

BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

The Mission of the Butte County Air Quality Management District (District) is to protect the people and the environment of Butte County from the harmful effects of air pollution. The District is committed to achieving and maintaining healthful air quality throughout our jurisdiction. This is accomplished through a comprehensive program of planning, regulation, enforcement, and technical innovation, and promoting the understanding of air quality issues.

The District Program was established in 1967 by the State Legislature through the “Mulford-Carrell Air Resources Act” which provided local air districts with the primary responsibility for the control of non-vehicular sources of air pollution.

The District lies within the northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin. The air basin is a geographical region which describes an area with a commonly shared air mass, since air pollution knows no political boundaries.

The District Governing Board is comprised of the five (5) Butte County Supervisors plus one (1) elected city representative from each of the cities of Chico, Oroville, Biggs, and Gridley, and the Town of Paradise. The Governing Board establishes policy and approves new rules. The Governing Board also appoints the Air Pollution Control Officer and District Hearing Board. The Governing Board meets the 4th Thursday monthly at the City Council Chambers in Chico, or at other locations as scheduled.

The Hearing Board is a quasi-judicial body established by State law appointed by the Governing Board. The five-member Hearing Board is comprised of two (2) public members, a medical professional, a legal professional and a professional engineer. The Hearing Board is authorized to grant or deny a petition for variance, uphold or overturn District permit decisions and operating conditions on permits, and issue orders for abatement. The Hearing Board meets as requested.

As required by the California Clean Air Act and Amendments (California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 40910 *et seq.*) and the Federal Clean Air Act and Amendments (42 U.S.C. Section 7401 *et seq.*) the District is responsible for air monitoring, permitting, enforcement, long-range air quality planning, regulatory development, education and public information activities related to air pollution. HSC Sections 39002, *et seq.* and 40000, *et seq.* require local districts to be the primary enforcement mechanism for air pollution control. Districts must have rules and regulations for the implementation and enforcement for the attainment and maintenance of federal and State ambient air standards.