

SPARE THE AIR HEALTH ADVISORY

For Immediate Release July 10, 2008

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Air quality expected to improve Friday

Air District is NOT declaring a Spare the Air Day on Friday, July 11

SAN FRANCISCO – Due to improving air quality conditions, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is NOT issuing a *Spare the Air* Day advisory for Friday, July 11. The region continues to be under a health advisory for Thursday due to wildfire smoke.

"It looks like there will be a gradual improvement in air quality over the weekend," said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. "We've had four straight Spare the Air days, but tomorrow we are forecasting that federal health standards will *not* be exceeded."

A high pressure system that has caused hot temperatures and light winds is beginning to weaken over the Bay Area. This will be accompanied by gradual cooling, stronger on-shore winds, and decreased ozone levels. Elevated levels of particulate matter due to wildfire smoke are continuing to affect much of the nine-county region—comprising Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma Counties—but a change in wind direction may begin to mitigate the impacts from the wildfires located north of the Bay Area over the coming weekend.

Air quality for tomorrow will be in the moderate category. Because of the changing fire conditions, the Air District is not lifting the health advisory for particulates or smoke. The Bay Area is experiencing a gradual decrease in smoke at ground level, but skies may still look muddy due to smoke at higher elevations. If residents smell or see smoke, they are still advised to limit outdoor exertion on Friday. For more wildfire safety tips, see www.sparetheair.org.

The Air District issues *Spare the Air* health advisories whenever air quality is forecast to reach unhealthy levels.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is committed to achieving clean air to protect the public's health and the environment. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov. For information and tips to help you *Spare the Air Every Day*, visit www.sparetheair.org.