

Agenda Date: January 18, 2018
Agenda Placement: Regular
Estimated Time: 15 Minutes
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer (805-961-8879)

SUBJECT: Thomas Fire Response

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a report on the Thomas Fire, its impacts to air quality, and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District)'s response during the fire.

DISCUSSION:

The Thomas Fire began on Monday, December 4, 2017 near Santa Paula, and is not expected to be 100 percent contained until late January. Santa Barbara County experienced severe air quality impacts during the fire, including the highest fine particulate concentrations ever recorded in the area. During the fire, the District worked to monitor air quality, provide air quality forecasts, alert the public to unhealthy conditions, provide information about health impacts, and provide information to help people minimize their exposure to smoke and ash.

The fire response was coordinated through the County Office of Emergency Management and included inter-agency cooperation with the County Public Health Department, the US Forest Service Smoke Management Coordinator, and the other agencies involved with the response. This presentation will discuss the air quality impacts from the fire, the District's response during the fire, and potential air quality impacts from fire recovery activities.