

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

*8/8/2019 – Curtis Hall, Sacramento*

**RESOLUTION 2019-21**

*Calling for Enforceable Work Safety Rules During Hazardous Air Days*

**WHEREAS,** The Democratic Party of Sacramento County agrees with the California Democratic Party platform that we should, “Enhance workers’ safety programs with adequate and appropriate penalties for unsafe working conditions;” and

**WHEREAS,** There is a high potential for future catastrophic wildfires that will impact California; such impacts will include poor air quality even far from the fires themselves, with exposure to particulate matter (PM) having significant short-term and long-term health impacts, including respiratory symptoms, heart failure, and premature death, which requires state and local actions to ensure early planning to protect communities and workers; and

**WHEREAS,** On July 18, 2019, California's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHA) adopted an emergency regulation requiring employers to offer voluntary protection for workers when the air quality index (AQI) for PM exceeds 150, and mandatory protection when the AQI exceeds 500, during a wildfire event, and during the discussion on the emergency item, representatives from the business community used Sacramento as an example of a region who did not need to require employers to provide protection to workers during wildfires, despite the fact that the Sacramento Region was severely impacted during the Camp Fire in November 2018, leading our AQI to exceed 300 for several consecutive days; and

**WHEREAS,** An AQI above 300 is considered hazardous for everyone, especially impacting low-income communities, outdoor workers, people who don't speak English, youth, elderly, and people with preexisting conditions, which is why labor and environmental justice advocates have asked OSHA to consider revising the permanent standard to require protective measures whenever the AQI exceeds 300; and

**WHEREAS,** OSHA will be developing a permanent regulation in August 2019 to codify the proposal beyond the emergency regulation;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County supports adoption of PM protections at least as stringent as the emergency regulation by OSHA on July 18, 2019, and particularly implores OSHA to reduce the threshold for mandatory protections to 300 AQI, as anthropogenic climate change essentially guarantees large fires with widespread smoke dispersal in the future.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County calls on businesses to proactively train and equip employees who might be exposed to PM during wildfire events, in order to insure effective deployment of protective measures when needed.

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*Sponsors: Katie Valenzuela & Jeff Otter*