Wildfire and Smoke Management: District Role
Larry Greene – CAPCOA
Districts in California vary widely: population, industry, vegetation, geography.

All are impacted with the increase in wildfires, rural and urban directly or indirectly.

Local efforts have been underway responding to this emergency, following on similar work dealing with fire and smoke for many years.

CAPCOA is working with CARB/CalEPA/CalFire on a coordinated state response that integrates air districts with state efforts.

In this capacity CAPCOA advocates for districts regarding how finances are distributed, how policy is written and how “new initiatives” impact current district programs and policies.
In 2018 the legislature provided $2 million to be directed through CARB to Air District programs for increasing prescribed burning.

CAPCOA goals for this effort:

- The program would not succeed without leveraging and expanding district expertise in agricultural/prescribed burning, air monitoring and public outreach.
- Districts funding should match the tasks and objectives of the program
- Like for CARB and other agencies, increased response requires increased capacity.
- Integration of local capability/experience with state coordinated resources will increase efficiency of response and confidence of public.
- Funding must be multiyear to maintain capacity over this multiyear program
CARB/CAPCOA negotiated and approved a potential program design in January 2019. This was reviewed at the Winter Retreat and approved by CAPCOA and CARB.

- $1,210,000: Local districts - burn permits, smoke management plans, public outreach, air monitors, enhanced coordination between CAPCOA/CARB.
- $640,000 to CAPCOA – admin and indirect costs, coordination of the program, training, monitoring.
- $150,000 to CARB – To fund districts who store and maintain monitoring equipment at remote sites in California.

CARB/CAPCOA then negotiated the structure of the grant documents and flow of funding.
CAPCOA funding breakout:

- $40,000 Administration and overhead
- $100,000 for operation and managing the program
- $200,000 reimbursable district funding for training
- $300,000 reimbursable district funding for monitoring prescribed fires
- $190,000 reimbursable funding for large districts

The original allocation formula was based on anticipated locations of prescribed burning across the state and biomass density charts showing likely burn locations.

The next funding cycle will be adjusted based on 2019-2020 results. Discussed at the 2020 Winter Board meeting.
Program status:

- 29/32 “small districts” agreements in place/MOU’s with 2 large districts approved.
- CAPCOA master grant completed and funded.
- CARB/CAPCOA kickoff meeting completed...CAPCOA/District program underway.
- CAPCOA participating in Forest Management Task Force, Prescribed Fire Working Group, Air and Land Managers Meeting.
- Jointly working on: Enhanced PFIRS, public outreach and messaging, increased monitoring and reporting, more consolidated permitting processes, training program and schedule.
Next steps:

- District kick off meetings completed
- Program management documents sent to districts/reviewed and amended.
- Prescribed fire working group meetings scheduled.
- CARB/CAPCOA team designing 5-6 two day workshops across the state.
- Complete advanced funding for districts that want to be funded
- Integrate programs for where this makes sense for districts
Key milestones coming up:

- First reporting period July to September 2019.
- Plan for and hold training meetings: Sacramento, Shasta, Mendocino, Mariposa, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin.
- Get the 60+ monitoring events identified to meet yearly targets.
- Continue work with CARB on the Smoke App
- Continue planning for a potential CAPCOA/CARB Smoke conference in January-March timeframe.

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