

March 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Public Records Request (PR-25-038)

Dear Amy Wong:

The Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) received your request for the following records on March 6, 2025.

- Request 1: "...all files regarding air quality in relation to the Moss Landing Battery Fire that started January 16, 2025."
- Request 2: "...copy of all email correspondence between MBARD and OEHHA from January 16, 2025 through March 6, 2025, including attachments."

#### **Request 1 – Air Quality Data**

MBARD monitors air quality for criteria pollutants in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties according to regulatory requirements for federal and state ambient air quality standards. The air quality data responsive to the request is fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) concentrations which is the pollutant measured by MBARD that is an indicator of smoke from fires. Air quality data is being provided from MBARD's six regulatory air monitoring network sites which measure PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. MBARD is also providing air quality data from 30 non-regulatory Clarity PM<sub>2.5</sub> sensors. MBARD has a map on our website showing the locations of the regulatory air monitoring network and the sensor network here: <https://www.mbard.org/current-air-quality-forecast-1ac8512>.

#### **Regulatory Air Monitoring Network**

Excel file titled "MBARDMultiStation15\_01\_2025 06\_03\_2025.xls"

The data provided for the regulatory monitors is based on the ambient air quality standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> which is for 24-hour period. The measured PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations, in units of micrograms per cubic meter, are reported for a 24-hour average so there is one value for each day for the requested period of January 16, 2025 to March 6, 2025.

#### **Non-Regulatory Clarity Sensor Network**

Excel file titled "Clarity\_Sensor\_Data1\_16\_25-3\_6\_25.xls"

MBARD operates a non-regulatory Clarity PM<sub>2.5</sub> sensor network which was established to monitor smoke from events such as wildfires, prescribed burning, and wood-burning for home heating. For the non-regulatory Clarity PM<sub>2.5</sub> sensor network, the measured PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations, in units of micrograms per cubic meter, are provided for a 1-hour mean and a 12-hour weighted average for the requested period of January 16, 2025 to March 6, 2025.

Please note the following in the Clarity data spreadsheet provided:

- Invalid Data: Three rows of data show invalid data which stem from episodes such as the sensor power becomes too low, data transmission irregularities, or maintenance interruptions.
  - Big Sur Ranger Station 1/17/2025 10:00PM to 1/17/2025 11:00PM
  - Big Sur Ranger Station 1/17/2025 11:00PM to 1/18/2025 12:00 AM
  - Castroville 3/4/2025 11:00PM to 3/5/2025 12:00AM
- Sensor Moved: The Clarity sensor identified by Source ID APPWHRLG was operating at King City until it was moved on February 25, 2025. The sensor resumed operation at the new location called Carmel High School on February 26, 2025 to monitor smoke from a planned prescribed burn which has not been conducted as of March 14, 2025. The data for the King City sensor is located beginning at row 33674 in the spreadsheet.
- A new sensor with Source ID A3RFLWRM located at Zayante began operation at 10:00 am on 1/21/2025 and starts at row 3487 in the spreadsheet.

**Request 2 – Emails between MBARD and OEHHA**

The pdf attached called “MBARD\_OEHHAEmails.pdf” contains the records responsive to Request 2 for the requested period of January 16, 2025 to March 6, 2025

Sincerely,



Amy Clymo

Engineering and Compliance Manager

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