



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Wood Smoke Reduction Rebate Program Concludes Successfully

Air District announces series of informational meetings for proposed new regulation to further reduce wood smoke pollution

SAN FRANCISCO – The Air District announced today that all the rebate vouchers for its Wood Smoke Reduction Rebate Program have been assigned, after an overwhelming response, and the program has been completed.

The program was implemented to reduce particulate pollution from residential wood-burning devices in the Bay Area.

“We’re pleased that so many Bay Area residents are interested in switching their wood-burning fireplaces and woodstoves to cleaner-burning appliances,” said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. “This rebate program has been a success, and has helped to spread awareness of the hazards of wood smoke pollution in the region.”

In 2008, the Air District committed \$500,000 in incentives for Bay Area residents who wished to switch their wood-burning home heating devices to cleaner-burning alternatives. The first phase of the program began in mid-January, with \$100,000 distributed in partnership with the Hearth Patio and Barbecue Association and associated retailers. Remaining funds were allocated through the District’s own rebate program that closed today.

Announcements about future rebate and incentive programs will be posted on www.sparetheair.org.

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The Air District will also be proposing a new regulation this summer that will reduce wood smoke pollution by limiting wood burning on nights when air quality is expected to be unhealthy. A first series of informational meetings was held in Fall 2007, and a second series will be conducted later this month. See the full schedule below.

For a copy of the detailed workshop report go to www.baaqmd.gov and look under Rules and Regulations, Workshops.

Note: Some of these meetings will also be available via webcast at www.baaqmd.gov/woodsmoke.htm. Live webcast links for future meetings will not be active until the day of the meeting.

Monday, April 14, 1-3 pm Redwood City Library 1044 Middlefield Road Redwood City , CA 94063	Tuesday, April 15, 6-8 pm Napa County Library 580 Coombs Street Napa , CA 94559	Thursday, April 17, 1-3 pm Steele Lane Community Center Dohn Room, 415 Steele Lane Santa Rosa , CA 95403 This meeting will be webcast
Monday, April 21, 1-3 pm JFK Library, Joseph Room 505 Santa Clara Street Vallejo , CA 94590	Wednesday, April 23, 1-3 pm Concord Senior Center 2727 Parkside Circle Concord , CA 94520	Thursday, April 24, 6-8 pm Robert Livermore Community Center Palo Verde Room, 4444 East Avenue Livermore , CA 94550
Monday, April 28, 1-3 pm Hill Community Room 1560 Hill Road Novato , CA 94947	Tuesday, April 29, 6-8 pm San Jose Community Room 200 East Santa Clara Street San Jose , CA 95113	Wednesday, April 30, 1-3 pm Metropolitan Transportation Commission Metrocenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street Oakland , CA 94607 This meeting will be webcast

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