

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RECEIVED

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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Placer County An Foliution **Control District**

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OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. Thomas Christofk Air Pollution Control Officer Place County Air Pollution Control District 3091 County Center Drive Auburn, California 95603

Dear Mr. Christofk:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is my pleasure to inform you that the Forest Resource Sustainability in Placer County project has been selected for a Clean Air Excellence Award in the Community Action category. From over 75 applications received, your project was chosen by EPA's Office of Air and Radiation for its impact, innovation, and replicability. I congratulate you and your organization for your dedication to improving our nation's air quality.

The Clean Air Excellence Awards Program annually recognizes and honors outstanding and innovative efforts to achieve cleaner air. The awards program was established by EPA at the recommendation of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, a committee that advises EPA on policy issues related to implementing the Clean Air Act.

I invite you to attend the 2011 Clean Air Excellence Awards Ceremony, to be held in the Washington, D.C. area on June 7, 2011, at a location yet to be determined. The EPA Administrator will be invited as the keynote speaker. I will attend to present the awards.

If you have not already been contacted by our office regarding your availability to attend the ceremony and reception, please contact Pat Childers, Office of Air and Radiation, at your earliest convenience. He can be reached at (202) 564-1082 or childers.pat@epa.gov. Please note that the award recipients are responsible for all travel and lodging costs.

Congratulations again and I look forward to seeing you at the ceremony. Please feel free to contact Pat Childers with any questions you may have.

Assistant Administrator

www.placer.ca.gov/apcd

Thomas J. Christofk, Air Pollution Control Officer

Program Summary

Forest Resource Sustainability in Placer County, California

With over one-half of Placer County comprised of forested land, County leaders understand the risk and consequences of catastrophic wildfires.

In response, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District and Placer County have teamed with public and private partners - including the U.S. Forest Service and Sierra Pacific Industries - to implement projects to cost effectively manage portions of the 550,000 acres of forest that are at severe risk for wildfire in the Lake Tahoe region and on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Efforts are aimed at reducing wildfire risk, protecting forest resources, improving air and watershed quality, lowering firefighting costs, and reducing the use of fossil fuels for energy in the region.





Forest management operations for harvesting commercial products or for reducing wildfire hazards produce excess woody biomass in the form of limbs, tops, and brush. This biomass material usually has no commercial value and is disposed of through mastication or open burning which produces significant amounts of air pollutants.

In the past four years, we have initiated projects focusing on waste which was otherwise destined to be open burned. We have processed and transported 15,000 tons of waste to biomass energy facilities which has fueled the generation of 15,000 megawatt hours of renewable electricity, enough to power more than for 1,500 homes one year.





The projects, which are ongoing, have achieved emission reductions of 90 tons of fine particulate, 23 tons of nitrogen oxides, 70 tons of volatile organics, 900 tons of carbon monoxide, and over 6,000 tons of greenhouse gases. They also have had a demonstrated impact in reducing wildfire intensity and size, and preserving water, wildlife habitat, and soil productivity.

