




Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer 

CONTACT: Molly Pearson, Planning Division Manager, (805) 961-8838

SUBJECT: Resolution for Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider recommendations as follows:

1. Adopt the attached Resolution to authorize the District's continued participation in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) program and the acceptance of \$1,362,700 awarded to the District for eligible projects and program administration in accordance with the terms and conditions of a FARMER Year 4 Program grant agreement with CARB; and
2. Delegate authority to the Air Pollution Control Officer to enter into grant agreements with CARB for the FARMER program, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 and in future years, for amounts not to exceed \$2,000,000, subject to review and approval by District Counsel, Risk Management, and the Auditor-Controller.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2018 your Board has approved participation in CARB's FARMER program to implement emission reduction projects from agricultural equipment throughout Santa Barbara County. During the first three years of the FARMER program implementation, the District has utilized a total of \$1,581,690 towards the implementation of 14 agricultural emission reduction projects. The District plans to implement Year 4 of CARB's FY 2020-21 FARMER program as part of the District's 2021 Clean Air Grants program and allocate \$1,362,700 in CARB FARMER funds to agricultural projects as part of our Off-Road Equipment Replacement Program.

In the state's FY 2020-21 budget, the legislature allocated \$212,582,000 towards CARB's FARMER program to further the state's emission reduction goals for the agricultural sector. This funding comes from the state Air Pollution Control Fund and the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

DISCUSSION:

CARB's FY 2020-21 FARMER (Year 4) program tentative funding allocation for Santa Barbara County is \$1,362,700. The District may use up to 12.5% (\$170,338) of the FARMER program funds to administer and implement the program. The District applied to CARB for FARMER Year 4 funds on October 25, 2021 and requested a tentative allocation of \$1,362,700, contingent upon District Board approval of an increased funding limit. The District plans to use these funds in our 2021 Clean Air Grants program to implement projects in Santa Barbara County, with a goal to prioritize benefits for disadvantaged and low-income communities as identified in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 model¹ and California Assembly Bill 1550². The CARB Board approved the FARMER program guidelines on March 23, 2018, and the District will continue to implement the program based on these guidelines and our District policy and procedure manual. The District will also continue to perform outreach to solicit projects for these funds, including presentations at Santa Barbara County Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings, ongoing meetings with agricultural equipment dealers, email notices, news releases, District website updates, and other events and opportunities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of the District's continued participation in CARB's FARMER program will allow receipt of tentatively \$1,362,700. The District included projected FARMER Year 4 funds in the District's Fiscal Year 2021-22 proposed budget, with a portion of that funding (12.5%) available to cover the District's administrative work to implement the program. FARMER Year 4 program funds are to be fully expended by March 30, 2025 and the District is not required to provide local matching funds to receive these funds.

ATTACHMENT:

- A. Proposed Board Resolution for Continued Participation in the FARMER Program

¹ The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen), developed by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, identifies California communities by census tract that are disproportionately burdened by, and vulnerable to, multiple sources of pollution.

² California Assembly Bill 1550 places additional allocation requirements for the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to benefit low-income communities.

ATTACHMENT A

Proposed Board Resolution for Continued
Participation in the FARMER Program.

December 16, 2021

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Board of Directors

260 San Antonio Road, Suite A
Santa Barbara, California 93110

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

IN THE MATTER OF CONTINUED
PARTICIPATION IN THE FUNDING
AGRICULTURAL REPLACEMENT
MEASURES FOR EMISSION
REDUCTIONS PROGRAM

APCD RESOLUTION NO. _____

RECITALS

WHEREAS, since 2018, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) Board of Directors (District Board) has approved participation in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) program with Board Resolutions 18-18, 19-05, and 19-18; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, the District has accepted and expended \$1,581,690 of CARB FARMER funds towards the development of 14 agricultural emission reduction projects in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, Board Resolution 19-18 allows the District to accept CARB FARMER funds not to exceed \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, CARB developed FARMER program guidelines to meet the state's emission reduction goals. The FARMER program guidelines identify that projects eligible under Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program (Carl Moyer Program) are eligible to be funded under the FARMER program, provided they are engaged in agricultural operations and are considered cost-effective according to the Carl Moyer Program. The FARMER program guidelines also include additional types of agricultural projects that qualify for incentives; and

WHEREAS, District Board Resolution 20-13 delegates authority to the Air Pollution Control Officer to execute individual grant agreements that meet specified parameters, including

APCD RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF CONTINUED PARTICIPATION
IN THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S FUNDING
AGRICULTURAL REPLACEMENT MEASURES FOR EMISSION
REDUCTION PROGRAM

authorized overall grant program with an authorized overall budget, established cost-effectiveness limits, and the use of a standard District grant agreement; and

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 170 allocated \$212,582,000 from the state budget for California Fiscal Year 2020-21 to CARB for the reduction of criteria, toxic, and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector. The FY 2020-21 FARMER (Year 4) program funds are derived from the state Air Pollution Control Fund and the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund; and

WHEREAS, the District submitted a FARMER Year 4 program application to CARB on October 25, 2021 that requested a tentative allocation of \$1,362,700 to implement projects in Santa Barbara County pursuant to the FARMER program guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the District may use up to 12.5% of FARMER Year 4 program funds for administrative costs to implement the FARMER program and is not required to provide local match funds; and

WHEREAS, FARMER Year 4 program funds must be expended by March 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, projected FARMER Year 4 program funds were included in the District's Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the District's continued participation in the FARMER program and the acceptance of \$1,362,700 awarded to the District for eligible projects and program administration in accordance with the terms and conditions of a FARMER Year 4 Program grant agreement with CARB.
2. The District Board hereby delegates authority to the Air Pollution Control Officer to enter into grant agreements with CARB for the FARMER program, in FY 2021-22 and in future years, for amounts not to exceed \$2,000,000, subject to review and approval by

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AGRICULTURAL REPLACEMENT MEASURES FOR EMISSION
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District Counsel, Risk Management, and the Auditor-Controller, and all other necessary documents to implement and carry out the purposes of this resolution.

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APCD RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF CONTINUED PARTICIPATION
IN THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S FUNDING
AGRICULTURAL REPLACEMENT MEASURES FOR EMISSION
REDUCTION PROGRAM

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Air Pollution Control District Board of
the Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 16th day of December 2021, by the following
vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

ATTEST:

AERON ARLIN GENET
Clerk of the Board

By _____
Deputy

By _____
Chair

Date _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RACHEL VAN MULLEM
County Counsel

By  _____
Jennifer Richardson (Nov 29, 2021 12:09 PST)
Deputy


APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAY AROMATORIO, ARM, AIC
Risk Manager

By  _____
Ray Aromatorio (Nov 29, 2021 15:33 EST)
Risk Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BETSY M. SCHAFFER, CPA
Auditor-Controller

By  _____
Deputy