

AIR CURRENTS

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

SPRING 2010

Winter Spare the Air season comes to a clean finish

The Bay Area's *Winter Spare the Air* season closed February 28, with a total of 7 *Winter Spare the Air Alerts* issued, and a preliminary count of 9 days over the federal air quality standard. This is a reduction from last year, when there were 11 *Winter Spare the Air Alerts* and 13 days over the federal air quality standard.

This year was the second season the Air District enforced the wood-burning rule, approved by the Air District's Board of Directors in July 2008. The wood-burning regulation was passed to protect Bay Area residents from the hazards of wood smoke.

Wood smoke pollution is a serious health concern, primarily because it contains fine particulate matter, or PM2.5. These small particles, which

Winter Spare the Air Season Summary			
Stats	2009-10	2008-09	% Change
WSTA Alerts	7	11	-36%
Days over Standard	9*	13	-54%
Complaints Received	2,355	1,422	66%
Warning Letters Issued	310	256	21%
Tickets Issued	8	1	700%
*Based on preliminary data			

are 2.5 micrometers or smaller in size, are less than one quarter the size of a human hair. They can bypass filters in the nose and throat and be inhaled into the respiratory system. Exposure to high concentrations of PM2.5 is linked to respiratory illnesses such as asthma

and bronchitis, and to increased mortality rates.

Wood smoke also contains common pollutants such as carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen, as well as harmful toxins like formaldehyde, benzene and dioxin.

The Air District's regulation bans wood burning in fireplaces and woodstoves during *Winter Spare the Air Alerts*, when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy. It sets restrictions on excessive visible chimney smoke and forbids burning of garbage, plastic, or other

—continued on page 3

\$33 million approved for port truck retrofits

The Air District recently participated in an extensive incentive program to reduce diesel pollution from trucks servicing the Port of Oakland.

In December 2007, the California Air Resources Board passed a Drayage Truck Rule which requires drayage, or short-haul, port truck owners to retrofit or replace older, more highly polluting trucks. The rule is intended to decrease toxic air pollution and protect public health in neighborhoods near the state's ports.

The Port of Oakland sits at the center of the West Oakland community,

which has been identified as one of the Bay Area neighborhoods most highly impacted by air pollution. In order to address this pollution, the Air District worked with the West Oakland Community, the Port of Oakland and the California Air Resources Board to identify funds that could be used to help trucks servicing the Port reduce their toxic emissions immediately.

In 2009, an initial round of \$22 million in funding was made available to retrofit and replace trucks. Qualified applicants were eligible to receive

—continued on page 3



**BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT**

TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

DAILY AIR QUALITY 1-800-HELP-AIR
COMPLAINT LINE 1-800-334-ODOR
SMOKING VEHICLES 1-800-EXHAUST

GENERAL INFO

COMMUNICATIONS 415-749-4900
GENERAL BUSINESS 415-771-6000

AIRCURRENTS is printed with soy-based ink, on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Air District repowers rails to Spare the Air

On November 17, 2009, the Air District, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held a press event to introduce Locomotive #2015, the cleanest passenger locomotive in California.

The three agencies contributed funding to update the new engine, which will operate between Sacramento and the Bay Area along the Capitol Corridor route. Upgrading existing engines can reduce diesel pollution by up to 45 percent and provide an efficient way of reducing particulate matter in and around cities close to railways, thereby improving the health of local residents.



Air District strengthens air toxics regulation

On January 6, 2010, the Air District adopted amendments to *Regulation 2, Rule 5: New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants*, and the associated Health Risk Screening Assessment Guidelines. These changes will result in more stringent permitting requirements, and also contain a provision for tracking all changes in emissions of toxic air contaminants in Bay Area communities most impacted by air pollution.

The Air District's Air Toxics New Source Review program requires that facilities in the Bay Area undergo a permit review before constructing new equipment that emits toxic air contaminants or modifying existing equipment. The rule limits risk and requires Best Available Control Technology to mitigate toxic emissions. Emission reductions are achieved by requiring facilities to update their existing emission controls when they modify or replace older, more highly polluting sources.

The Toxics New Source Review requirements are based on health-risk assessments which analyze health risks for any individuals who might be potentially affected by toxic emissions. The methodology for these health risk assessments is outlined in state guidance documents.

The new amendments to the Air Toxics New Source Review regulation incorporate recently updated methodology by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment that will be more protective of infants and youth. The revised amendments will result in increased stringency of permitting requirements for new and modified stationary sources of toxic air contaminants and are expected to make the program more stringent by a factor of two to three throughout the Bay Area. Gasoline dispensing facilities, diesel backup generators and crematories are expected to be the source categories most affected by these changes.

As part of the regulatory amendments, the Air District will develop a new tracking program for increases and reductions of toxic air emissions in Bay Area communities most impacted by air pollution. These areas have been identified through the Community Air Risk Evaluation Program, which analyzed neighborhoods with both high exposure to toxic air contaminants and populations particularly sensitive to adverse health effects of toxic air contaminants.

Toxic air contaminants are air pollutants which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or serious illness, or which may pose a potential hazard to human health. Over the past two decades the Air District's Air Toxics Program, along with other Air District and State programs, has reduced cancer risk from toxic air contaminants by approximately 70 percent.

Air District awards community grants to local organizations

The Air District recently awarded six local organizations with funding to combat respiratory illness, reduce air emissions, and educate community members about the hazards of poor air quality. These projects were awarded a total of \$250,000, and were chosen from fifty-seven applicants.

Among the recipients were Axis Community Health for the promotion of asthma education and intervention in low-income households, the Chabot Space and Science Center for the cre-

ation of an interactive climate change laboratory, and Greenaction for a diesel reduction and education program.

The remainder of the funding was awarded to the American Lung Association for its continuing efforts in Alameda and Oakland; to CreaTV, a Silicon-Valley based non-profit creating youth-based climate change media projects; and to Earth Team, a program that teaches young people about the impacts of diesel emissions in West Oakland.

Port Grants

continued from page 1

\$50,000 to replace older model trucks, or funding to cover the entire purchase price of a new diesel soot filter, which can reduce toxic particulate matter emissions by approximately 85 percent.

The deadline for this first phase was scheduled to end in December 2009, but due to some issues with the availability of trucks and retrofits, this date was extended to April 30, 2010. One thousand qualified and eligible applicants (800 retrofits and 200 replacements) are scheduled to be in service by that time, with over 700 already in compliance and at work at the Port of Oakland.

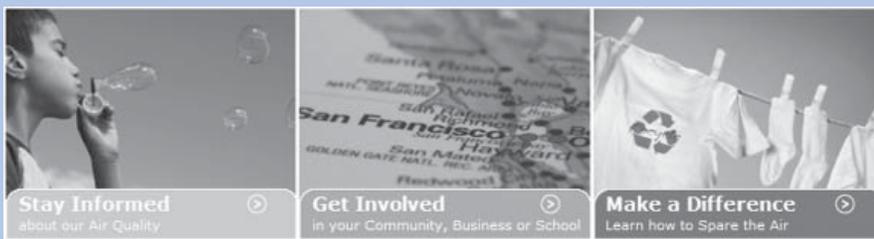
Overall demand outstripped the available funding, however, and in order to continue with the port truck retrofitting project, California Air Resources Board announced approval of an additional \$11 million on December 31, 2009. On January 14, 2010, 894 letters of interest were submitted to the Air District, of which 764 were eligible for the second phase. On February 3, 2010, 660 of these applicants provided sufficient proof of financing and are currently in line for Air District grant contracts. These vehicles have been pre-inspected by the Air District and now have until the deadline to either install a retrofit or locate and purchase a compliant truck.

All trucks accessing ports and rail yards across California must comply with the Drayage Truck Rule by May 1, 2010. Port of Oakland truckers must meet their project milestones to make sure their retrofits or replacements are in place by the deadline.

Overall, Air District surveys indicated that 70 percent of Bay Area residents supported the wood burning rule.

For more detailed information about the wood-burning regulation, visit our websites at www.sparetheair.org and www.baaqmd.gov.

Spare the Air website redesigned



The Air District's www.sparetheair.org website has been redesigned!

The Air District's Spare the Air website now presents information in a three portal system. For individuals interested in health information, the "Stay Informed" portal houses information on the health effects of ozone and particulate matter, while employers looking to become members of the Employer Program can choose to "Get Involved." The "Make a Difference" portal introduces browsers to the Spare the Air program and offers suggestions for adopting clean air choices. Staples of the former website, like the Air Quality Index explanation and the teachers and students section remain on the new website.

Winter Spare the Air

continued from page 1

inappropriate materials in fireplaces and woodstoves.

In the wintertime, when the weather becomes stagnant, particulate matter can accumulate rapidly. On such evenings, wood burning from the Bay Area's 1.4 million fireplaces and woodstoves accounts for about one-third of the total amount of particulate pollution.

This season, the Air District received 2,355 complaints and issued 310 warning letters for first-time offenders and eight tickets to repeat violators.

Two of the first three *Winter Spare the Air Alerts* issued this season fell on the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Air sampling results indicate that the *Winter Spare the Air Alert* called on Christmas helped the region avoid an exceedance that day.



Published by
B.A.A.Q.M.D.
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Board of Directors

Brad Wagenknecht
Chairperson
Napa County
Tom Bates
Vice Chairperson
Alameda County
John Gioia
Secretary
Contra Costa County

Harold C. Brown, Jr.
Marin County

Chris Daly
San Francisco

Susan Garner
Santa Clara County

Carol Groom
San Mateo County

Scott Haggerty
Alameda County

Jennifer Hosterman
Alameda County

David Hudson
Contra Costa County

Ash Kalra
Santa Clara County

Carol L. Klatt
San Mateo County

Liz Kniss
Santa Clara County

Eric Mar
San Francisco

Nate Miley
Alameda County

Gavin Newsom
San Francisco

Mark Ross
Contra Costa County

Jim Spering
Solano County

Pamela Torliatt
Sonoma County

Gayle B. Uilkema
Contra Costa County

Ken Yeager
Santa Clara County

Shirlee Zane
Sonoma County

Newsletter Production

Lisa Fasano, Communications Director
Ana Sandoval, Communications Manager
Aaron Richardson,
Sonam Shah, Editors
Amy Meyer, Contributing Writer
Ralph Borrmann, Photography

**Navigating the American Carbon World
- CONFERENCE -**

The Air District is a sponsor of the **Navigating the American Carbon World: New Direction for Climate Action** conference on April 14-16 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. It will be the year's first major conference to take a comprehensive look at the status of climate policy in 2010, and examine how climate initiatives will move forward with or without new policy. Visit www.nacw2010.org for more information.

Register for August CAPCOA Climate Change Forum



The California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association Climate Change Forum, hosted by CAPCOA in partnership with the Air District and other agencies, will take place August 30-31, 2010 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. This two-day conference will investigate how federal climate change legislation and U.S. EPA promulgations under the federal Clean Air Act will impact the implementation of California's AB32 and other key climate protection initiatives.

For agenda topics and additional information please visit the event website, www.capcoacclimateforum.com or call 1-800-993-0302.

Follow Spare the Air on Twitter!



The Spare the Air Program is quickly finding great success on the social networking site Twitter. To date, Spare the Air has over 1,600 followers who receive daily tweets about the latest air quality news. To follow Spare the Air on Twitter, visit www.twitter.com/@sparetheair.

Indicia Here



9 3 9 Ellis Street, San Francisco, California 9 4 1 0 9