

**NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
RESOLUTION #2024-17**

In the Matter of: Adopting the Portola Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Serious Attainment Plan (Portola Serious Plan) as required by the Federal Clean Air Act

Whereas, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (District) is a duly constituted unified district, as provided in Chapter 3, Part 3, Division 26 in the California Health and Safety Code; and

Whereas, in December 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) of 12 ug/m3 (2012 PM2.5 NAAQS), which became effective in March 2013; and

Whereas, effective April 2015, the EPA designated the City of Portola and the surrounding communities as the Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area with a moderate classification for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS; and

Whereas, the Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area includes the City of Portola and the nearby communities of Iron Horse, Delleker, C-Road, Mohawk Vista, Plumas-Eureka, Blairsden-Graeagle, Gold Mountain, Whitehawk, Clio, Johnsville and portions of Lake Davis; and

Whereas, in January 2017 the Board approved the Portola Moderate Plan, with an attainment date of December 31, 2021; and

Whereas, EPA approved the majority of the elements of the Portola Moderate Plan effective April 24, 2019, while other elements were approved effective May 2, 2018 and April 2, 2021; and

Whereas, despite implementation of the Portola Moderate Plan, the Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area failed to attain the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS by the moderate attainment date; and

Whereas, effective January 30, 2023, EPA classified Plumas County PM2.5 Nonattainment Area as serious nonattainment for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS with an attainment deadline of December 31, 2025; and

Whereas, the District developed the Portola Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Serious State Implementation Plan (Portola Serious Plan) to address serious area requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS, and demonstrate attainment of the standard by the serious attainment deadline of December 31, 2025; and

Whereas, federal Clean Air Act, Section 189(a)(2)(B) requires all nonattainment areas to submit an implementation plan to EPA, therefore, EPA requires the State of California to submit a plan that satisfies the requirements of Clean Air Act, Sections 172 and 189, including

a demonstration of attainment of the PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the applicable attainment date as demonstrated by the technical analysis performed for the Portola Serious Plan; and

Whereas, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the District used extensive research and sound science as the foundation for the Portola Serious Plan; and

Whereas, a serious nonattainment area is required to include a comprehensive emission inventory; and assessment of Best Available Control Measure/Best Available Control Technology (BACM/BACT) plus additional reasonable measures; and attainment demonstration or demonstration that the area cannot practicably attain the standard by the moderate attainment date; Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) and quantitative milestones; contingency measures; and motor vehicle transportation conformity budgets; and

Whereas, the District developed the Portola Serious Plan to fulfill the planning requirements of the Clean Air Act for a PM_{2.5} serious nonattainment area; and

Whereas, the Portola Serious Plan satisfies requirements of a serious plan by including a comprehensive, accurate, current inventory of emissions data for directly emitted PM_{2.5} and its precursors: nitrogen oxides (NO_x), reactive organic gases (ROG), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and ammonia for all sources of the relevant pollutants in the area, BACM/BACT demonstration, attainment demonstrations, RFP and quantitative milestones, contingency measures for attainment and RFP, and motor vehicle conformity budgets; and

Whereas, based on the comprehensive precursor analysis, consistent with the PM_{2.5} Precursor Demonstration Guidance, the Portola Serious Plan demonstrates that direct PM_{2.5} emissions are the only significant contributor to the nonattainment problem and thus only control measures for these are included in the attainment strategy; and

Whereas, due to the nature of the PM_{2.5} problem, the Portola Serious Plan attainment demonstration relies heavily on emission reductions to be achieved from a voluntary wood stove change-out program which provides financial incentives for homeowners to replace high polluting uncertified stoves with cleaner burning devices; and

Whereas, the Portola Plan demonstrates attainment of the annual standard of 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the serious deadline of December 31, 2025; and

Whereas, the Plan was prepared through a collaborative effort by the District and CARB; and

Whereas, the technical PM_{2.5} analysis supporting the Portola Serious Plan could not have been accomplished without work products provided by CARB; and

Whereas, a public hearing for the adoption of the Portola Serious Plan was duly noticed and held on November 25, 2024, in accordance with the law; and

Whereas, on November 25, 2024, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District certified in their Board resolution that the Portola Serious Plan is categorically exempt from California

Environmental Quality Act review under Sections 15061(b)(2) and 15308 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines; and

Whereas, this Governing Board of Directors concurs with the recommendations of its staff; and

Whereas, the Portola Serious Plan, once adopted by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board, will be submitted to CARB and the EPA for inclusion into the State Implementation Plan; and

Whereas, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board hereby commits to:

- A. By December 31, 2024 implement at least 100 residential wood stove replacement projects for the purpose of attaining the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS, in accordance with the incentive program guidelines (Appendix F of Portola Serious Plan).
- B. By December 31, 2024, achieve 0.025 tons per day (tpd) of reductions in PM2.5 emissions from the baseline inventory in the Portola Serious Plan through implementation of these projects or substitute measures in accordance with Section E;
- C. In a report submitted to EPA by March 31, 2025:
 - i. Identify each project implemented between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2024 by program tracking number, description of both baseline and new equipment, and quantified emission reductions;
 - ii. Provide formulas used to calculate emission reductions;
 - iii. Describe the actions taken and documentation collected by the District and CARB to confirm each project's compliance with program requirements;
 - iv. Determine whether the identified projects are projected to achieve the full amount of PM2.5 emission reductions identified in paragraph B; and
 - v. Describe any changes to relevant forms and related impacts on program integrity.
- D. Beginning upon adoption and through 2030, provide any requestor consistent with the California Public Records Act, all documents relied upon in the preparation of the annual demonstration report described in paragraph C and available in the relevant project file, including: project applications, grant contracts, inspection-related documents, destruction-related documentation, proof of installation by a certified installer, and any available inspection or audit-related documentation.
- E. If EPA determines by July 1, 2025, that information submitted by the District is insufficient to demonstrate that emission reductions required under paragraph B will occur on schedule, adopt and submit to EPA, no later than September 1, 2025, substitute rules and/or measures that will achieve emission reductions addressing the shortfall as expeditiously as practicable and no later than December 31, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors adopts the Portola Serious Plan as presented to the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management

- District Board of Directors during the November 25, 2024 Board of Directors meeting.
2. The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Board of Directors adopts the Enforceable Commitment and directs the District to fulfill its obligations to achieve 0.025 tons per day (tpd) of reductions in PM2.5 emissions from the baseline inventory in the Portola Serious Plan through implementation of wood stove replacement projects or substitute measures;
 3. Adoption of said Portola Serious Plan is necessary to comply with the federal Clean Air Act and will promote the health and welfare of the residents in the nonattainment area of Plumas County.
 4. The District Governing Board hereby finds, based upon the evidence and information presented at the hearing upon which the decision is based, that all notices required to be given by law have been duly given, and that the District Board has allowed public testimony in accordance with the law.
 5. The Portola Serious Plan was prepared consistent with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and corresponding EPA guidance.
 6. The Executive Director of the District is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution, the Portola Serious Plan, and appropriate appendices and attachments to the CARB for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan.
 7. The District Governing Board requests that the CARB authorize its Executive Officer to include the District's Portola Serious Plan, as adopted by the District's Governing Board, in the California State Implementation Plan for submittal to EPA.
 8. The District's Governing Board requests that EPA approve the District's Portola Serious Plan.
 9. District staff is hereby authorized to make any minor typographical and technical changes in the Portola Serious Plan that are necessary to correct minor errors, clarify wording, or to satisfy CARB and EPA technical requirements in the Portola Serious Plan.

On a motion by Supervisor _____, and seconded by Supervisor _____, the foregoing resolution was approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District at a regular meeting held on November 25, 2024, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Abstaining:

Approve: _____
 Plumas County Supervisor Dwight Ceresola,
 Chair of Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Board

Attest: _____
 Dawn Lundsford, Clerk of the Board