

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
October 5, 2023, at 3:00 PM
Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 NE 99th St. Suite 1294
Vancouver, Washington

This meeting will be held by video conference using Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154159897>

Meeting ID: 821 5415 9897

Or call in by phone (669) 900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- III. Board of Directors Minutes
Board of Directors Minutes – September Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- V. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Vouchers
 - B. Financial Report
 - C. Monthly Activity Report
- V. Info Items & Public Comment
 - A. SWCAA Board Action and Implementation Summary**
The Board has requested documentation of follow-up/implementation of Board actions/decisions. SWCAA has added a new Board Action and Implementation Summary document (Attachment A) to accompany the revised activity report presented to the Board last month.
 - B. SWCAA Presentation on Air Quality Advisory Criteria**
SWCAA will present information on the different types of air quality notifications and the criteria for each, including Air Quality Alerts, Air Quality Advisories, and Stage I and Stage II Burn Bans due to air quality impairment.

VII. Public Hearing
None

VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business
None.

IX. Executive Director's Report

A. EPA Releases Guidance For \$4.6 Billion Climate Pollution Reduction

Implementation Competitive Grants; State and Local Applications Due April 1, 2024

(September 19, 2023) EPA has released two Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) and guidance detailing \$4.6 billion in implementation grant funding under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. These competitive grants are aimed at funding efforts identified in Preliminary Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) being developed under Phase 1 of the CPRG, and in the Phase 2 grants, \$4.3 billion general competition is open to states, municipalities, tribes, and territories, including air pollution control agencies; a second poll of \$300 million is available only to tribes and territories. As part of its evaluation of applications, EPA will prioritize measures that achieve the greatest amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and deliver “transformative opportunities or impacts”; particularly weighting emissions reductions expected between 2025 and 2030. Community benefits and community engagement are also important selection criteria in the competition. The deadline for state and local agencies to apply to the general competition is April 1, 2024. The deadline for territories is May 1, 2024. For further information <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=350252>

B. Researchers Report Increasing Influence Of Wildfire Smoke On Air Quality Trends

Across Most Of U.S. (September 20, 2023) Using air pollution data from ground and air sensors researchers from Stanford and Harvard have documented that average annual levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) dropped in as many as 41 of the contiguous United States between 2000 and 2016, but since that time these air quality trends have either slowed or been fully reversed in 35 states due to wildfire smoke, “eroding about 25% of previous multi-decadal progress in reducing PM2.5 concentrations on average in those states, equivalent to 4 years of air quality progress, and more than 50% in many western states.” In “The contribution of wildfire to PM2.5 trends in the USA,” the researchers conclude that “wildfire-driven increases in ambient PM2.5 concentrations are unregulated under current air pollution law and, in the absence of further interventions, we show that the contribution of wildfire to regional and national air quality trends is likely to grow as the climate continues to warm.” For further information: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06522-6>

C. SWCAA Awarded \$595,000 in State of Washington Woodstove Change Out Money

(September 15, 2023). SWCAA’s change out project will reduce PM2.5 emissions in the airsheds of the “at-risk” areas in Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis and Wahkiakum Counties by replacing non-compliant wood stoves/inserts with cleaner heating devices, retrofitting fireplaces with inserts that burn cleaner and “buying-back” non-compliant stoves to be recycled. SWCAA is in the process of updating our program and website.

Replacement/retrofit eligibility (UGA/NBA) will include Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, La Center, Woodland, Longview, Kelso, Centralia, Chehalis, and Wahkiakum County. Once the program begins, a standard voucher will be between \$1,500 and \$4,000 depending on the type of replacement system installed. The voucher is increased by 25 percent in EJ areas and is doubled for low-income applicants. All areas in SWCAA's jurisdiction are eligible for buybacks.

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues
As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings
CPI fee increase decision (November)

XII. Adjourn

Notes:

(1) Served by C-TRAN Routes: 7, 72 and 76.

(2) Accommodation of the needs for disabled persons can be made upon request. For more information, please call (360) 574-3058 extension 110.