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DATE: August 20, 2020
TO: SJVUAPCD Governing Board
FROM: Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO
Project Coordinator: Jonathan Klassen



RE: **ITEM NUMBER 11: RECEIVE UPDATE ON DISTRICT'S COMMERCIAL UNDERFIRED CHARBROILING STRATEGY**

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on progress in implementing the District's commercial charbroiling emissions control strategy.

BACKGROUND:

The *2018 Plan for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 PM2.5 Standards (2018 PM2.5 Plan)* was adopted by your Board on November 15, 2018. The development of the *2018 PM2.5 Plan* utilized extensive science and research, state of the art air quality modeling, and the best available information in developing a strategy for bringing the Valley into attainment with the federal health-based 1997, 2006, and 2012 PM2.5 standards as expeditiously as practicable by the respective federal deadlines of 2020, 2024, and 2025. The attainment strategy includes a combination of innovative regulatory and non-regulatory measures for both stationary and mobile sources that built upon stringent air quality measures already in place from earlier District attainment plans and measures adopted by your Board. The *2018 PM2.5 Plan* was developed through an extensive public process, with wide-ranging input and support from involved parties representing environmental, business, and city interests.

To achieve the significant emissions reductions necessary for expeditious attainment, the *2018 PM2.5 Plan* includes a comprehensive suite of regulatory and incentive-based measures for both stationary and mobile sources. Among these measures is a commitment from the District to seek additional emission reductions

from under-fired charbroilers through amendments to District Rule 4692 (Commercial Charbroiling), which currently reduces emissions by requiring catalytic oxidizers for chain-driven charbroilers, including those used in many typical fast-food restaurants. Extensive scientific modeling and air quality analysis conducted for the Plan indicates that the Valley cannot attain the federal PM_{2.5} standards without significant reductions in emissions from commercial underfired charbroilers.

As included in the District's *2018 PM_{2.5} Plan*, the District is currently in the process of evaluating options for reducing emissions from restaurants equipped with commercial underfired charbroilers through an incentive-based approach to fund the installation of controls for commercial underfired charbroilers within urban boundaries in hot-spot areas of Fresno, Kern, and Madera counties, with a future year regulatory requirement to encourage participation by Valley restaurants. The lack of commercially available and feasibly demonstrated control technologies has been the primary barrier in moving forward with control strategies for reducing emissions from restaurants equipped with commercial charbroilers. Other air districts in California have encountered similar difficulties in identifying and requiring emissions control technologies for underfired charbroilers. The severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the restaurant industry further exacerbates this challenge, with many existing restaurants facing limited revenue streams or closures in the coming months and beyond. The purpose of this item is to update your Board and receive feedback on District efforts to evaluate potential emission reduction strategies for commercial underfired charbroilers in preparation for scheduled Board action by the end of 2020.