

State of California Air Resources Board

Board Item Summary

Item # 25-6-4: Public Meeting to Consider Proposed Research Contract with the University of California, Davis, Titled "Assessing Long-Term Health Effects of Wildfire Smoke Exposure: Insights from an Established Birth Cohort Study"

Staff Recommendation:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff recommends that the Board approve funding of the proposed research contract with the University of California, Davis, titled "Assessing Long-Term Health Effects of Wildfire Smoke Exposure: Insights from an Established Birth Cohort Study."

Discussion:

CARB's Research Program plays an important role in meeting the challenges of increasingly stringent federal air quality standards and long-term climate goals. It serves as the foundation for effective regulatory decisions. This proposed research contract is responsive to CARB's programmatic goals, emerging air quality, health, and climate issues, and public input.

The increasing threat of more intense and frequent wildfires in California has elevated public concern about the potential long-term health impacts of exposure to wildfire smoke. Wildfire smoke has been shown to contain high levels of particulate matter and air toxics such as metals. The project will leverage existing data and biospecimens collected to investigate the long-term health impacts associated with wildfire-related pollutants, including PM2.5 and heavy metals, and explore differences by sociodemographic and neighborhood factors to evaluate wildfire-related health disparities.

Summary and Impacts:

The outcomes of this contract could be used to enhance CARB's health analyses supporting the evaluation of wildfire risk reduction programs and public health messaging. The estimated cost to fund this proposed research contract is \$700,000. Board approval will authorize staff to implement this contract to undertake the activities described in this proposal.