

**North Coast Unified
Air Quality Management District**

707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 443-3093

www.ncuaqmd.org



**Meeting of the
North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
Governing Board of Directors**

Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.,
Via Internet Teleconference – Zoom Video Conferencing

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81279724664>

Meeting ID: 812 7972 4664

Call in option: (669) 900-6833

PUBLIC ADVISORY: The District Office will not be open to the public due to COVID-19 concerns. Consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20, N-29-20 and N-8-21 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the meeting location will not be physically open to the public and Board Members will be teleconferencing into the meeting via Zoom Video Teleconference.

How to Observe the Meeting: To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting at www.zoom.us – Meeting Code **812 7972 4664**

How to Submit Public Comment: Members of the public may provide public comment before and during the meeting by sending comments to the Clerk of the Board by email at esquire@ncuaqmd.org. Such email comments must identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email. The comments will be read into the record, with a maximum allowance of three minutes (approximately 500 words) per individual comment, subject to the Board Chair's discretion. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, but before the close of the meeting, the comment will still be included as a part of the written record of the meeting but will not be read into the record during the meeting.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Any member of the public who needs accommodations should email the Clerk of the Board at support@ncuaqmd.org or by calling (707) 443-3093. The Clerk will use their best efforts to provide reasonable accommodations to provide as much accessibility as possible while maintaining public safety.

AGENDA

1. **10:30 A.M. Call to Order** Board Chair
2. **Roll Call** Clerk
3. **Changes or Deletions to Agenda** Board Chair

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **Consider Approving the Consent Agenda, Items for action, 4.1 through 4.3:** The Board may approve the Consent Agenda by single motion in whole or in part with or without further discussion.
Action Requested: Approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1 through 4.3. Board Chair
- 4.1 By Consent, Approve Minutes of July 15, 2021 Board Meeting
- 4.2 By Consent, Accept and File District Activity Report
- 4.3 By Consent, Accept and File APCO Personnel Evaluation and Addendum #3 to APCO Employment Contract

REGULAR AGENDA

5. **Public Comment Period** (pursuant to Government Code section 54954.3(a)) Board Chair
6. **Approve Clarification and Modification to District Observance of New Federal Holiday** APCO
Action Requested: Approve Proposed Effective Date of January 1, 2022, and Modify the District Personnel Manual
7. **Amend Calendar of Meetings for 2021** APCO
Action Requested: Discuss and Approve Amended Calendar of Meetings for 2021
8. **Update on Hearing Board Vacancies** APCO
Action Requested: Accept and File Report

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| 9. | Modification of Employee Job Description
<u>Action Requested:</u> Approve Proposed Updated Employee Job Description for <i>Air Quality Engineer I/II</i> | APCO |
| 10. | Pending CalPERS changes to Group Insurance Plans for 2022
<u>Action Requested:</u> Accept and Approve Proposed Revisions to District Group Insurance Plan | APCO |
| 11. | APCO Report | APCO |
| 12. | Board Member Reports | Board Chair |
| 13. | Adjournment | Board Chair |

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Via Internet Teleconference – Zoom Video Conferencing. Accommodations and access to NCUAQMD meetings for people with special needs must be requested of the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda Item: 1

Call to Order

Agenda Item: 2

Roll Call

Agenda Item: 3
Changes & Deletions
to the Agenda

Agenda Item: 4

Consent Agenda

Agenda Item: 4.1

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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Coast
Unified Air Quality Management District Governing
Board of Directors Meeting of
July 15, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brett Watson at 10:35 AM via teleconference on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81279724664>

Meeting ID: 812 7972 4664, Call in option: (669) 900-6833

The meeting location was made available to the public.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rex Bohn	Humboldt County Supervisor
Dan Frasier	Trinity County Supervisor
Chris Howard	Del Norte County Supervisor
Brett Watson	City of Arcata Councilmember
Mike Wilson	Humboldt County Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Brian Wilson	APCO
Jason Davis	Deputy APCO
Erin Squire	Clerk of the Board
Penny Costa	Financial & Admin Services Division Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nancy Diamond	District Counsel
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Agenda Item 1: Call to Order

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call

Agenda Item 3: Changes or Deletions to the Agenda

There were no changes or deletions requested.

Agenda Item 4: Consider Approving the Consent Agenda

4.1: Approve Minutes of May 20, 2021 Board Meeting

4.2: By Consent, Accept and File District Activity Report

A motion offered by Supervisor Howard, duly seconded by Supervisor Wilson to Adopt Consent Agenda Items 4.1-4.2 is hereby APPROVED by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board of Directors on this 15th day of July, 2021 by the following votes:

UNANIMOUS PASS by the following Roll Call vote:

Supervisor Bohn	Aye
Supervisor Howard	Aye
Supervisor Frasier	Aye
Councilmember Watson	Aye
Supervisor Wilson	Aye

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 5: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion on District Observance of New Federal Holiday

Staff presented the Board with information about the new federal holiday, Juneteenth, and requested direction from the Board Members regarding observance.

A motion offered by Supervisor Wilson, duly seconded by Supervisor Howard to Remove Columbus Day as Staff Holiday and Replace with Juneteenth is hereby APPROVED by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board of Directors on this 15th day of July, 2021 by the following votes:

UNANIMOUS PASS by the following Roll Call vote:

Supervisor Bohn	Aye
Supervisor Howard	Aye
Supervisor Frasier	Aye
Councilmember Watson	Aye
Supervisor Wilson	Aye

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 7: Amend District FY 2021-22 Budget

Staff requested the following amendments to the District's Operating Budget:

- A one-year delay in the purchase of the new District vehicle
- A change to the Prescribed Fire Grant Pay-Out process changing the amount of funds we are receiving this fiscal year
- AB617 funding changes

The Financial & Administrative Services Division Manager, was in attendance to provide answers to any questions.

A motion offered by Supervisor Howard, duly seconded by Supervisor Wilson to Approve Proposed Amendments to FY 2021-22 Budget is hereby APPROVED by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board of Directors on this 15th day of July, 2021 by the following votes:

UNANIMOUS PASS by the following Roll Call vote:

Supervisor Bohn	Aye
Supervisor Howard	Aye
Supervisor Frasier	Aye
Councilmember Watson	Aye
Supervisor Wilson	Aye

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 8: Closed Session: Conference for Labor Negotiations

- a. Discussion concerning OE3 labor negotiations pursuant to Government code 54947.6
Representing District: APCO and District Counsel

Agenda Item 9: Closed Session: Conference for Labor Negotiations

- a. Personnel Performance Evaluation, APCO - Pursuant to Gov't. Code sec. 54957, and
- b. Labor Negotiations, Unrepresented Employee, APCO - Pursuant to Gov't Code sec. 54957.6

The Board adjourned to Closed session at 10:49 AM and reconvened at 11:31 PM.

Supervisor Howard exited the meeting during Closed Session at 11:30 AM.

Agenda Item 10: Report Out from Closed Session

There was no report out from Closed Session.

Agenda Item 11: APCO Report

The APCO reported out on the following:

- COVID - a discussion about future in-person and hybrid meetings. Our Board Calendar will be revised to note the correct meeting information for the December meeting.

Supervisor Bohn exited the meeting at 11:34 AM.

- Wildfire Smoke Update - discussion included the District's new combined Smoke Advisory issuance.
- Yurok Project Application for EPA Grant: Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving - letter of support
- Prescribed Burning in California
- 2022 Health Benefit Costs
- Update on PG&E Regular Variance Activity

Agenda Item 12: Board Member Reports

Supervisor Wilson spoke briefly about the stakeholder meeting for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the momentum on the Offshore Wind Platform project.

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment

The Governing Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Clerk of the Board Certification:

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct original record of the above-entitled meeting of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board of Directors held via teleconference on Zoom at the above date and time.

DocuSigned by:
Erin Squire
22DC6E014F12413
ERIN SQUIRE
Clerk of the Board

9/10/2021 | 9:57 AM PDT
Date

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 10:30 am via teleconference. Details to be listed in the Agenda.

The meeting rooms are ADA accessible. Accommodations and access to NCUAQMD meetings for people with special needs must be requested of the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda Item: 4.2

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TO: North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Erin Squire, Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: District Activity Report

DATE: September 16, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: By Consent, Accept and File District Activity Reports

SUMMARY:

Attached is a summary of the major District activities logged during the reporting period.

2021 Activity Report

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Totals	2020 Totals
Complaint Responses - General	1	1	5	1	1	2	4	1					11	75
Complaint Responses - Open Burning	7	6	12	1	3	11	2	5					40	198
Permissive Burn Days	31	28	31	30	31	22	4	2					173	328
Non-Permissive Burn Days ("No Burn Day")	0	0	0	0	0	8	24	29					8	37
Permissive Burn Days (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	73.33%	14%	6%						
Standard (Residential) Burn Permits Issued	634	351	379	334	132	67	10	12					1,897	4,125
Non-Standard Burn Permits Issued	659	341	346	278	74	36	13	0					1,734	3,092
"No Burn Day" Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	0
Smoke Management Plans (SMP) Reviewed	17	15	15	7	0	2	2	3					56	108
SMP Burn Authorizations Issued	114	76	104	84	35	15	1	0					428	958
Stationary Source Permit Apps. Received	1	3	5	2	1	6	1	0					18	27
Stationary Source Permits Issued (new)	3	2	4	2	1	1	0	3					13	11
Stationary Source Permits Issued (amended)	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	0					8	15
Inspections - Major Sources	0	0	7	1	0	7	0	1					15	12
Inspections - Minor Sources	38	13	7	21	6	10	1	0					95	260
Inspections - Mobile Sources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	13
Inspections - Asbestos	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0					1	18
Asbestos Notifications Processed	5	8	2	4	3	3	4	8					25	73
Notice(s) of Violation (NOVs) Issued	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	3					7	18
Environmental Documents Reviewed	3	3	5	2	4	5	5	5					22	227
Grants Paid: Woodstove	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0					2	96
Grants Paid: Moyer	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2					2	4
Grants Paid: FARMER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0	6
Grants Paid: Rural School Bus	4	4	13	6	1	0	1	0					28	42

Air Monitoring Report for September 2021

Air Monitoring Data Summary:

The purpose of this status report is to summarize the ambient air quality data available for the period of May-June 2021.

- There were no Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) PM₁₀ exceedances of the State Ambient Air Quality Standard recorded during the reported period.
- There were no Federal Reference Method (FRM) PM_{2.5} 24 Hour exceedances of the State and Federal Ambient Air Quality Standard recorded during the period of April-June 2021.
- There were no non-FEM PM_{2.5} 24 Hour exceedances of the State and Federal Ambient Air Quality Standard recorded during the period.
- There were no O₃, SO₂, NO₂, or CO exceedances of the State or Federal Ambient Air Quality Standard recorded during the period.

Particulate Levels in Relation to CA Ambient Air Quality Standards

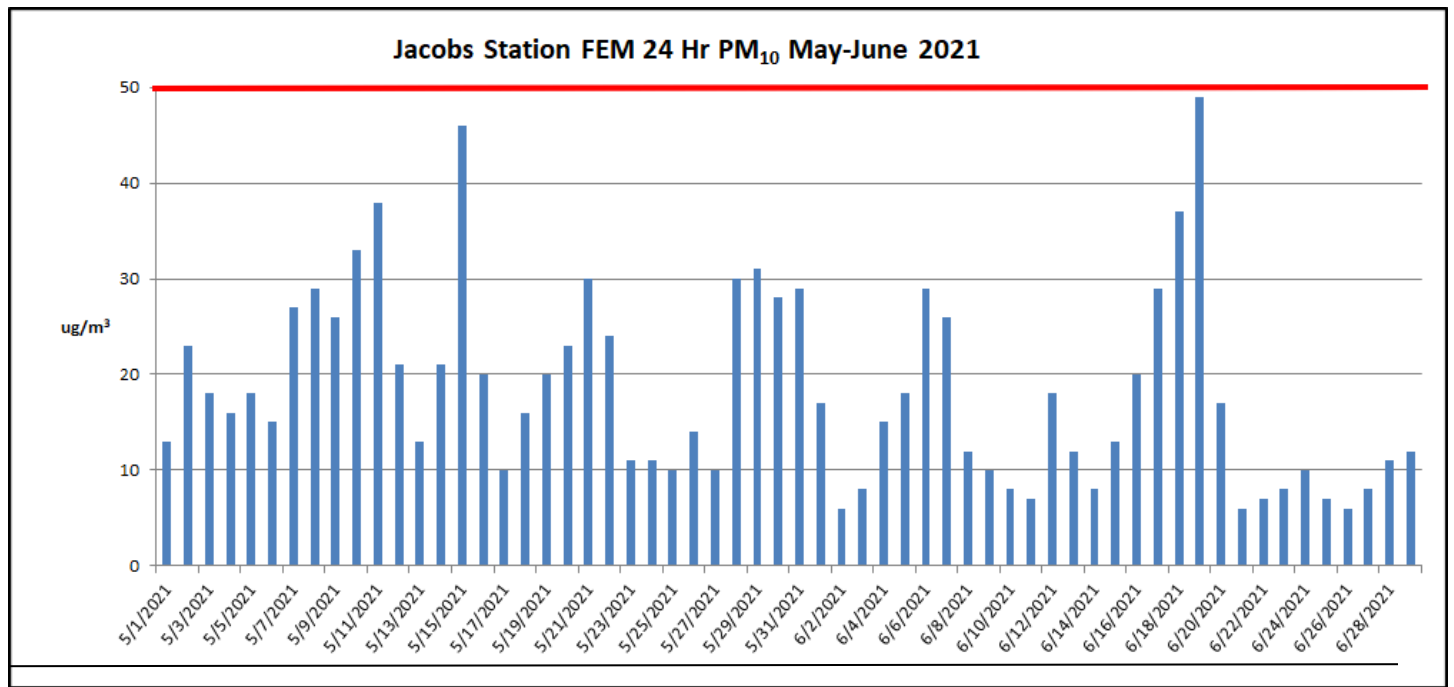
	Jacobs	Crescent City	Weaverville
Max FEM 24-hour PM₁₀ (May-June 2021)	98%	NA	NA
FEM PM₁₀ Rolling Arithmetic Mean (July 2020-June 2021)	111%**	NA	NA
Max FRM 24-hour PM_{2.5} (April-June 2021)	39%	NA	NA
FRM PM_{2.5} Rolling Arithmetic Mean (July 2020 – June 2021)	77%	NA	NA
Max non-FEM 24-hour PM_{2.5} (May-June 2021)	NA	40%*	20%*
Non-FEM PM_{2.5} Rolling Arithmetic Mean (July 2020- June 2021)	NA	82%*	115%**

- Data unavailable

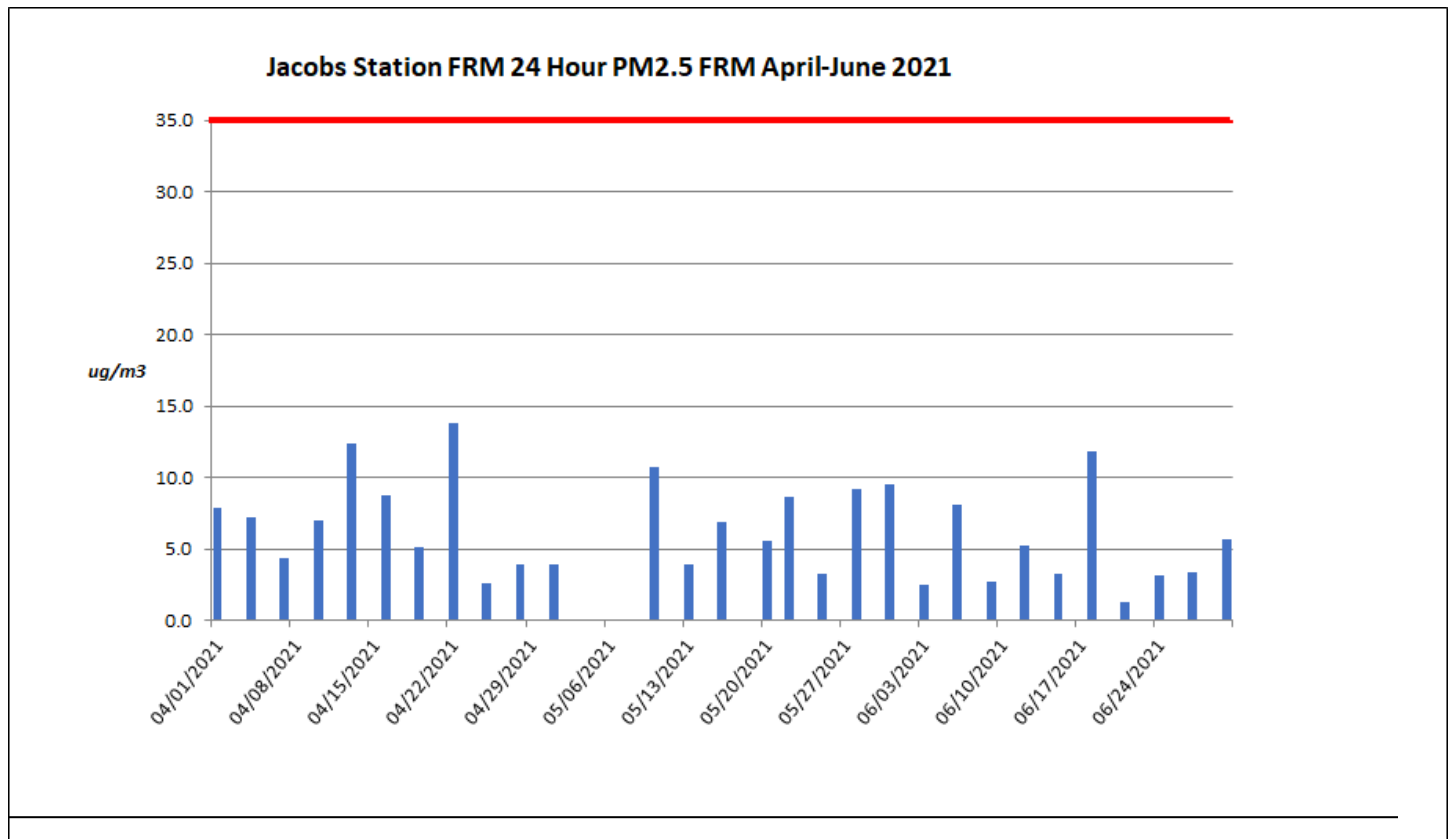
* Instrument not used for Federal Attainment Designation

** Includes wildfire data which is excluded from attainment designation decisions

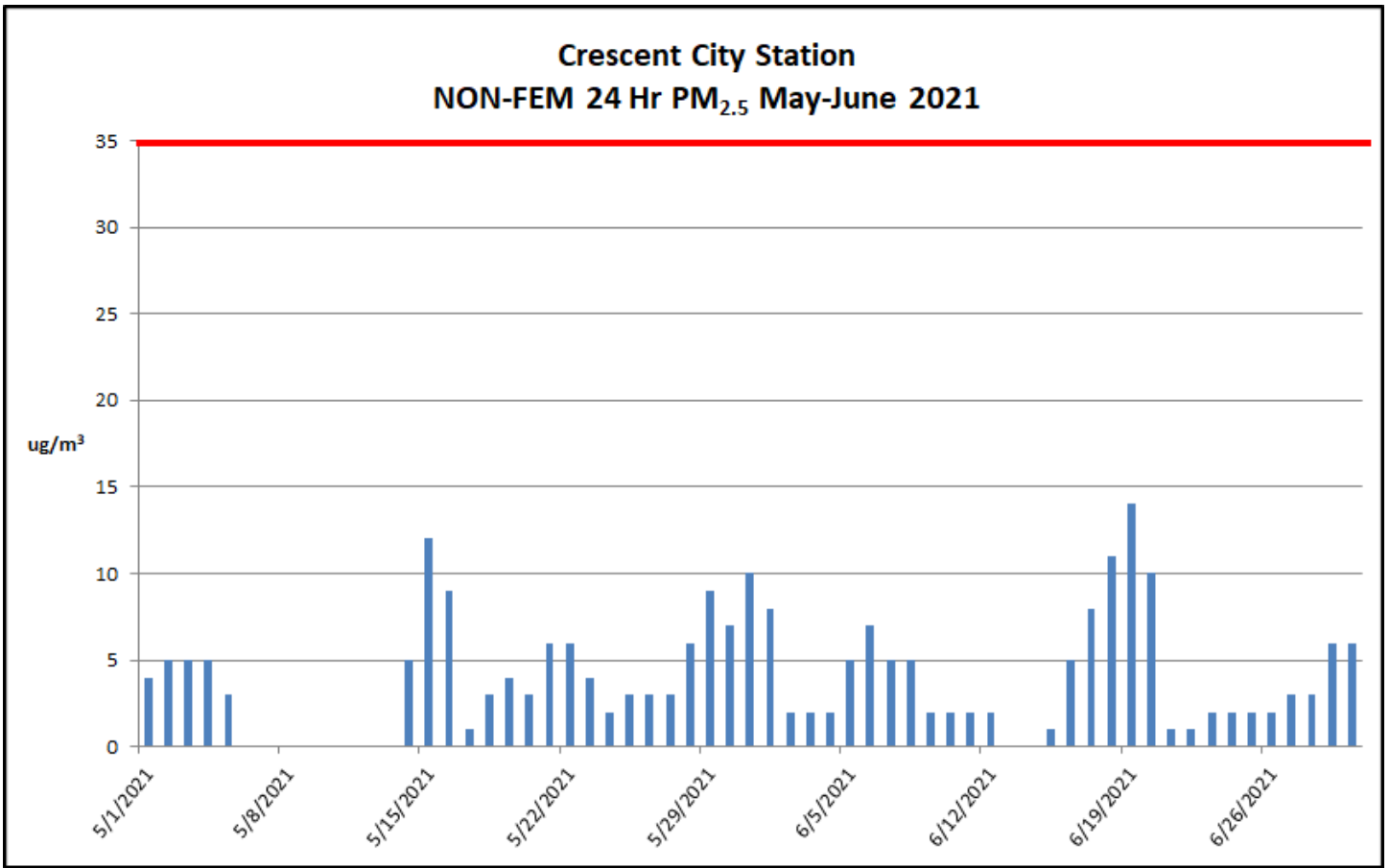
Detailed Graphs:



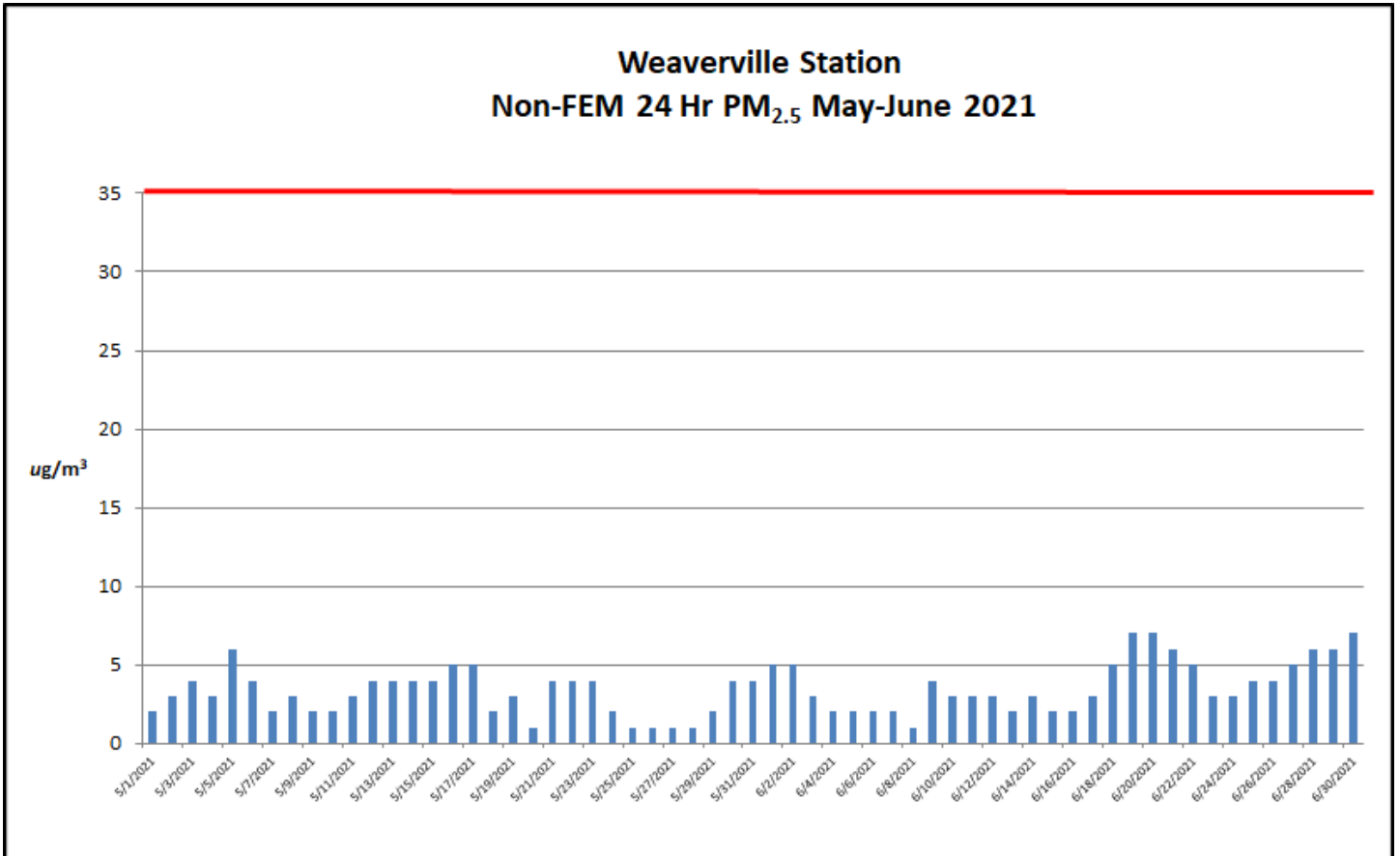
- 24 Hour California AAQS is 50 ug/m³, Federal AAQS is 150 ug/m³.
- California Annual Arithmetic Mean AAQS is 20 ug/m³.
- Humboldt County is classified as non-attainment for this pollutant.



- Federal AAQS is 35 ug/m³. There is no separate state standard.

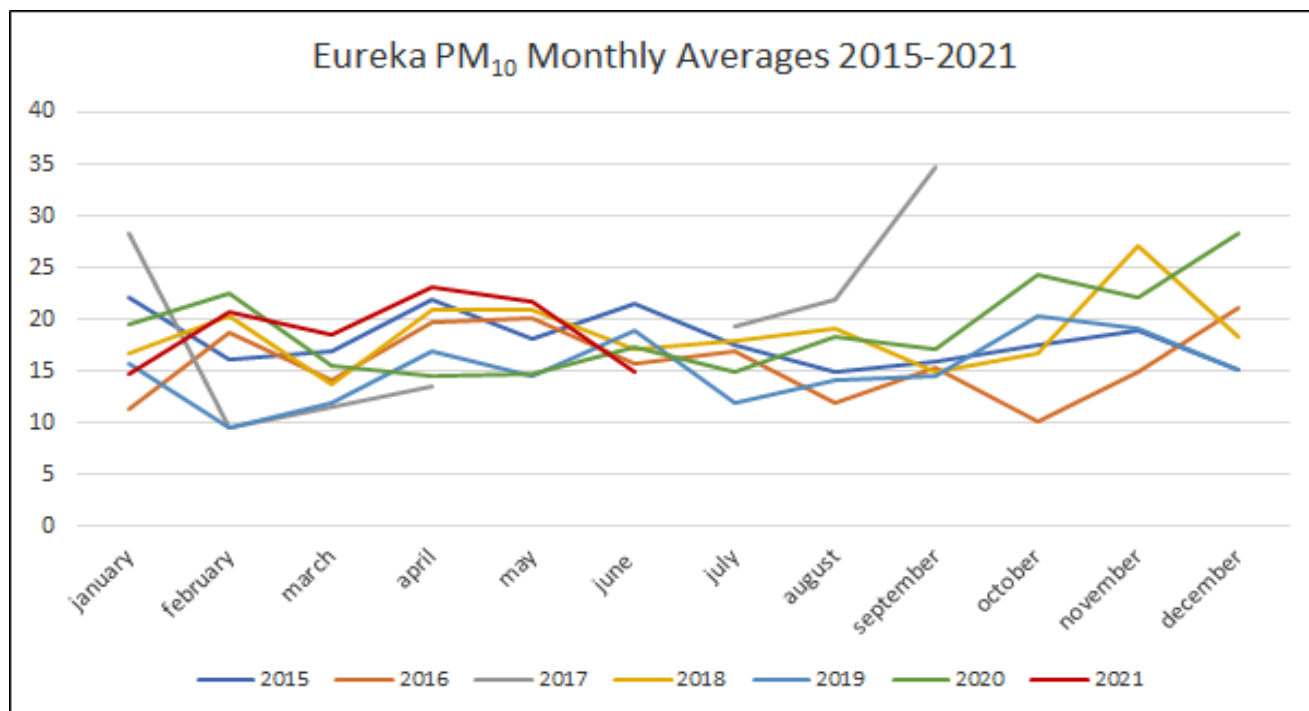
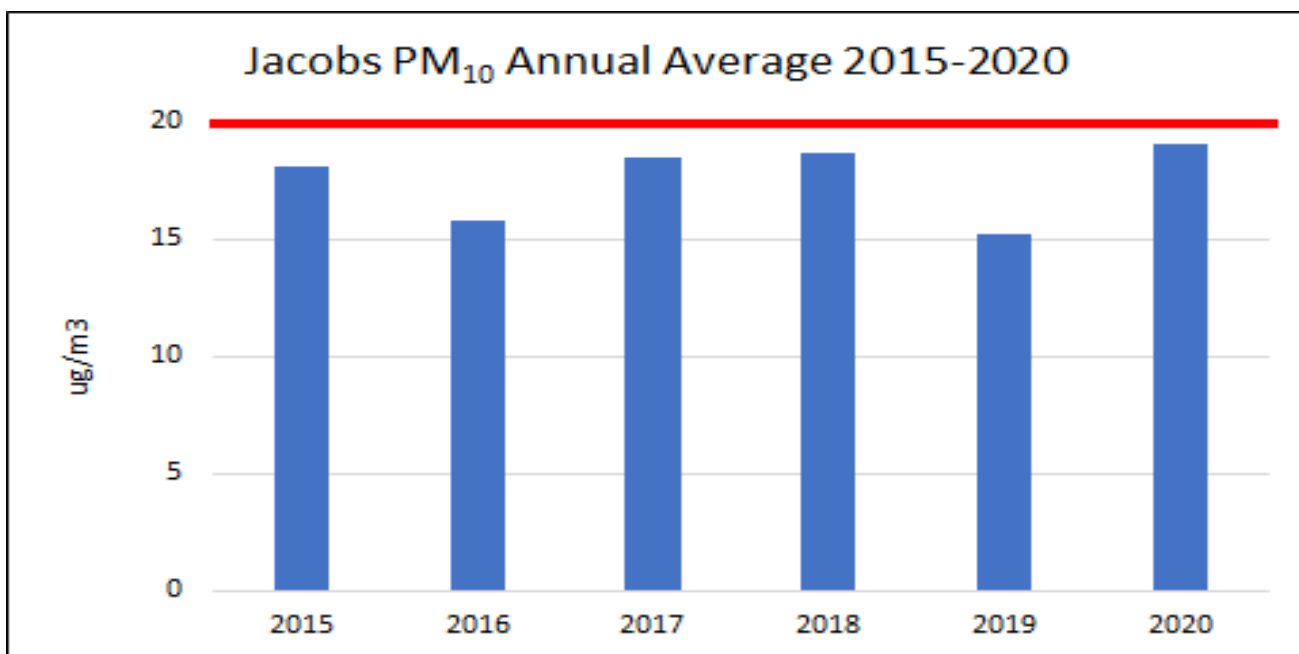


- Federal AAQS is 35 ug/m3. There is no separate state standard.

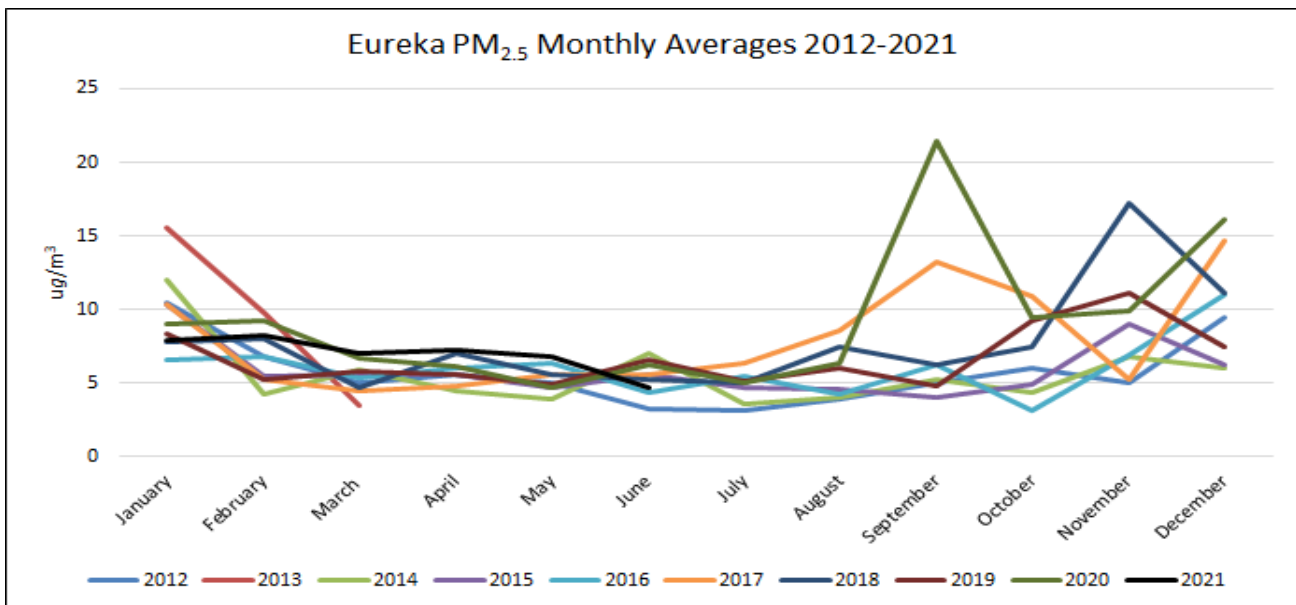
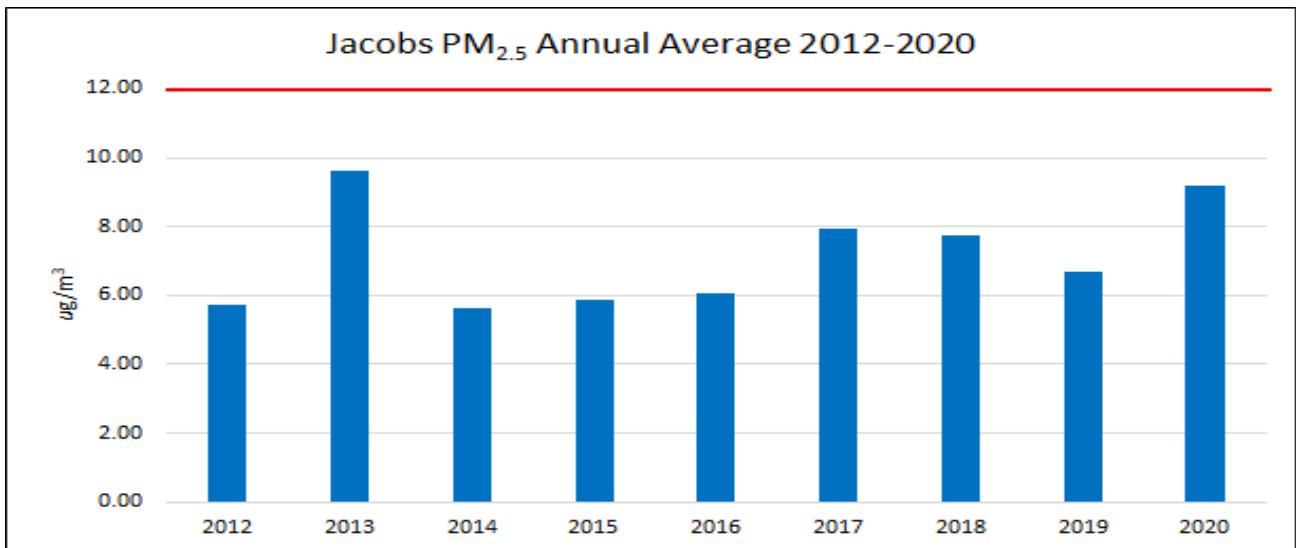
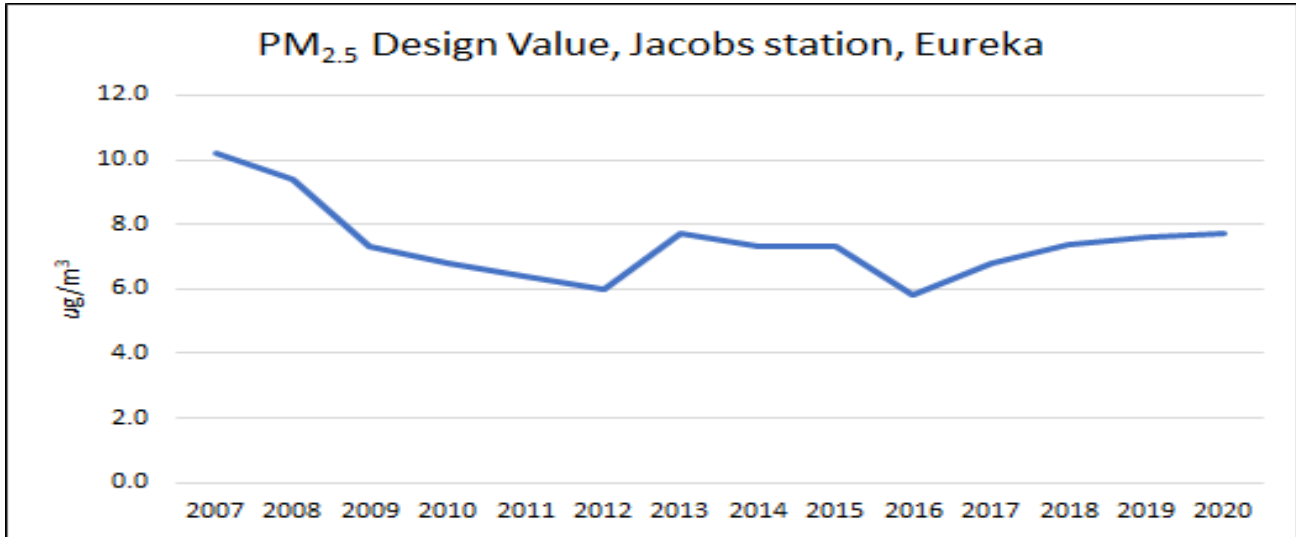


- Federal AAQS is 35 ug/m3. There is no separate state standard.

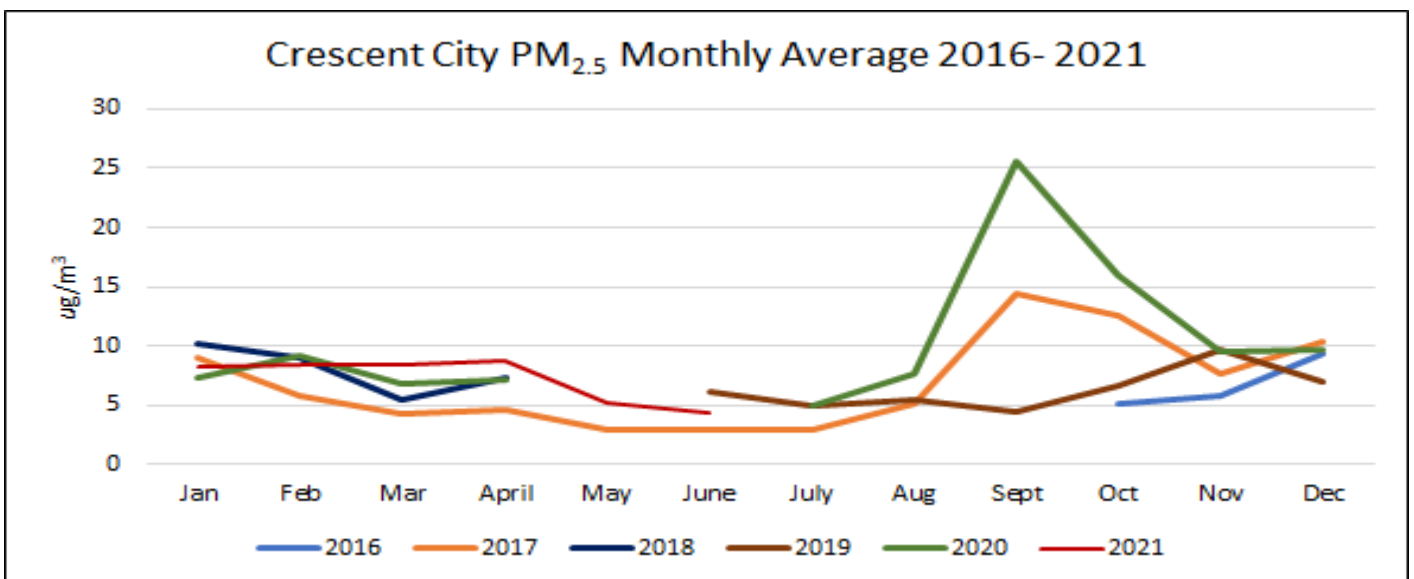
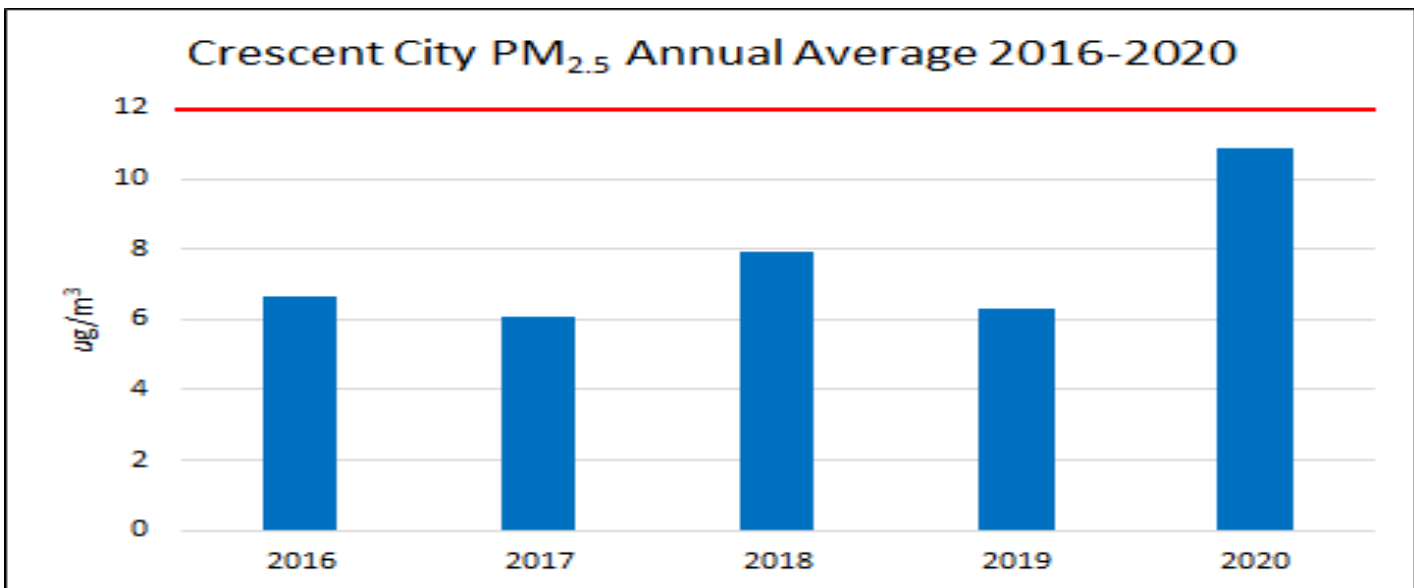
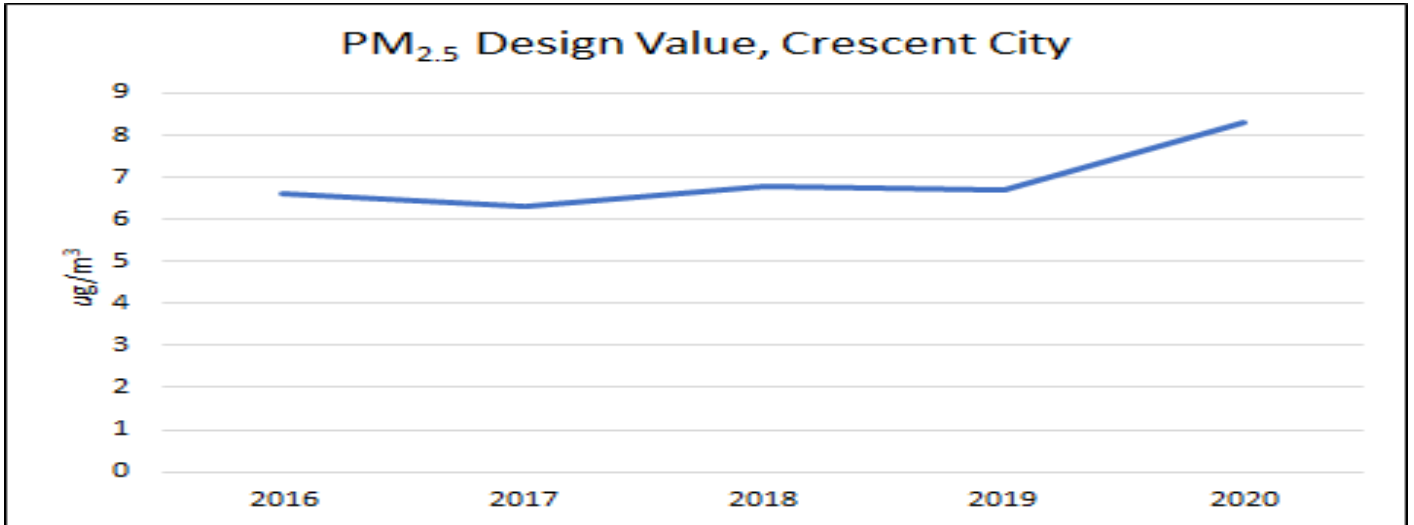
Eureka PM₁₀ Trends



Eureka PM_{2.5} Trends



Crescent City PM_{2.5} Trends



Agenda Item: 4.3

Memorandum

To: Honorable Chair and Members of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Governing Board

From: Nancy Diamond, District Counsel

Date: September 9, 2021

Re: APCO Brian Wilson, Employment Agreement

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Amendment No. 3 to Employment Agreement with Brian Wilson for Air Pollution Control Officer.

DISCUSSION:

The Board has completed its evaluation of the APCO for the time period March 2020 - April 2021, and concluded that Brian Wilson provides outstanding service to the NCUAQMD, effectively and efficiently managing the NCUAQMD as its APCO. The Board has therefore determined to provide a merit salary increase of 6%, effective retroactively to the beginning of the pay period occurring on or after April 15, 2021. The Board thanks and commends Mr. Wilson for his hard work and dedication to the Air District.

**AMENDMENT No. 3
TO
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR
NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER**

This is an amendment (“Amendment”) to that certain Agreement by and between the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, hereinafter referred to as “Employer,” and Brian M. Wilson, hereinafter referred to as “Employee,” entitled *Employment Agreement for North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer*, dated May 14, 2015, and amended March 8, 2018, and April 16, 2020 (collectively, “Agreement”). This Amendment is effective on September 16, 2021.

WHEREAS, Employee has acted in the capacity of Air Pollution Control Officer since April 10, 2015 pursuant to an employment agreement ending on April 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the NCUAQMD has completed a personnel evaluation and desires to grant Employee a merit salary increase as set forth herein.

1. **Section III, Compensation of Employee.** Section III, *Compensation of Employee*, Subsection A, *Salary*, is hereby amended by providing a merit salary increase of 6% effective at the beginning of the first pay period occurring on or after April 15, 2021.
2. **Ratification of Agreement.** The terms and conditions of the Agreement, including all exhibits and attachments, are ratified in their entirety except to the extent inconsistent with the terms and provisions of this Amendment. In the event of such inconsistency, this Amendment shall control.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Amendment No. 3 effective as of the date of stated above.

EMPLOYEE:

Brian M. Wilson

Date: _____

NORTH COAST UNIFIED
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:

By _____
Brett Watson, Chair

Date: _____

Attested to by:

Erin Squire, Clerk of the Board

Date: _____

Agenda Item: 5

Public Comment Period

Agenda Item: 6

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TO: North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Brian Wilson, APCO

SUBJECT: Approve Clarification and Modification to District Observance of New Federal Holiday

DATE: September 16, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Proposed Effective Date of January 1, 2022, and Modify the District Personnel Manual

SUMMARY:

On July 15, 2021 the Governing Board approved modification to the schedule of Board-approved holidays (listed in Chapter II – Employee Benefits and Compensation, Section II – Holidays) was modified as follows:

All regular employees shall be entitled to the following paid holidays:

- 1. New Year's Day (January 1)*
- 2. Martin Luther King Day (3rd Monday in January)*
- 3. Lincoln's Birthday (February 12)*
- 4. Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in February)*
- 5. Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)*
- 6. Independence Day (Fourth of July)*
- 7. Labor Day (First Monday in September)*
- 8. Columbus Day (Second Monday in October) Juneteenth Holiday (June 19)*
- 9. Veteran's Day (November 11)*
- 10. Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November)*
- 11. Friday after Thanksgiving*
- 12. Christmas Eve (December 24)*
- 13. Christmas Day (December 25)*

However, the Effective Date should have been effective January 1, 2022, otherwise District staff would be shorted one holiday as Columbus Day has not been observed yet and it was removed for the Juneteenth holiday. In addition, the action should have included modifying the District Personnel Manual to reflect the newly approved holiday

schedule. Although this change does not affect any employee union MOU contract agreement with the District, the APCO has met with the affected OE3 Union member and have indicated agreement with the changes made to the holiday schedule.

Therefore, to resolve, Staff recommends that the Board consider amending the previous action with an Effective Date of January 1, 2022 and that the District Personnel Manual be modified accordingly.

Agenda Item: 7

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TO: North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Brian Wilson, APCO

SUBJECT: Amend Calendar of Meetings for 2021

DATE: September 16, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: Discuss and Adopt Amended Calendar of Meetings for 2021

SUMMARY:

At the Board meeting of January 21, 2021, the Board approved the Calendar of Meetings for 2021 (attached). Board Meetings have been pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20, N-29-20 and N-8-21 from the Executive Department of the State of California, where the meeting location has not been physically open to the public and Board Members have teleconferenced into the meeting via Zoom Video Teleconference. The Brown Act requirement has been suspended until September 30, 2021.

At the January meeting there was a desire to revisit any meeting restrictions due to COVID-19 protocols at a later date when there was substantial change in the situation. This agenda item is meant to provide the Board the opportunity to revisit and discuss the current status and Calendar of Meetings.

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2021 Governing Board Meeting Calendar

January 21	10:30 a.m.
March 18	10:30 a.m.
April 15	10:30 a.m.
May 20	10:30 a.m.
July 15	10:30 a.m.
September 16	10:30 a.m.
November 18	10:30 a.m.

Due to COVID-19, Board meetings will continue be conducted via Zoom teleconference. Public comments will be accepted by the Board Clerk via email during the meeting. Accommodations and access to NCUAQMD meetings for people with special needs must be requested of the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Board meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

***For Board Meeting information contact the District at:
(707) 443-3093, support@ncuaqmd.org, or go to www.ncuaqmd.org.***

Agenda Item: 8

**North Coast Unified
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TO: North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Brian Wilson, APCO

SUBJECT: Update on District Hearing Board Vacancies

DATE: September 16, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept and File

SUMMARY:

In November 2019, the Governing Board approved the reappointment of the Hearing Board members and their corresponding alternates to serve for an additional two-year term which will expire on December 31, 2022. Then in March 2020, the Governing Board appointed Ms. Joanna Hawley-Jones as an Alternate for the Public Member Position.

The current Hearing Board members and the corresponding alternates are as follows:

Professional Engineer:	Mr. Charles Rocklein	(alternate: - <i>currently vacant</i> -)
Attorney:	Mr. John Corbett	(alternate: Mr. Jeffrey Slack)
Medical Professional:	- <i>currently vacant</i> -	(alternate: - <i>currently vacant</i> -)
Public Member #1:	Ms. Sarah Samples	(alternate: Joanna Hawley-Jones)
Public Member #2:	Mr. Ken Mierzwa	

In accordance with Health & Safety Code § 40800, an Alternate member may serve only in the absence of the Hearing Board member with whom they are associated, and are also limited for the same term as the Hearing Board member with whom they are associated.

The Medical Professional position is still unfilled since the recent unfortunate passing of Dr. Denver Nelson, and its alternate is also still vacant. In addition, there is still a vacancy for an alternate to the Professional Engineer position. Staff typically runs public notices in the Times Standard, Trinity Journal and Del Norte Triplicate, as well as the District website and Facebook postings. Governing Board members can also suggest individuals which can be discussed by the Board.

The Health & Safety Code § 40801 gives the following guidance on the background of these two member positions as follows:

Professional Engineer Member/Alternate - *"...member who is a professional engineer registered as such pursuant to the Professional Engineers Act..."*

Medical Professional Member/Alternate - *"...member from the medical profession whose specialized skills, training, or interests are in the fields of environmental medicine, community medicine, or occupational/toxicologic medicine."*

At the March 2021 Board meeting, the Governing board approved the request to perform recruitment outreach for these positions to solicit letters of interest and resumes for these unfilled positions. District staff has performed the following outreach:

- Advertisement in the Times Standard, published June 2, 2021, for all open positions.
- Posting on the District website for all open positions.
- Email and phone outreach to the Humboldt Independent Practice Association, Humboldt Del Norte Medical Society, and the Providence Hospital System for the open medical professional position.
- Email outreach to the Humboldt Builders Exchange for inclusion in their newsletter to all members for the open engineer alternate position.
- Direct mailings to all Civil Engineers found through a Google search in Humboldt, Del Norte & Trinity Counties, with approximately 40 mailings sent for the open engineer alternate position.

Although to date, there have not been any responses, Staff will endeavor to continue to engage in outreach activities and also reach out to appropriate organizations.

Agenda Item: 9

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TO: North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Brian Wilson, APCO

SUBJECT: Modification of Employee Job Descriptions

DATE: September 16, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Proposed Updated Employee Job Descriptions for *Air Quality Engineer I/II*

SUMMARY:

The District's *Permit Engineer* position is now currently vacant due to promotion. When a position becomes vacant, Staff typically reviews the job description and recommends updates or revisions as necessary prior to re-filling the position.

The attached existing job description was last revised in 2007. The attached proposed updated job description has been modified to better represent the job duties for the position and is attached for review and approval. Current representative duties were also based upon review of other air districts job descriptions for the associated job duties. The prior employee who used to occupy the position has also provided input.

The job title has been updated to *Air Quality Engineer I/II* which is more current and characteristic with other air districts than simply the prior Permit Engineer title. It is also proposed that the position have an entry-level (*Air Quality Engineer I*) and journey-level class (*Air Quality Engineer II*) for further flexibility. This approach is also consistent with many other air districts.

Staff recommends and requests that the Board approve the proposed updated job description for the *Air Quality Engineer I/II* position.

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**Job Description:
AIR QUALITY ENGINEER I/II**

GENERAL:

Under immediate or general supervision of the Permitting & Planning Division Manager, the Air Quality Engineer learns performs engineering reviews of emissions sources, evaluates and processes permit applications for Authority to Construct (ATC) and Permits to Operate (PTO), identifies and evaluates compliance with federal, State, and local District rules and regulations, performs emission inventories and calculations, prepares toxic emission inventory plans and reports, and performs air dispersion and health risk assessments as necessary. The position may either the lead or support for programs or projects including, but not limited to, preparation of engineering studies and reports, research and analysis, grant distribution programs, analysis of air quality data/trends, and other permitting and planning programs as necessary.

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

The *Air Quality Engineer I* is an entry level classification, that allows the incumbent to develop journey level knowledge and abilities. Initially, under immediate supervision, incumbents perform the more routine and less complex assignments with an established procedural framework, where there are minimal consequences of error, while learning the permit evaluation process, standards, and procedures. Independent assignments consist of the less complex permit evaluations and routine tasks such as portable and agriculture registration/permits, vapor recovery permits, minor source permits, emission inventory plans/reports, and/or grant programs. The combination and complexity of assignments increase over time as the incumbent becomes more familiar with District rules and develops a working knowledge of local, state, and federal laws regulating air pollution. Incumbents may advance to the higher level after gaining experience and demonstrating a level of proficiency that meets the qualifications of the higher-level class

Positions at this level usually perform most of the duties required of the Air Quality Engineer II level, but are not expected to function at the same skill level and usually exercise less independent discretion and judgment in matters related to work procedures and methods. Work is usually supervised while in progress and fits an established structure or pattern. Exceptions or changes in procedures are explained in detail as they arise.

The *Air Quality Engineer II* is the journey level class in which incumbents are expected to independently perform the full scope of engineering assignments such as those related to major source Title V permits, New Source Review (NSR), Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), or special engineering studies and projects. Positions at this level are distinguished from the Air Quality I level by the performance of the full range of duties as assigned, working independently, and exercising more independent judgment and initiative. Positions at this level receive only occasional instruction or assistance as new or unusual situations arise and are fully aware of the operating procedures and policies of the work unit. This class may have project program management responsibilities.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

The following is an illustrative partial description and is not a comprehensive list of duties:

- Prepares permit conditions, permits, and engineering evaluations.
- Reviews permit applications for Authority to Construct (ATC) and Permits to Operate (PTO).
- Reviews design of air pollution control equipment associated with industrial or commercial processes.
- Determines permit application compliance with District rules and regulations.
- Calculates emissions rates associated with permits; analyzes operational procedures to determine control of emissions.
- Provides information to applicants, consultants and the public regarding permit requirements and District air quality rules and regulations.
- Permitting programs including, but not limited to, minor source permits, NSPS, NSR, PSD, Title V, Title III permits.
- Evaluates or calculates emission inventory plans and reports; creates and/or maintains inventory of criteria air pollutants for stationary sources.
- Identifies and evaluates or prepares toxic air contaminant and risk assessment determinations.
- Conducts field reviews and/or inspects new or existing permitted sources and evaluates effectiveness of control equipment.
- Generates air dispersion models and conducts health risk assessments as necessary.
- Calculates Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC) emissions inventory; reviews toxic emissions inventory plans and reports.
- Determines and recommends Best Available Control Technology (BACT); maintains BACT and MACT clearing house data.
- Uses computer software and programs to make engineering calculations, and to enter/retrieve data.
- Calculates Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) and maintains the District ERC bank.
- Provides compliance assistance to various constituents including small business owners or sole proprietors, engineering consultants, and public agency representatives.
- Meets with industrial representatives to discuss modifications recommended for compliance with air quality rules and regulations.
- Provides information to other staff regarding impact of violations, explanation of permit conditions and explanation of emission factors and emissions rates.
- Prepares public notices for proposed permits; attends or conducts permit workshops or public hearings on proposed permits.
- Develops program guidelines and notifications to sources/persons affected by new or modified regulations.
- Serves on special committees to develop guidelines and procedures.
- Generates reports with specific information on the subject of permitted sources to assist in program implementation; responds to requests for information and clarification through the generation of reports.
- Provides research and technical support and/or assists in the development and implementation of District air quality rules and regulations.
- Develops, implements, and coordinates District air quality programs or grant programs with the EPA, CARB, and others as assigned.
- Manage, organize, and coordinate aspects of grant and special project programs, including but not limited to contract implementation, project and grant compliance, project and grant evaluation, assessing project eligibility, and estimating emission reductions.
- Establishes and maintains professional and effective working relationships with the public, industry, state/local agencies, elected and appointed officials, co-workers, and management, and interacts effectively and professionally under pressure.
- Representing the District in meetings with the public, industry, and other agencies, and coordinating the District's response to public and industry inquiries regarding regulation

interpretation, permit preparation, various compliance measures, and emission calculation methods.

- Maintains accurate records and files.
- Other duties as assigned and as required to fulfill the essential functions of the position.

MINIMUM EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Both classes:
 - Knowledge of engineering principles, practices, methods, and procedures.
 - Knowledge of current local, State, and Federal air quality rules and regulations.
 - Knowledge of principles, practices and research methods related to the analysis and control of air pollution.
 - Knowledge of the principles, methods, practices and equipment used to determine, analyze, evaluate and control stationary sources of air contamination.
 - Familiar with the principles of physics, chemistry, mathematics, meteorology, statistics, environmental planning or engineering as they apply to air pollution control and enforcement techniques.
 - Possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.
 - Ability to deal calmly and constructively with conflict and develop effective resolutions in difficult situations dealing with sources and the general public.
 - Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with staff.
 - Ability to promote cooperative relationships with governmental, industrial, and public groups concerned with air pollution control programs.
- Air Quality Engineer I: either a Bachelor of Science Degree in an appropriate engineering discipline; or a Bachelor of Science Degree in an appropriate scientific discipline such as environmental science, chemistry, physics, or biology, etc.; or a Bachelor's Degree from a four year college or university with major coursework in environmental, chemical, mechanical, or petroleum engineering, or a closely related engineering discipline; or additional related coursework and/or engineering training may substitute for the required experience in an appropriate scientific discipline.
- Air Quality Engineer II: education and experience of an Air Quality Engineer I, plus five (5) years experience as an Air Quality Engineer I or equivalent; or five (5) years experience in air pollution control engineering or any combination of training and/or experience that could likely provide the desired knowledge and abilities.
- Possession of a valid California Driver's License.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge of NSR, PSD, Title V, Toxic Hotspots – AB2588, Vapor Recovery, NSPS, NESHAPs, and other State and federal air quality programs.
- Knowledge of toxic air contaminants and health risk assessment procedures, including air dispersion modeling techniques.
- Experience and knowledge of emission inventory concepts, derivation, and inventory calculations; California CEIDARS program.
- Experience and knowledge of information, database and geographical information systems.
- Knowledge of US EPA Region IX activities related to air pollution, and experience with national air pollution control laws and programs.
- Two years of experience serving in a position demonstrating the ability to perform the assigned duties.
- Ability to work well in an environment requiring multi-tasking.

COMPENSATION:

The position is paid bi-weekly with a monthly salary range within the Payroll Range 400: Range 400.1 (\$3,542-\$4,319), Range 400.2 (\$4,353-\$5,513), Range 400.3 (\$5,904-\$7,036). Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
2300 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-3093 FAX (707) 443-3099
<http://www.ncuaqmd.org>



Permit Engineer
Position Description
(revised January 2007)

GENERAL - Under the direction of management, this position performs a variety of professional engineering work in connection with the review and evaluation of engineering plans and air permit applications; performs initial field inspections of equipment; and performs other related duties as assigned. This position is considered professional.

PRINCIPLE DUTIES:

1. Reviews and evaluates engineering plans and permit applications for equipment that emits or controls air pollution to determine if the equipment meets all applicable rules and regulations.
2. Researches and determines best available control technology; performs economic analyses on technology determinations.
3. Calculates and analyses pollution emissions; drafts permits conditions, determines fees; issues permits.
4. Performs initial inspections of equipment to determine that conditions are in compliance, and equipment is constructed and operated as required.
5. Reviews test protocols, observes source tests; reviews and analyses test results.
6. Participates in meetings, represents the District in workshops, and participates in assigned rule-making activities.
7. Participates in the after hour liaison duty as needed.
8. Participates in assigned enforcement and compliance related activities.
9. Prepares a variety of professional and technical reports for APCO, District, and Division activities.
10. Permitting programs including, but not limited to, minor source permits, NSPS, NSR, PSD, Title V, Title III permits. Special permit programs may include quarry permit program, vapor recovery permit program, expedited permit program, and liaison with State portable permit program.
11. Maintain BACT and MACT clearing house data and follow statewide permitting issues of significance.
12. Implement District adopted policies and executive directives as needed to achieve and maintain air quality standards and to support related efforts toward that end.
13. Coordinates and manages the acquisition and review of continuous emission monitoring data and Emission Inventory.
14. Other duties as assigned.

The position reports to the Permits & Planning Division Manager.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in Engineering, Environmental Science, Planning, Public Administration, Natural Resources, or a related field providing specialized knowledge and skills as required to fulfill the principle duties of this position. An equivalent combination of experience and education to allow the incumbent to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of air pollution control is acceptable.
- Two years experience serving in a position involving the issuance and/or compliance with air district or equivalent regulatory permits, or experience demonstrating the ability to perform the assigned duties.
- Possession of a California Drivers License.
- Knowledgeable in issues pertaining to the protection of Air Pollution, Land Use and Environmental Planning, Meteorology and Air Quality Modeling.
- Experienced in information, database and Geographical Information Systems.
- Thorough understanding of stationary source testing programs (CARB Method V).

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge of Emission Inventory Systems – California CEIDARS program.
- Familiarity with Continuous Air Monitoring systems.
- Knowledge of Continuous Emission Monitoring systems and Data Acquisition systems.
- Ability to prepare permits, interpret and apply State and Federal legislative program requirements pertaining to Air Quality.
- Perform and conduct public presentations and public education campaigns.

COMPENSATION: Salary is commensurate with education and experience. The position is paid biweekly with a monthly salary range of: \$3208 to \$6381 (payroll range 400).

Payroll Range 400 Series:

400.1:	\$3208-\$3917
400.2:	\$4113-\$4999
400.3:	\$5249-\$6381

Agenda Item: 10

**North Coast Unified
Air Quality Management District**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-3093
www.ncuagmd.org



TO: North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Brian Wilson, APCO

SUBJECT: Pending CalPERS changes to Group Insurance Plans for 2022

DATE: September 16, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept and Approve Proposed Revisions to District Group Insurance Plan

SUMMARY:

On July 13, 2021, the CalPERS Board of Administration approved health plan premiums for calendar year 2022. These changes are due in part of CalPERS changing its rating methodology in addition to forecast plan and rate changes. In 2022, CalPERS medical plans will be rated on value, not on risk. This means more credibility will be given to the actuarial value of a health plan than to the claims costs per employee enrolled in the plan. This change is forecast to yield some rate change increases for some CalPERS plans.

Currently, the District provides the basic PERS Choice PPO plan. For CalPERS PPOs, the three current plans (PERS Care, PERS Choice, and PERS Select) will change to two new plans, PERS Platinum and PERS Gold. The change is the result of a year-long analysis to stabilize the Basic plan portfolio, including engagement with members, employers, and stakeholders. The two PPO plans will offer more distinction in benefit design, networks, and premium pricing. By default to match plan benefits, CalPERS will migrate existing PERS Choice PPO plan holders to the PERS Platinum plan.

Plan Name	Changes for 2022
PERSCare	Transition to PERS Platinum. Retains the same 90/10 benefit design, and network as PERSCare/PERS Choice
PERS Choice	Transition to PERS Platinum. Offers a 90/10 benefit design, and retains the network of PERSCare/PERS Choice
PERS Select	Transition to PERS Gold. Retains the same 80/20 benefit design and network as PERS Select

	PERS Choice (Current)	PERS Platinum (Default)	PERS Gold
Monthly Premium for Subscriber	\$935.84	\$1,057.01	\$701.23
Monthly Premium for Subscriber & 1	\$1,871.68	\$2,114.02	\$1,402.46
Monthly Premium for Subscriber & 2+	\$2,433.18	\$2,748.23	\$1,823.20
Overall Deductibles	\$500 ind/ \$1000 family	\$500 ind/ \$1000 family	\$1000 ind/ \$2000 family
In-Network Out-of-Pocket Limit	\$3000 ind/ \$6000 family	\$2000 ind/ \$4000 family	\$3000 ind/ \$6000 family
Most In-Network Co-Insurance Amounts	20%	10%	20%

As a result of the change, the worst-case increase in health benefit costs to the District is about \$300 for the monthly premium for each covered employee with covered dependents, which would mean a potential increase of almost \$50,400 for 14 employees. When the new premiums start in January, and with the current employees and dependents, the actual increase (or difference in the current fiscal year's budget) is projected to be about \$19,500.

Open Enrollment takes place each fall. Changes made during 2021 Open Enrollment will take effect January 1, 2022. The 2021 Open Enrollment will take place September 20 - October 15, 2021. This timing can be problematic as other options will suddenly require negotiation with the union and potentially double the deductibles.

At this time, Staff recommends that the Board continue with the current changes CalPERS has made to the plan. There may need to be continued discussion on this issue next year for the budget and prior to the next open enrollment period.

Agenda Item: 11

**North Coast Unified
Air Quality Management District**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 443-3093
www.ncuagmd.org



TO: North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Board

FROM: Brian Wilson, APCO

SUBJECT: APCO Report

DATE: September 16, 2021

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept and File

The following information is provided as a summary of items of interest to the Board and District. Staff solicits and appreciates any feedback concerning these items or other items of interest from the Board.

1. Wildfire Smoke Update

The 2021 wildfire season started with minor smoke impacts in eastern Trinity County from the Lava, Salt, and Tennant Fires in Siskiyou County. After that there have been daily impacts from the Dixie Fire (Chico area), Knob Fire, Monument Fire, McFarland Fire, River Complex, and McCash fires impacting the region with smoke.

District staff has had coordination meetings with the Public Health Departments and OES staff for Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity County. The District contacts the applicable county DHHS staff when the District AQI forecast for a city/community in their county may reach Hazardous conditions. The District can typically provide supplemental monitoring data information in case the Public Health Officer may wish to take additional action.

Since late July, the District has issued almost daily Advisories or Alerts (per the Wildfire Guide for Public Health Officials) via the District's multi-county Air Quality Wildfire Smoke Advisory (see attached example from September 2, 2021). This comprehensive AQ Smoke Advisory indicates the Air Quality Index (AQI) levels of concern (Hazardous, Unhealthy, Moderate, etc.) for communities for which there is acceptable forecast information. During wildfire events, AQ Smoke Advisories are updated as conditions change.

Due to the wildfires, the District has portable monitors (EBAMs) deployed at these locations: Crescent City, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Weaverville, Hayfork, Eureka, and Garberville.

The District maintains an email distribution list for sending AQ Smoke Advisory notifications. AQ Smoke Advisories are sent to all media sources, schools and the general public. The District, California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the EPA highly recommend using the EPA's Fire & Smoke Map (<https://fire.airnow.gov>) for air quality smoke impacts and current AQI information. Although there are alternative websites with similar information, this website provides the best information for viewing smoke maps, deployed PM2.5 wildfire monitors, and corrected sensor information. The District website also provides links to the latest and most accurate information available on wildfire smoke impacts and actions to protect yourself from smoke.

The District also provides a Wildfire Smoke Guidance and Recommended Activity Guide for Schools During Wildfires for schools when there is wildfire smoke (see attached). This information is available on our website. This guide is based upon the California Department of Education's (CDE's) air quality guidance template for schools, which provides recommendations for schools and others responsible for children during a wildfire smoke and other air quality event(s). The guidance provides health recommendations for schools, coaches, and event coordinators regarding student exposure to wildfire smoke.

2. PM2.5 Sensor Deployment for Wildfires

Over the last few years, the District has deployed almost fifty (50) PM2.5 air sensors (PurpleAir PA-II) throughout the three counties with historical pollution patterns or probabilities for exposure to wildfire smoke. These sensors are best viewed on the EPA's Fire & Smoke Map (<https://fire.airnow.gov>). Presently in the three counties, most of the sensors shown on the map have been deployed so far through efforts of the District.

Sensors have been deployed in these locations: Smith River, Gasquet, Crescent City, Klamath, Orleans, Willow Creek, McKinleyville, Blue Lake, Eureka, Humboldt Hill, Maple Creek, Kneeland, Loleta, Fortuna, Bridgeville, Garberville, Shelter Cove, Honeydew, Petrolia, Mad River, Hyampom, Burnt Ranch, Junction City, Weaverville, Lewiston, Coffee Creek, Trinity Center, Hayfork, and other locations.

This year, District staff also contacted and worked to deploy these sensors with tribes that did not already have sensors in their territory – the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Elk Valley Rancheria, Wiyot Tribe, and Bear River Rancheria (the Yurok Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, and Hoopa Tribe already have at least one sensor at their locations). This will help the Tribes and the District provide better air quality information for the areas deployed.

The PM2.5 sensors utilized are not official monitors, and cost about \$200 as compared to a \$15,000 EBAM monitor or \$20-25,000 regulatory (FEM or FRM) station monitor. As a much cheaper device they can provide information in a region or area where there is no information or monitors during wildfires, and give guidance where a monitor should be deployed. These sensors have proven to be invaluable during wildfires by District staff and the USFS Air Resource Advisors assigned on the fires. In addition to the portable EBAMs deployed, the additional sensors in

smaller communities have really helped improve the accuracy of wildfire smoke advisory AQI forecasts and ensure representation of these more rural areas.

3. Update on PG&E Regular Variance Activity

On July 26, 2021, the Hearing Board issued Hearing Order No. 2021-01 for a Regular Variance to PG&E (see attached Order and Staff Report). The regular variance granted to PG&E extended the final compliance date and provided relief from permit conditions and permit emission limitations for an additional year to allow the HBGS to potentially operate in island mode during upcoming emergencies such as Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) events and to complete engine tuning at loads less than 50%.

The previous Regular Variance was in effect for a period of up to one year which ended on July 9, 2021. Although HBGS recently has submitted an application to modify appropriate permit conditions in its Title V Operating Permit, more time was needed to perform the permit action with public noticing and EPA review.

4. District Staff Update

Staff would like to extend congratulations to the following new and promoted staff in their new positions:

Ms. Michelle Hanson - Air Quality Inspector II
Mr. Winslow Condon - Compliance & Enforcement Division Manager
Ms. Katie Thompson – Administrative Support

5. Staff Training

Here is a brief list of the main training staff has participated since the last Board Meeting:

- *CARB - Moyer Reporting Training* - Chrystal Ales
- *CARB - Agricultural Emissions Inventory Workshop* - Chrystal Ales
- *GovInvest - CalPERS Investment Returns Are In! What It Means For Your Agency* - Penny Costa
- *Shaw Law Group & DFEH - The Fair Pay Act and California Employers* - Penny Costa
- *CARB - OS100 Variance/Hearing Board Training* - Erin Squire
- *CAPCOA - Smoke Management Training* - Debra Harris & Katie Thompson



AIR QUALITY SMOKE ADVISORY

A joint message from the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and partners

Press release issued: September 2, 2021
Advisory updated as conditions change

The Knob Fire, Monument Fire, McFarland Fire, River Complex, and McCash fires continue to impact the region with smoke. USFS Air Resource Advisors on the fires indicate that smoke will be less likely to lift today as high pressure builds in the area. Area wide smoke movement will be toward the southwest this morning, shifting more to southeast this afternoon. Willow Creek and nearby communities in the Trinity River Valley should see worsening conditions due to the Knob Fire. Light onshore winds return tomorrow helping communities west of the fires, but otherwise air quality in the region may worsen tomorrow and through the weekend as the atmosphere becomes more stable.

Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. USFS Air Resource Advisors (ARA) assigned to the Monument/McFarland and River Complex fires provides daily ARA Smoke Outlook Forecasts at <https://wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlooks>.

ALERT – Hazardous Conditions (AQI 301 and higher, 24 hr avg):

- Trinity Center/Coffee Creek – Very Unhealthy to Hazardous
- Junction City – Very Unhealthy to Hazardous
- Hayfork – Very Unhealthy to Hazardous
- Douglas City – Very Unhealthy to Hazardous

ADVISORY – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy Conditions (AQI 151-300 range, 24 hr avg):

- Willow Creek – Unhealthy to Hazardous conditions, some improvement possible later in the day
- Hoopa Valley – USG early, then periods of Unhealthy to Hazardous, some improvement possible later in the day
- Orleans – Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy, some improvement possible later in the day
- Weaverville – Moderate early, becoming Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy
- Trinity Center/Coffee Creek – Unhealthy early, becoming Very Unhealthy to Hazardous
- Lewiston – Moderate early, becoming Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy

Regional Smoke Outlooks – Good, Moderate, to USG Conditions (AQI 0-150 range, 24 hr avg):

Humboldt County: (see above Advisory)

- Weitchpec – USG early, becoming Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy, some improvement possible later in the day
- Eureka (including Scotia to Trinidad) – Good to Moderate, widespread haze; conditions worse at higher elevations
- Garberville & Redway – Good to Moderate, then periods of USG in afternoon

Del Norte County:

- Crescent City – Good to Moderate, some haze
- Gasquet – Good to Moderate, periods of USG to Unhealthy possible
- Klamath – Good to Moderate

Trinity County: (see above Advisory and Alerts)

U.S. EPA AIR QUALITY INDEX (<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>)

Action	Level of Concern	AQI Value	Actions to Protect Yourself
	Good	0 - 50	None, air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk
	Moderate	51 - 100	Sensitive individuals should limit prolonged or heavy exertion
	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG)	101 - 150	People within USG should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
Advisory	Unhealthy (UH)	151 - 200	People within USG should avoid all prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion
	Very Unhealthy (VUH)	201 - 300	Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion
Alert	Hazardous (HAZ)	> 301	Everyone should avoid any outdoor activity

Smoke Impact Summary

The USFS Air Resource Advisor on the Knob Fire, Monument, and McFarland Fires indicates that smoke will be mostly terrain driven with areas near active fires continuing to see Hazardous to Unhealthy conditions. Smoke will pool in communities and will be slow to disperse. This afternoon, smoke will push towards the coast due to an offshore flow. Willow Creek and nearby communities in the Trinity River Valley should see worsening conditions due to the Knob Fire. Air quality worsens tomorrow and through the weekend in the forecast area as the atmosphere becomes more stable.

The USFS Air Resource Advisor on the River Complex and McCash Fires indicates that with a high pressure area building, smoke will be less likely to lift today. Area wide smoke movement will be toward the southwest this morning, shifting more to southeast this afternoon. With light and shifting winds, the strongest influences will remain local terrain and proximity to the fires. Light onshore winds return tomorrow, helping communities west of the fires but otherwise expect similar conditions to persist into the weekend.

If you are in areas that continue to be Unhealthy to Hazardous air quality, it is really important to take health and safety precautions. Take actions to limit outdoor activity and smoke exposure. Learn how to protect yourself from wildfire smoke. Visit the Wildfire Smoke Resources section of our webpage at www.ncuaqmd.org.

In Trinity County, High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filters have been placed at the following locations:

- Trinity County Library, 351 Main St., Weaverville
Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:00pm - 6:00pm; Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am - 6:00 pm

Particulate Matter (PM2.5) monitors are located in Crescent City, Weitchpec, Hoopa, Willow Creek, Weaverville, Hayfork, Eureka, and Garberville. **Air quality monitors and the current Air Quality Index (AQI) for communities should be viewed at <https://fire.airnow.gov>**

Health Information & Actions To Protect Yourself From Smoke Impacts

Concentrations of smoke may vary depending upon location, weather, and distance from the fire. Smoke from wildfires and structure fires contain harmful chemicals that can affect your health. Smoke can cause eye and throat irritation, coughing, and difficulty breathing. People who are at greatest risk of experiencing symptoms due to smoke include: those with respiratory disease (such as asthma), those with heart disease, young children, and older adults.

These sensitive populations should stay indoors and avoid prolonged activity. All others should limit prolonged or heavy activity and time spent outdoors. Even healthy adults can be affected by smoke. Seek medical help if you have symptoms that worsen or become severe.

Follow these general precautions to protect your health during a smoke event:

- Minimize or stop outdoor activities, especially exercise.
- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed as much as possible.
- Do not run fans that bring smoky outdoor air inside – examples include swamp coolers, whole-house fans, and fresh air ventilation systems.
- Run your air-conditioner only if it does not bring smoke in from the outdoors. Change the standard air conditioner filter to a medium or high efficiency filter. If available, use the “re-circulate” or “recycle” setting on the unit.
- Do not smoke, fry food, or do other things that will create indoor air pollution.

Consider leaving the area until smoke conditions improve if you have repeated coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea, unusual fatigue, lightheadedness.

For further information, visit the District’s website at www.ncuaqmd.org or call the District’s Wildfire Response Coordinator at (707) 443-3093 x122.

**NORTH COAST UNIFIED
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501
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Recommendations for Schools and Others Responsible for Children during a Wildfire Smoke Event

Health Recommendations for Schools, Coaches, and Event Coordinators regarding student exposure to fine particles (smoke and dust) air pollution

Air Quality Conditions - Using the NCUAQMD Air Quality Index (AQI) for Wildfire Smoke

The terrain in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties is complex making AQ monitoring a challenge based on weather and topography. The NCUAQMD issues Wildfire Smoke PSAs, Alerts and Advisories which forecasts the AQI (www.ncuaqmd.org, go → *Wildfire Smoke AQI Info*). Realtime (not forecast) AQI can also be found on the NCUAQMD website via AirNow and other links (go → *Current AQ Maps*).

Activity*	GOOD	MODERATE	UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS (USG)	UNHEALTHY	VERY UNHEALTHY / HAZARDOUS
	(AQI : 0-50)	(AQI: 51-100)	(AQI: 101-150)	(AQI: 151-200)	(AQI: 201-300)
	Visibility* 11+ miles	Visibility 6-10 miles	Visibility 3-5 miles	Visibility 1.5 - 2.75 miles	Visibility < 1.25 miles
	Keep classroom doors and windows closed. Use A/C conditioning system				
Recess (15 min)	No restrictions	No restrictions, but allow students with asthma or other respiratory problems to stay indoors	Keep students with asthma, respiratory infection, and heart or lung disease indoors. Make indoor space available for all students.	Keep students indoors and activity levels light.	Keep all students indoors and activity levels light.
P.E. (1 hour)	No restrictions	Monitor students with asthma or other respiratory problems, limit their vigorous activities and increase rest periods	Limit to light outdoor activities. Allow any student to stay indoors if going outside might affect their health. Keep students with asthma, respiratory infection, and heart or lung disease indoors. Limit these students to moderate activities.	Conduct P.E. indoors. Limit students to light activities.	Keep all students indoors and activity levels light.
Scheduled Sporting Events & Practices	No restrictions	Monitor students with asthma or other respiratory problems, limit their vigorous activities and increase rest periods	Consider moving the event indoors. Increase rest periods and substitutions to allow for lower breathing rates. Students with asthma, respiratory infection, and heart or lung disease should play indoors.	Consider canceling, rescheduling, or relocating event to an area of good air quality, if this can be done without much transit through areas with poor air quality	Consider canceling, rescheduling, or relocating event to an area of good air quality, if this can be done without much transit through areas with poor air quality

*Asthma action plans should be followed at all times. When air quality is diminished, individuals should pay special attention to their Asthma Action Plan

→Light activities: walking slowly carrying school books, hanging out with friends, playing board games

→Moderate activities: Skateboarding, slow pitch softball, shooting basketballs

→Vigorous activities: Running, jogging, football, soccer, basketball, jumping rope


How to roughly estimate air quality based on visibility without an air quality monitor or airport visibility estimate:

- 1) Face away from the sun. 2) Determine the limit of your visible range by looking for targets at known distances (miles).
- 3) Visible range is that point at which even high contrast objects totally disappear. 4) Use the values above to determine the local AQI.

**North Coast Unified
Air Quality Management District**

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Humboldt - Del Norte - Trinity Counties



**BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD
OF THE
NORTH COAST UNIFIED AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**In the matter of the Petition for
Regular Variance
by PG&E Company for HBGS**

) No. 2021-01
) **CONFIRMATION OF FINDINGS
AND ORDER EXTENDING
FINAL COMPLIANCE DATE OF
REGULAR VARIANCE No. 2020-02**

On July 26, 2021, pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 42352 and District Regulation VI, Rule 606 of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, a duly noticed petition for a regular variance submitted pursuant to HSC § 40826 by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (“PG&E”) (hereinafter referred to as “Petitioner”), came on for hearing by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Hearing Board. The hearing was duly noticed and conducted via Zoom video teleconference by Board members Charles Rocklein (Chair of the Hearing Board), John Corbett, and Ken Mierzwa. Consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20, N-29-20, and N-8-21 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the public and Board Members were able to participate and observe the hearing via Zoom video teleconference.

Petitioner was represented by Charles Holm, PG&E Humboldt Bay Generating System (HBGS) Plant Manager, and Ryan Messinger, HBGS Environmental Compliance Manager. The District was represented by Brian Wilson, Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO); Jason L. Davis, Deputy APCO and Permitting & Planning Division Manager; and Nancy Diamond, District General Counsel.

Representatives of the Petitioner, the District, and members of the public were sworn in and gave extensive public testimony concerning the requested variance. The District, and Petitioner were given the right of cross-examination and the public was given the opportunity to direct questions to both the Petitioner and the District.

The following documents and other evidentiary material were marked for identification and received into evidence.

- Exhibit A1: Petitioner’s Application for Hearing for a Regular Variance under HSC §42350(a);
- Exhibit B1: Notice of Public Hearing to be held on July 26, 2021, and Proof of Publication of Notice on July 11, 2021;
- Exhibit B2: District Staff Report for Regular Variance Hearing (including Attachments) on July 26, 2021 including attachments:
 - a) Recommended Variance Orders,
 - b) Public Notice,
 - c) Application for Hearing,
 - d) Variance Order No. 2020-02
 - e) PG&E Title V Federal Operating Permit and District Permit to Operate #NCU 059-12

- f) District Regulations Relevant to Hearing Board
- g) Health & Safety Code Sections 43250-42364

Neither party offered an exhibit that was not received into evidence. After receiving evidence and testimony, findings and decision were made as follows:

FINDINGS

Based on the evidence and testimony, the following findings are made pursuant to HSC § 42352 and District Regulation VI, Rule 606 – Decisions:

1. Petitioner owns and operates the Humboldt Bay Generating System (“HBGS”), a power generation facility located at 1000 King Salmon Avenue, Eureka, California, under the terms and conditions of Title V Federal Operating Permit and District Permit to Operate No. NCU 059-12 (“Operating Permit”).
2. The Operating Permit requires operation of all ten Wartsila Dual Fuel reciprocating engines located at the HBGS to be operated at loads of 50% or more. Emission limitation conditions in the Operating Permit are based on the 50% operational engine load, and were established at the time the Operating Permit was first issued based on the engine manufacturer's guarantee. Deployment of this type of engine technology was new and no emissions profile for operations at lower loads was available or guaranteed by the manufacturer.
3. On December 14, 2019, the Hearing Board granted Petitioner an Interim Variance pursuant to HSC § 42351 and District Regulation VI, Rule 603, to conduct emissions testing while operating three of the ten Wartsila Dual Fuel reciprocating engines at loads lower than 50% (North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Hearing Board Confirmation of Findings and Order No. 2019-01).
4. Petitioner performed emission testing as allowed under the terms of the Interim Variance from December 15-17, 2019 while operating under 50% load in accordance with the TRC Source Test Plan. NOx emissions during these tests indicated that the engines could potentially operate at low loads within NOx emission limitations with further tuning and ammonia modifications that were performed at higher loads.
5. On February 3, 2020, the Hearing Board granted Petitioner a short-term Regular Variance pursuant to HSC § 42352 and District Regulation VI, Rule 606 to conduct additional testing while operating three of the ten Wartsila Dual Fuel reciprocating engines at loads lower than 50%, and to test operation of the HBGS in island mode (North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Hearing Board Confirmation of Findings and Order No. 2020-01). The short-term Regular Variance terminated on June 30, 2020.
6. Petitioner’s request to operate and test the HBGS engines at loads lower than 50% is part of its investigation into whether it can operate the HBGS in an island mode or as a black start unit to provide local power during emergency events that impact local electric power transmission lines, such as Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) events, storms, etc. Under

the terms of the short-term Regular Variance, Petitioner performed ammonia injection load point determination tests (completed April 2020) associated with the engines' respective lower operational loads and tested island operational mode (completed May 2020).

7. The results of testing and island mode operation during the Interim and short-term Regular Variances allowed Petitioner to obtain preliminary ammonia injection load point profiles for three of the ten engines operating at low electric service loads, and to confirm that island operation can be achieved. By using the ammonia injection load points data obtained during Variance testing, NOx emissions during low load operation were reduced to acceptable levels. Petitioner believes that additional testing to refine ammonia injection load points for engine operation at low electric service loads will further reduce NOx emissions during island operation.
8. On May 27, 2020, Petitioner submitted an application for variance to obtain relief from Operating Permit conditions and permit emission limitations for two purposes: i) to conduct engine tuning at low loads (less than 50%) in an attempt to improve engine operation and emissions during engine startups in island operations mode; and, ii) to operate the HBGS in island mode during emergency events, such as Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events/storm events, while seeking modification of the HBGS Operating Permit. Petitioner will submit an application to modify its Title V Operating Permit during the summer of 2020 to allow the HBGS to operate in island mode. The variance is sought for a period of up to one year or until a modified Title V Operating Permit is effective, whichever date is sooner.
9. Operation of the HBGS to serve local area electric power during PSPS and other emergency events serves the public health and safety by reducing private, retail, commercial, and governmental reliance on individual back-up generators, most of which are not controlled or monitored for air emissions.
10. Proposed additional testing during the term of the variance will cause insignificant air quality impacts.
11. On July 10, 2020, the Hearing Board granted Petitioner a Regular Variance pursuant to HSC § 42352 and District Regulation VI, Rule 606 from specified permit conditions to conduct low engine tuning, operate in island mode as necessary, and to submit an application to modify its Title V Operating Permit to allow the HBGS to operate in island mode operation (North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Hearing Board Confirmation of Findings and Order No. 2020-02, ("Regular Variance"). The Regular Variance final compliance date was June 9, 2021.
12. On March 5, 2021, Petitioner submitted a Petition to modify the Regular Variance compliance date. The COVID-19 pandemic and shelter-in-place orders impacted PG&E staffing and those of engine manufacturer Wartsila in completing the low load engine tuning under Variance Order 2020-02. As a result, low load engine tuning could not be completed by the Regular Variance final compliance date of July 9, 2021.
13. The required findings identified under HSC § 42352 and District Regulation VI, Rule 606

have been satisfied based on the proposed findings in the District staff report as modified at this hearing, and which are adopted herein. These findings are summarized as follows:

a. *That the petitioner is, or will be, in violation of a provision of the HSC or of any rule, regulation, or order of the District, including but not limited to, any permit condition.* Operation and/or engine tuning the HBGS at loads less than 50% would violate the following Operating Permit Conditions:

- Condition #84 – diesel mode, no more than two units in startup during any one clock hour.
- Condition #90 – gas mode, startup lbs/hr.
- Condition #91 – gas mode, ppm, lbs/hr, and lbs/mmbtu.
- Condition #92 – gas mode, daily emissions limits.
- Condition #94 – diesel mode ppm, lbs/hr and lbs/mmbtu.
- Condition #95 – DPM emissions limits, hourly and daily only.
- Condition #96 – S-1 through S-10 daily emission limits in diesel mode.
- Condition #111 – S-1 through S-10 load less than 50%.
- Condition #112 – engines not to run more than 80 hours per calendar day at loads less than 50%.
- Condition #114 – catalyst pressure requirements.
- Condition #115 – catalyst temperature requirements.
- Condition #116 – CO reductions of greater than or equal to 70%.

b. *That due to conditions beyond the reasonable control of the petitioner, requiring compliance would result in either a) an arbitrary or unreasonable taking of property, or b) the practical closing and elimination of a lawful business.* Petitioner's testing during the interim and regular variances indicates that it is able to operate the HBGS in island mode to provide electric power to portions of Humboldt County during local power outages caused by emergencies including PSPS and other emergency events, rather than remaining out of operation in shut down mode. Limited staffing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic emergency orders prevented Petitioner from completing all low load tuning prior to the July 9, 2021 variance final compliance date. If a modified final compliance date for the variance is not granted, PG&E would be required to shut down the HBGS rather than support local load demand during such emergency events or operate in violation of Condition #111 (S-1 through S-10 load less than 50%) of the Operating Permit, with the potential to exceed other permit conditions as listed initially above and in their petition. An application to modify the Operating Permit to be able to operate during local power outages caused by PSPS and other emergency events will be submitted as part of variance.

c. *That such closing or taking would be without a corresponding benefit in reducing air contaminants.* Discharges from the HBGS regulated through an Operating Permit are preferable to the unregulated emissions from hundreds or thousands of gas or diesel back-up generators operated throughout the region during PSPS and other electric power shutdown events.

d. *That the applicant for the variance has given consideration to curtailing operations of*

the source in lieu of obtaining a variance. Curtailing operations of the HBGS would not allow Petitioner to operate at the low load levels necessary to operate in island mode or as a black start unit to serve local area load, or to perform engine tuning at loads less than 50%.

- e. *During the period the variance is in effect, that the applicant will rescue excess emissions to the maximum extent feasible.* As part of this Order, Petitioner is required to i) continue adhere to all conditions in the Operating Permit, including the use of all Air Pollution Control systems (SCR, CO catalyst, etc.), and ii) adhere to all monitoring equipment and requirements (CEMS, etc.) to the maximum extent possible.
- f. *During the period the variance is in effect, that the applicant will monitor or otherwise quantify emissions levels from the source, if requested to do so by the District, and report these emissions levels to the District pursuant to a schedule established by the District.* As part of this Order, Petitioner will be required to quantify and report all monitoring data obtained during the period of the variance as part of the regular monitoring reporting.

ORDER

Based upon the above findings, Petitioner Regular Variance No. 2020-02 is hereby modified to extend the final compliance date to July 9, 2022. This Order provides a variance from the following conditions of the Operating Permit:

- Condition #84 – diesel mode, no more than two units in startup during any one clock hour.
- Condition #90 – gas and diesel mode, startup lbs/hr.
- Condition #91 – gas mode, ppm, lbs/hr, and lbs/mmbtu.
- Condition #92 – gas mode, daily emissions limits.
- Condition #94 – diesel mode ppm, lbs/hr and lbs/mmbtu.
- Condition #95 – DPM emissions limits, hourly and daily only.
- Condition #96 – S-1 through S-10 daily emission limits in diesel mode.
- Condition #109 – startup and shutdowns, limited to 30 engine hours/day
- Condition #111 – S-1 through S-10 load less than 50%.
- Condition #112 – engines not to run more than 80 hours per calendar day at loads less than 50%.
- Condition #114 – catalyst pressure requirements.
- Condition #115 – catalyst temperature requirements.
- Condition #116 – CO reductions of greater than or equal to 70%.

The period of this variance shall be governed by HSC § 42358(a), and shall expire no later than July 9, 2022. During the period of this variance, unless otherwise stated, the following shall apply:

1. The Petitioner is granted relief from the permit conditions and limitations of the Operating Permit as listed above at operational load levels less than 50%, in order to perform low load engine tuning in an attempt to improve engine operation and emissions during engine startups in island operations mode, and to allow the HBGS to operate in island mode during

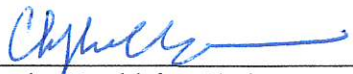
any upcoming emergency events such as Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events, while the permit modification is in process.

2. The relief granted by the variance will be limited to engine tuning and testing events, and emergency events requiring disconnection from the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) grid and operation in island mode, such as Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events.
3. The Petitioner shall use natural gas as the primary and preferred fuel source during operations in island mode to support local load demand during emergency events such as PSPS, but in the event that operating conditions warrant, distillate (diesel) fuel may be used in order to maintain engine reliability and to avoid damaging the engines or air pollution control systems. Examples of these conditions during natural gas operation may include, but are not limited to, overheating catalysts, synch back to parallel operation, cylinder issues, extreme load swings, etc.
4. The Petitioner shall conduct the low load engine tuning activities, where the total of engine tuning shall not exceed 44 hours, per the following assumptions and allowances:
 - a) Proposal is for 4 hours of operation below 50% load for each engine.
 - b) There are 10 engines that will be tested (S-1 through S-10).
 - c) HBGS expects that the tuning activities would entail tuning 2 engines daily for 5 days.
 - d) Allowance for a 10% contingency (for 44 hours of total testing time allowed), because the schedule is completely dependent upon the CAISO and may need to be adjusted to account for grid load expectations.
5. The Petitioner shall continue to adhere to all conditions in the Operating Permit, and specifically continue to use all Air Pollution Control (APC) systems (SCR and CO catalyst, etc.) to the maximum extent possible during all low load testing and operation.
6. The Petitioner shall continue to adhere to all regulatory monitoring requirements in the Operating Permit, specifically used of Continuous Emissions Monitoring (CEMS) during all low load tests and operation.
7. The Petitioner will adhere to the following schedule of increments of progress:
 - a) Petitioner shall submit quarterly updates on the status of meeting the Variance Order conditions on October 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, April 1, 2022, and July 1, 2022. These quarterly updates shall include, and not be limited to, the following:
 - i) Status of completion of the low load engine tuning on the ten Wartsila engines;
 - ii) Status of achieving modification of the Title V Operating Permit #NCU 059-12.

8. Within thirty (30) days after the date of expiration of the variance, Petitioner shall prepare and submit a report of the emissions discharged that occurred as a result of relief obtained pursuant to the regular variance in accordance with District Rule 404(c) - Excess Emission Fee Schedule once the final results of the proposed testing are obtained. Payment of fees shall be made according to District Rule 404(c).
9. This Variance shall expire on July 9, 2022 or on the effective date of a modified Title V Operating Permit, whichever is sooner.

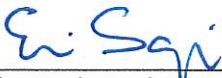
SO ORDERED, on Motion made by Board member Mierzwa and seconded by Board member Corbett.

Ayes: Board members Rocklein, Corbett, and Mierzwa
Nays: None.

By: 
Charles Rocklein, Chairperson of the Hearing Board

Date: Aug 8, 2021

ATTEST:

By: 
Erin Squire, Clerk of the Hearing Board

Date: August 17, 2021



Agenda Item: 12

Board Member Reports

Agenda Item: 13

Adjournment