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Butte County Air District Inspector Receives Statewide Honors

Work to progress prescribed burning and protect the public from naturally occurring asbestos has earned Senior Air Quality Compliance Specialist Ursula Parker statewide recognition.

Parker is the recipient of the 2022 Rodney Swartzendruber Outstanding Inspector Award. The award recognizes California air district inspectors who consistently demonstrate outstanding performance and who make significant contributions that benefit air pollution control efforts in an exemplary way.



Since starting with the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) in 2006, Ursula Parker has managed the District's Burn Program and Asbestos program while fulfilling inspector duties at hundreds of permitted facilities. As the Burn Program Manager Parker has fostered positive working relationships with local fire agencies, land managers, and state agencies so that fire hazard reduction projects can occur as needed while minimizing smoke impacts. In addition to being on the Board of Directors for the Butte County Fire Safe Council, Parker also participates in the Northern California Rx Fire Council, the Tree Mortality Task Force, and the Interagency Air and Smoke Council on behalf of the District.

"Ursula's contributions and impact to improving the air quality in Butte County can't be overstated," says District Air Pollution Control Officer Stephen Ertle. "Her

receipt of this award is well earned!" Supervisor Tami Ritter and Chair of the BCAQMD Governing Board adds, "Mrs. Parker's exceptional professionalism is recognized by all of those who have the pleasure of working with her. Her ability to convey the necessary restrictions and requirements (as an inspector) and have those individuals laud her knowledge and insight, speaks volumes. Her passion for the work she does is obvious to her colleagues, the AQMD, and all of those she serves. Butte County is lucky to have her."

Ursula Parker was presented the award on October 19th at this year's Enforcement Managers conference hosted by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA).