



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

## FOR NEW PROPOSED REGULATION 6, RULE 3: WOOD-BURNING DEVICES

March 27, 2008

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) will conduct a series of public meetings to inform residents and affected business owners about the proposed Regulation 6, Rule 3: Wood-Burning Devices (Reg. 6-3). During 2007 the Air District embarked on a rule development process to reduce emissions of harmful Particulate Matter (PM) from wood-burning devices, including indoor and outdoor fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. This process included extensive outreach with interested parties, development of the draft rule and culminated in a series of 7 public workshops to receive comments and answer questions. Since that time, the Air District has reviewed the public comments received and revised the proposed rule.

Residents of the Bay Area are encouraged to attend a meeting at one of the locations listed below to learn more about the proposed rule, discuss how it would be implemented and how it might actually affect individuals. District staff will also provide information on the upcoming rule development schedule, the CEQA process and what the District is already doing to encourage people to reduce wood smoke pollution.

### HEALTH CONCERNS

Smoke is a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic matter burn. The biggest health threat from smoke comes from fine particles as small as 2.5 microns in size (or PM<sub>2.5</sub>). These fine particles can easily bypass the natural filters in the nose and throat and penetrate deep into the lungs. **Health studies have linked long-term exposure to PM with serious health effects such as aggravated asthma, nose and throat irritation, bronchitis, lung damage and even premature death.** People with heart or lung disease such as congestive heart failure, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, emphysema or asthma may experience health effects earlier and at lower levels than healthy people. Older adults are more likely to be affected because they are more likely to have chronic heart or lung diseases than younger people. Children are most susceptible because their respiratory systems are still developing, they breathe more air (and air pollution) per pound of body weight than adults and they are more likely to be playing outdoors.

### WHY IS A REGULATION NEEDED NOW?

Concerns over the adverse health effects to the public have led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to lower the air quality standard for fine PM in order to protect public health. **Residential wood burning represents the largest primary source of PM<sub>2.5</sub> during winter months**, contributing approximately 33% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> on cold winter days. The Air District is required to establish regulations to meet the EPA standard and reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> in order to protect public health. Similar rules have been successfully implemented in other areas throughout California and the nation resulting in significant improvements to air quality.

### PROPOSED RULE PROVISIONS

The proposed rule for wood-burning devices would:

- Restrict operation of any indoor or outdoor fireplace, fire pit, wood or pellet stove or fireplace insert on specific days during the winter when air quality is at its worst;
- Limit visible emissions from wood burning;
- Require cleaner burning technology when wood-burning devices are sold, transferred or installed;
- Require cleaner burning technology if wood-burning devices are installed in new building construction;
- Prohibit the burning of garbage, plastics and other inappropriate types of materials;

- Require labeling and disclosure of the moisture content on wood sold for use within District, including instructions on how to dry wood if it is not seasoned.
- Require a warning label on packages of wood and other solid fuels (such as pressed logs and pellets) stating the health risks associated with burning and a message to check Air Quality status before burning these products.

Additionally, the following regulations would be amended:

- Regulation 5, Open Burning, would restrict outdoor fires set for recreational purposes on specific days during the winter when air quality is at its worst.
- Regulation 1, General Requirements, would delete the language that currently excludes “residential heating” from any regulation to allow for the adoption of proposed Regulation 6, Rule 3, in order to regulate indoor wood-burning devices.

Following these public meetings to provide information on this rule, the Air District Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to receive final comments and adopt the proposed rule. To learn more about the proposed rule, please visit the District website at <http://www.baaqmd.gov>. For questions on the proposed rule, please contact Eric Pop, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-5172, or [epop@baaqmd.gov](mailto:epop@baaqmd.gov).

<p><b>Monday, April 14, 2008</b>  <b>1-3 pm</b>            Redwood City Library            1044 Middlefield Road            Redwood City, CA 94063</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 15, 2008</b>  <b>6 - 8 pm</b>            Napa County Library            580 Coombs Street            Napa, CA 94559</p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 17, 2008</b>  <b>1-3 pm</b>            Steele Lane Community Center            Dohn Room, 415 Steele Lane            Santa Rosa, CA 95403  <b>This meeting will be webcast *</b></p>
<p><b>Monday, April 21, 2008</b>  <b>1- 3 pm</b>            JFK Library, Joseph Room            505 Santa Clara Street            Vallejo, CA 94590</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, April 23, 2008</b>  <b>1 - 3 pm</b>            Concord Senior Center            2727 Parkside Circle            Concord, CA 94520</p>	<p><b>Thursday, April 24, 2008</b>  <b>6 - 8 pm</b>            Robert Livermore Community Center            Palo Verde Room, 4444 East Avenue            Livermore, CA 94550</p>
<p><b>Monday, April 28, 2008</b>  <b>1-3 pm</b>            Hill Community Room            1560 Hill Road            Novato, CA 94947</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, April 29, 2008</b>  <b>6 - 8 pm</b>            San Jose Community Room            200 East Santa Clara Street            San Jose, CA 95113</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, April 30, 2008</b>  <b>1 - 3 pm</b>            Metropolitan Transportation Commission            Metrocenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street            Oakland, CA 94607  <b>This meeting will be webcast *</b></p>
<p>* Webcast links for the Santa Rosa and Oakland meetings will not be active until the day of the meeting.</p>		

### INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Interpretation services for Spanish language speakers will be provided at San Jose, Vallejo and Oakland locations. If you plan to attend another meeting and need interpretation services, or if you need a different language service, please contact Ruth Argueta, *in advance*, at [rargueta@baaqmd.gov](mailto:rargueta@baaqmd.gov) or (415) 749-4778, so we can arrange to accommodate your request.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Attendees are encouraged to ride public transit, rideshare, bicycle, walk or use other non-motorized modes to and from the public meetings. Please see the following web sites for help in locating available public transportation:

[www.transit.511.org](http://www.transit.511.org), [www.bayareatransit.net](http://www.bayareatransit.net), [www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local\\_gov/transit.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local_gov/transit.html)

For directions to the sites, see the link under each site address for a map.