AASHTO Subcommittee on Materials (SOM)
2016 Fly Ash Task Force Summary Sheet

**Myth:**
There are no fly ash supply issues, or they are confined to one region

**Truth:**
80% of State DOTs identified a fly ash issue, and this included States in the west coast to the east coast. Class F and Class C fly ashes were both reported as being a concern, with some States noting issues with both. The Federal Aviation Administration and the United States Army Corp of Engineers also reported fly ash shortages and concern for the future.

![Fly Ash Survey Summary](image)

**Myth:**
Supply issues mean we are running out of fly ash

**Truth:**
Coal will continue to account for a significant percentage of U.S. electric generation during the next two decades. Fly ash production is forecast to increase by two (2) percent over the next twenty years, and we are currently still landfilling large quantities of fly ash. But, at the same time, demand for fly ash is also increasing due to ASR and sustainability concerns. In 2015, fly ash use in concrete was up 24% from 2014, but production of fly ash was down 13% from 2014. At the same time, almost 20 million tons of fly ash was still landfilled in 2015.

**Myth:**
The fly ash issues are over!
**Truth:**
In some areas fly ash sources have changed (i.e. from Class F, which is considered better for ASR mitigation, to Class C) or the supply will be not as consistent (i.e. due to plants abilities to change to natural gas easier based on economics). Due to this, concrete may cost more and/or may need to be placed without the benefit of fly ash in the short term in certain areas until changes are made.

**What can my State Do??**

Some Potential Short-term Actions:
- Start or continue a dialogue with your fly ash suppliers and concrete industry to identify potential local solutions that will fit your situation the best (California has started a Fly Ash Task group)
- Look at allowances for contractors to change sources while a project is ongoing by approving backup mix designs (Massachusetts, Florida, West Virginia)
- Consider new sources of fly ash, like blended fly ashes (Georgia, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee), foreign sources (Georgia and New York) or allow chemically treated fly ash to offset the negative effects of high carbon coal ash (Ohio, Kentucky, New York)
- Consider allowing substitution of more materials for fly ash, such as slag
- Keep abreast of on-going and recent research by other States (Florida, Texas) and share or start your own research related to your State’s needs

Long Term Considerations:
- Recent NCHRP research has the potential of amending current specifications to allow more beneficial reuse of fly ash materials that were traditionally considered unusable, but some follow-up research/testing is needed
- A national effort is also needed to address alternative SCMs for the long term future of concrete structures and pavements

**Where can I get more information?**
- The complete AASHTO 2016 Fly Ash Task Force Report and survey is located on the AASHTO SOM website: [http://materials.transportation.org](http://materials.transportation.org)
- American Coal Ash Association website: [www.acaa-usa.org](http://www.acaa-usa.org)