



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

California Environmental Quality Act

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR ADOPTION OF DISTRICT REGULATION 6: PARTICULATE MATTER, RULE 3: WOOD-BURNING DEVICES

Interested Agencies, Organizations and Individuals:

Subject: Notice is hereby given pursuant to California Public Resources Code § 21091, 21092, 21092.2, and 21092.3; and CEQA Guidelines Section 15085 and 15087 that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Bay Area AQMD or District), as lead agency, has prepared an Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in connection with the project described in this notice.

Project Title: Bay Area AQMD proposed Regulation 6: Particulate Matter, Rule 3: Wood-Burning Devices.

Project Location: The rule will apply within the Bay Area AQMD, which includes all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties, and the southern portions of Solano and Sonoma counties.

Project Description: The District is proposing to adopt a new rule, Regulation 6: Particulate Matter, Rule 3: Wood-Burning Devices. The proposed rule will apply to residences and commercial establishments (hotels, restaurants, etc.) with wood-burning devices. The rule will limit visible emissions to 20% opacity, except for a start-up period; prohibit the burning of garbage, treated or unseasoned wood, plastics or other non-wood products; require labeling on firewood and manufactured solid fuel products sold in the Bay Area regarding the health hazards of breathing particulate matter and provide instructions on how to find information on the burn status of any day; require seasoned wood sold in the Bay Area to have a moisture content of 20% or less and require sellers to provide seasoning instructions if unseasoned wood is sold; prohibit the sale, transfer or installation of wood-burning devices intended for use within the District unless they are EPA Phase II certified or wood pellet stoves; allow wood-burning devices only if they are EPA Phase II certified or pellet stoves in new construction; and prohibit burning of wood or solid fuels during days when the District predicts that concentration of fine particulate matter (particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter) in ambient air would exceed 35 micrograms per cubic meter.

In addition, the District is proposing to amend Regulation 5: Open Burning and Regulation 1: General Provisions and Definitions. The amendment to Regulation 5 would prohibit outdoor recreational fires during time periods when a fine particulate matter concentration in excess of 35 micrograms per cubic meter is predicted. The amendment to Regulation 1 deletes an exclusion from District standards for residential heating, enabling adoption of the standards in proposed Regulation 6, Rule 3.

Probable Environmental Impacts: Adoption of a new rule to limit particulate matter emissions from wood-burning devices is intended to and expected to benefit public health and the environment. The Draft EIR was developed to fully consider a potential increase in greenhouse gas emissions, primarily carbon dioxide. Greenhouse gas emission have been implicated as contributing to global warming. The Draft EIR concludes that the project will not cause any significant adverse environmental impacts.

DRAFT EIR AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ARE AVAILABLE AT:

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Or by Calling:
415-749-5172

Or at the Districts Website:

http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/ruledev/regulatory_public_hearings.htm

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: Comments relating to the environmental analysis should be addressed to Mr. Eric Pop, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco CA, 94109. Comments may also be sent via fax to 415-928-0338 or by e-mail to epop@baaqmd.gov. Comments will be received during the period from Monday, May 5, 2008 until 5:00 pm on **Wednesday, June 18, 2008**.

Date: May 5, 2008