smoke Reduction Program (Program), and authorized using \$30,000 in funds (identified in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget) to implement the Program. The District's Program offers incentives to residential property owners to help voluntarily remove a wood-burning device, such as a stove or fireplace, or to replace the device with a cleaner heating alternative that uses gas or electricity.

Although the pilot Program began late in the fiscal year, the District received positive feedback from the community and during the first two months of implementation, 12 vouchers have been approved for replacement projects that meet the Program guidelines. These approved projects were geographically distributed throughout the County reaching areas of Santa Maria, Lompoc, Santa Barbara and more. In Fiscal Year 2016-2017, \$12,000 was expended. The remaining \$18,000 was not allocated to any approved projects before the end of the fiscal year, and was therefore deposited back into the District's general fund balance.

On June 17, 2017, the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget was approved, allocating an additional \$30,000 in funds for the Program. In order to use the full amount allocated in the 2017-2018 Budget, your Board must increase the Program spending authority to \$42,000 (i.e., \$12,000 expended in FY 2016-17 and \$30,000 allocated in FY 2017-18).

While the District is operating this Program as a small-scale pilot program, state funds from the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund may be available in the future to continue the Program. The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association is currently working with the California Air Resources Board to distribute five million dollars to air districts around the state for similar programs.

This Program is consistent with state and District efforts to reduce air pollution, specifically particulate matter (PM) and short-lived climate pollutants, such as black carbon. Santa Barbara County does not attain the state standard for PM less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10). This Program supplements existing District efforts to reduce PM10 emissions in Santa Barbara County to attain the state standard. Wood smoke from fireplaces and woodstoves makes up nearly a third of wintertime fine particle pollution in Santa Barbara County, according to state data.

Through the operation of this Program, the District reduces air pollution from wood smoke, thereby improving local neighborhood air quality and protecting public health.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of this spending limit will allow the District to continue to implement the Wood Smoke Reduction Program and expend up to \$42,000 (i.e., \$12,000 expended in FY 2016-17 and \$30,000 allocated in the adopted FY 2017-18 budget). If additional funding becomes available through California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds or other means, District staff will seek approval from your Board to extend the Program.