



air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

August 25, 2020

Joseph Helo  
Division of Financial Assistance  
California Department of Housing and Community Development  
2020 W. El Camino Ave, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833

**Re: Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Response Letter to the State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program under the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery**

Dear Joseph Helo:

The Air Pollution Control District (District) appreciates the opportunity to review and provide a response to the State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program ("Program") under the funding umbrella of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2017 Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery. The Program will allow residents affected by the 2017 disasters to apply directly with the State for gap financing grants to repair or reconstruct their single-family homes. Reconstruction has been defined by the program as the rebuilding of a structure on the same site in substantially the same footprint and manner. A reconstructed property must not increase the number of dwellings on site, although the number of rooms may increase or decrease.

In response to the State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)'s request for comment on the Program, below please find the Districts regulatory requirements, recommended measures, and advisories that are applicable to the proposed project work.

**District regulatory requirements:**

1. All portable diesel-fired construction engines rated at 50 bhp or greater must have either statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) certificates or District permits prior to start of construction. Construction engines with PERP certificates are exempt from District permit, provided they will be on-site for less than 12 months.
2. Diesel engines rated at 50 bhp and greater (e.g., firewater pumps and emergency standby generators) require District Authority to Construct permits. In the case of a diesel-fired emergency generator, an equipment-specific Health Risk Assessment may be required as part of District permit issuance. The applicant should refer to the District's website at [www.ourair.org/dice-atcm](http://www.ourair.org/dice-atcm) for more information on diesel engine permitting.
3. Spark ignition piston-type internal combustion engines (e.g., natural gas, gasoline or propane-fired) with a rated brake horsepower of 50 or greater require a District permit. Such engines used exclusively for emergency electrical power generation or emergency pumping of water for

**Aeron Arlin Genet**, Air Pollution Control Officer

flood control or firefighting are exempt from permit requirements pursuant to District Rule 202, Section F.1.d., provided the engine operates no more than 200 hours per calendar year and a record is maintained and is available to the District upon request. The record shall list the identification number of the equipment, the number of operating hours on each day the engine is operated and the cumulative total hours.

4. Natural gas-fired fan-type central furnaces with a rated heat input capacity of less than 175,000 Btu/hr and water heaters rated below 75,000 Btu/hr must comply with the emission limits and certification requirements of District Rule 352. Please see [www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/rule352.pdf](http://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/rule352.pdf) for more information.
5. The application of architectural coatings, such as paints, primers, and sealers that are applied to buildings or stationary structures, shall comply with District Rule 323.1, *Architectural Coatings* that places limits on the VOC-content of coating products.
6. Asphalt paving activities shall comply with District Rule 329, *Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials*.

**Recommended measures to reduce construction-related emissions and operational greenhouse gas emissions:**

1. Standard dust mitigations (**Attachment A**) are recommended for all construction and/or grading activities.
2. The State of California considers particulate matter emitted by diesel engines carcinogenic. Therefore, during project grading, construction, and hauling, construction contracts must specify that contractors shall adhere to the requirements listed in **Attachment B** to reduce emissions of particulate matter (as well as of ozone precursors) from diesel equipment. Recommended measures should be implemented to the maximum extent feasible.
3. At a minimum, prior to occupancy, any feasible greenhouse gas reduction measures from the following sector-based list should be applied to the project:
  - Energy use (energy efficiency, low carbon fuels, renewable energy)
  - Water conservation (improved practices and equipment, landscaping)
  - Waste reduction (material re-use/recycling, composting, waste diversion/minimization)
  - Architectural features (green building practices, cool roofs)

**District advisory:**

1. The applicant should determine whether any structure(s) proposed for demolition or renovation contains asbestos that is friable or has the potential to become friable during demolition or disposal. If any structure does contain friable asbestos, the asbestos should be removed by a contractor that is state certified for asbestos removal. For more information on asbestos in construction, please see [www.ourair.org/asbestos](http://www.ourair.org/asbestos).

If you or the project applicant have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at (805) 961-8873 or via email at [HoD@sbcapcd.org](mailto:HoD@sbcapcd.org).

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Sincerely,

*Desmond Ho*

Desmond Ho  
Air Quality Specialist  
Planning Division

Attachments: Fugitive Dust Control Measures  
Diesel Particulate and NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Measures

cc: Planning Chron File



## ATTACHMENT A FUGITIVE DUST CONTROL MEASURES

These measures are required for all projects involving earthmoving activities regardless of the project size or duration. Projects are expected to manage fugitive dust emissions such that emissions do not exceed APCD's visible emissions limit (APCD Rule 302), create a public nuisance (APCD Rule 303), and are in compliance with the APCD's requirements and standards for visible dust (APCD Rule 345).

- During construction, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site and from exceeding the APCD's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60 minute period. At a minimum, this should include wetting down such areas in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Increased watering frequency should be required when sustained wind speed exceeds 15 mph. Reclaimed water should be used whenever possible. However, reclaimed water should not be used in or around crops for human consumption.
- Onsite vehicle speeds shall be no greater than 15 miles per hour when traveling on unpaved surfaces.
- Install and operate a track-out prevention device where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto paved streets. The track-out prevention device can include any device or combination of devices that are effective at preventing track out of dirt such as gravel pads, pipe-grid track-out control devices, rumble strips, or wheel-washing systems.
- If importation, exportation, and stockpiling of fill material is involved, soil stockpiled for more than one day shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Trucks transporting fill material to and from the site shall be tarped from the point of origin.
- Minimize the amount of disturbed area. After clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation is completed, treat the disturbed area by watering, OR using roll-compaction, OR revegetating, OR by spreading soil binders until the area is paved or otherwise developed so that dust generation will not occur. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible.
- Schedule clearing, grading, earthmoving, and excavation activities during periods of low wind speed to the extent feasible. During periods of high winds (>25 mph) clearing, grading, earthmoving, and excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent fugitive dust created by onsite operations from becoming a nuisance or hazard.
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor and document the dust control program requirements to ensure any fugitive dust emissions do not result in a nuisance and to enhance the implementation of the mitigation measures as necessary to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the Air Pollution Control District prior to grading/building permit issuance and/or map clearance.

**PLAN REQUIREMENTS:** All requirements shall be shown on grading and building plans and/or as a separate information sheet listing the conditions of approval to be recorded with the map. **Timing:** Requirements shall be shown on plans prior to grading/building permit issuance and/or recorded with the map during map recordation. Conditions shall be adhered to throughout all grading and construction periods.

**MONITORING:** The Lead Agency shall ensure measures are on project plans and/or recorded with maps. The Lead Agency staff shall ensure compliance onsite. APCD inspectors will respond to nuisance complaints.



## ATTACHMENT B DIESEL PARTICULATE AND NO<sub>x</sub> EMISSION REDUCTION MEASURES

Particulate emissions from diesel exhaust are classified as carcinogenic by the state of California. The following is a list of regulatory requirements and control strategies that should be implemented to the maximum extent feasible.

The following measures are required by state law:

- All portable diesel-powered construction equipment greater than 50 brake horsepower (bhp) shall be registered with the state's portable equipment registration program OR shall obtain an APCD permit.
- Fleet owners of diesel-powered mobile construction equipment greater than 25 hp are subject to the California Air Resource Board (CARB) In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation (Title 13, California Code of Regulations (CCR), §2449), the purpose of which is to reduce oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), diesel particulate matter (DPM), and other criteria pollutant emissions from in-use off-road diesel-fueled vehicles. Off-road heavy-duty trucks shall comply with the State Off-Road Regulation. For more information, see [www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/ordiesel.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/ordiesel.htm).
- Fleet owners of diesel-fueled heavy-duty trucks and buses are subject to CARB's On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles (In-Use) Regulation (Title 13, CCR, §2025), the purpose of which is to reduce DPM, NO<sub>x</sub> and other criteria pollutants from in-use (on-road) diesel-fueled vehicles. For more information, see [www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/onrdiesel.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/onrdiesel/onrdiesel.htm).
- All commercial off-road and on-road diesel vehicles are subject, respectively, to Title 13, CCR, §2449(d)(3) and §2485, limiting engine idling time. Off-road vehicles subject to the State Off-Road Regulation are limited to idling no more than five minutes. Idling of heavy-duty diesel trucks during loading and unloading shall be limited to five minutes, unless the truck engine meets the optional low-NO<sub>x</sub> idling emission standard, the truck is labeled with a clean-idle sticker, and it is not operating within 100 feet of a restricted area.

The following measures are recommended:

- Diesel equipment meeting the CARB Tier 3 or higher emission standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines should be used to the maximum extent feasible.
- On-road heavy-duty equipment with model year 2010 engines or newer should be used to the maximum extent feasible.
- Diesel powered equipment should be replaced by electric equipment whenever feasible. Electric auxiliary power units should be used to the maximum extent feasible.
- Equipment/vehicles using alternative fuels, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane or biodiesel, should be used on-site where feasible.
- Catalytic converters shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment, if feasible.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications.
- The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum practical size.
- The number of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure that the smallest practical number is operating at any one time.
- Construction worker trips should be minimized by requiring carpooling and by providing for lunch onsite.
- Construction truck trips should be scheduled during non-peak hours to reduce peak hour emissions whenever feasible.
- Proposed truck routes should minimize to the extent feasible impacts to residential communities and sensitive receptors.
- Construction staging areas should be located away from sensitive receptors such that exhaust and other construction emissions do not enter the fresh air intakes to buildings, air conditioners, and windows.

**PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING:** Prior to grading/building permit issuance and/or map recordation, all requirements shall be shown as conditions of approval on grading/building plans, and/or on a separate sheet to be recorded with the map. Conditions shall be adhered to throughout all grading and construction periods. The contractor shall retain the Certificate of Compliance for CARB's In-Use Regulation for Off-Road Diesel Vehicles onsite and have it available for inspection.

**MONITORING:** The Lead Agency shall ensure measures are on project plans and/or recorded with maps. The Lead Agency staff shall ensure compliance onsite. APCD inspectors will respond to nuisance complaints.