



APCO Report-Out

August 10, 2022

COVID Update. – the District continues to carefully watch the COVID landscape. To date, the District has experienced four incidents where employees tested positive for COVID and had to quarantine. In these cases the District performed contact tracing, union notification, and disability management reporting. We remain vigilante and have not had any “outbreaks”.

District Personnel. – The District is pleased to report that it is fully staffed and it also brought on a short-term college intern for the summer. Our newest full-time team member is John Machado who will become our new ambient air monitoring specialist. John comes to us with a BS in microbiology/chemistry and MS in environmental science with expertise working in laboratory environments with sophisticated equipment. In addition, all of the District positions now have JDAs (occupational safety risk assessment reviews) and the APCO and District Analyst have completed County of Sonoma HR Liaison training.

Geothermal Opportunity Zone (GeoZone). – The APCO was invited by Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) to be part of a technical committee to review a Request for Information (RFI) for partners to (incrementally) develop 500 MW of geothermal baseload power in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. Through a series of interviews, in-house deliberations, and public meetings the review committee chose [three final candidates](#) that will be referred to the SCP Board with recommendations to begin contract negotiations. The District would be involved in permitting future projects in the District territory.

Criteria and Toxics Reporting (CTR). – [CTR is a state rule](#) under AB617 that created a new requirement for industry to report annual production emissions to CARB in a new statewide data system that CARB would deploy. Districts were expected to review the data after industry entered it into CARB’s system for QA/QC. During CTR rule development, the District sent mailers to permit holders so they could comment on the rule-making and be aware of their new compliance requirements. However, CARB has not developed the reporting system yet and rural districts begin to phase-in to reporting next year, starting with the largest sources. Because CARB does not have its system deployed there appears to be an expectation that Districts will collect the information into an interim data system on CARB’s behalf. The District and Counsel have reached-out to CARB for clarification to determine the District’s obligation and resource needs. It is likely that in the future that more reporting for more sources will be required and the District

will likely need to consider new permit requirements and/or a District rule to facilitate industry reporting and data collection.

US EPA Clean School Bus Program. – This is a new EPA program that provides incentive funds to replace older diesel school buses with new zero emissions busses. This is a 5-year program with this first year of funding closing on August 19th. The District reached out to school districts with buses eligible for replacement (year 2010 and older diesel buses) and high priority rural districts as defined by the Program (Fort Ross, Horicon, Kashia, and Montgomery elementary schools) to be sure they are aware of the Program. The District also shared more detailed information in a follow-up email to the Board. This Program is not run through the Districts; schools apply online through EPA’s web site.

Supporting Commuter Programs. - The District is funding [SCTA](#) for: 1) the Sonoma Emergency Ride Home program that provides a safety net for commuters using shared rides, transit, biking, and walking by reimbursing rides home a taxi, TNC, or rental car in cases of emergencies. 2) Go Sonoma Commute Program services that provide ride matching and incentive program to connect and encourage shared and active commuting through the Ride Amigos platform.

Compliance & Enforcement. – On July 6, 2022, a resident of the District conducted an open burn on a non-permissible burn day, without a permit, and they lost control of the burn. CAL FIRE had to respond to extinguish the fire and provided an incident report to the District. The District issued a Notice of Violation and a fine.

CAL FIRE / BioBiz – The [BioBiz Competition](#) has passed, and the winners were recently showcased at the District’s Expo event to the Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, but the District is continuing the conversation by providing a technical guide for other entities to hold their own biomass business competition. The guide contains lessons learned, technical resources, and template documents necessary to quickly develop and operate a competition and shows the District as a thought leader in this space. CAL FIRE paid for the District to compile this guide and CAL FIRE and other entities will be able to freely distribute the guide.

District Grants Update. It has been a busy period for District community incentive programs. On June 30th the grant period closed for the District’s Moyer and FARMER grant applications. In previous years we typically had 3-6 projects, and this year we have 12 applications. The District’s Burn Clean! wood stove replacement program has been active with 8 replacement projects so far this year. The district’s Drive Clean! EV charger program added one new charging site. In related news, the [Sonoma Coast CALeVIP Project](#) saw a new addition of \$800,000 from SCP for more new DC Fast Charger installations. Looking forward, the District will be updating its EV charger program to offer a new community program for funding transportation electrification and it is slated for release in early 2023.

PSPS / EPSS Update. Air Districts met with PG&E to discuss PSPS (Public Safety Power Shut-off) and EPSS (Enhanced Power Safety Settings). PSPS are planned de-energization events with advanced public notice typically due to high wind, dry conditions, red flag events and they effect

many people. EPSS implementation started last summer and are automated circuits on segments of power lines that auto shut-off due to an electrical short (e.g.: limb impact) and do not have public notice but effect fewer people than a PSPS and come back online quickly. PG&E states there are about 800 of these EPSS circuits in high risk areas. PG&E is helping some schools with back-up diesel generators but Districts have concerns with these and other portable generators being deployed under the state's portable equipment registration program (PERP). Many Districts require permitting and disallow PERP due to state laws (not covered by PERP) that require public notice near schools and (cancer) risk assessment (diesel PM exhaust is considered a toxic).

Preparing for Wildfire Smoke. On August 12, the District is meeting with the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management and the Health Department to discuss joint wildfire and wildfire smoke response. Pending the outcome of that meeting, the District will review the need for air purifiers and/or smoke sensors for community support and the update of public-facing AQI materials. In a related matter, CARB has created a new smoke application ("[Smoke Spotter](#)") for mobile devices to provide AQI information and wildfire and prescribed burn smoke information. This product is still under development and therefore the [AirNow Fire and Smoke Map](#) continues to be the District's recommend tool for AQI and wildfire smoke.

Lactation Policy. - The District anticipates bringing forward a lactation accommodation policy at its November 9, 2022 meeting. This accommodation/policy is required under state law. The District is waiting for the County to update its policy (scheduled during this interim time period) so the District may adopt the County policy or be in alignment with the County policy as 5 of the 6 District employees are County employees.