

## **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

January 23, 2002

### **PROJECT SPONSOR**

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project consists of amendments to BAAQMD Regulation 5, which regulates open burning in the San Francisco Bay Area. The amendments primarily affect prescribed burning and will:

- Incorporate certain provisions from the California Air Resources Board guidelines for prescribed burning (Title 17, California Code of Regulation, beginning at section 80100).
- Restrict and clarify existing burn hours for all allowable fires.
- Expand and update the notification requirements prior to burning.
- Allow fire training burns at night and public exhibition fires on no-burn days with conditions.
- Require tree stumps and trunks to be cut or split into sections small enough to ensure that burning material does not smoke after sunset.
- Eliminate obsolete rule language, and provide for consistency and clarity throughout.

### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The proposed amendments apply within the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. This area includes all of seven counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Napa), and portions of two others (southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma).

### **DETERMINATION**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, *et seq.*), the District is the Lead Agency for the described project. The District has prepared an initial study (attached), and, on the basis of the study, has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

### **REVIEW PERIOD**

Written comments on the proposed negative declaration must be addressed to Douglas Tolar, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, 94109. Comments will be received during the period from January 25, 2002 until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2002.

If you have questions about the project or the negative declaration, please contact Douglas Tolar at (415) 749-5118.