



# PUBLIC WORKSHOP NOTICE

**October 5, 2007**

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICER / APCO  
SUBJECT: **PROPOSED REGULATION 6, RULE 3:  
WOOD-BURNING DEVICES**

The staff of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) will conduct a series of **public workshops** to review and discuss proposed **Regulation 6, Rule 3: Wood-Burning Devices**, at the dates, times and locations shown below:

**Wednesday, November 7, 2007**  
**1-3 pm**

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Metrocenter Auditorium  
101 Eight Street  
Oakland, CA 94607  
For a Google® map, click [here](#)

**Thursday, November 8, 2007**  
**1-3 pm**

Steele Lane Community Center  
Dohn Room  
415 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
For a Google® map, click [here](#)

**Wednesday, November 14, 2007**  
**6-8 pm**

San Jose State University  
Costanoan Room  
One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 95192  
For a Google® map, click [here](#)

**Thursday November 15, 2007**  
**1-3 pm**

Holiday Inn  
1050 Burnett Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520  
For a Google® map, click [here](#)

**Thursday, November 15, 2007**  
**6-8 pm**

Ramada Inn  
1000 Admiral Callaghan Lane  
Vallejo, CA 94591  
For a Google® map, click [here](#)

**Friday, November 16, 2007**  
**1-3 pm**

Seaport Conference Center  
459 Seaport Court  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
For a Google® map, click [here](#)

**Monday, November 26, 2007**  
**6-8 pm**

Robert Livermore Community Center  
Cresta Blanca Room  
4444 East Avenue  
Livermore, CA 94550  
For a Google® map, click [here](#)

## BACKGROUND

The Air District is proposing Regulation 6, Rule 3, to reduce emissions of harmful Particulate Matter (PM) from wood-burning devices, including indoor and outdoor fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. PM consists of very small liquid and solid particles suspended in the air, and includes particles smaller than 10 microns in size (PM<sub>10</sub>) as well as finer particles smaller than 2.5 microns in size (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). PM is of concern because it can enter nasal passages and the lungs and cause serious health effects such as aggravated asthma, nose and throat irritation, bronchitis, lung damage, and premature death. People with respiratory illnesses, children and the elderly are more sensitive to the effects of PM, but it can affect everyone.

The Bay Area experiences its highest PM concentrations in the winter, especially during the evening and night time hours. Wood burning is the single greatest source contributing to these PM concentrations, contributing approximately 30 percent of total wintertime PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

During recent winters, the Bay Area Air Basin exceeded the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) on 20 to 30 days. Air District staff anticipates a non-attainment designation for this new standard. The emission limitations in the proposed Regulation 6, Rule 3, are intended to address this expected non-attainment status and reduce the health impacts of PM in the Bay Area. Reductions in wood smoke emissions will be necessary to achieve clean air for the whole air basin.

## REGULATORY PROPOSAL

The proposal for wood-burning devices would:

- Curtail operation of any indoor or outdoor fireplace, fire pit, wood or pellet stove or fireplace insert during periods forecast to negatively impact public health due to elevated PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels;
- Restrict visible emissions from wood burning;
- Require cleaner burning technology when wood-burning devices are sold, transferred or installed;
- Require cleaner burning technology if wood-burning devices are installed in new building construction;
- Prohibit the burning of garbage and other inappropriate types of materials;
- Require that only dry, seasoned wood be sold and that it, or any other commonly-used solid fuel, also have a label listing moisture content and instructions for curtailment periods.

Additionally, the following regulations would be amended:

- Regulation 5, Open Burning, would include a limited exemption for outdoor fires set for recreational purposes which would require curtailment during any period when a negative impact upon public health, resulting from elevated levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, is forecast.
- Regulation 1, General Requirements, would delete the language that currently excludes “residential heating” from any regulation to allow for the adoption of proposed Regulation 6, Rule 3, in order to regulate indoor wood-burning devices.

The purpose of the workshop is to receive comments and answer questions on the proposed rule. For copies of the draft rule and Workshop Report, visit the District website at <http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/ruledev/workshops.htm>. For questions or comments on proposed Regulation 6, Rule 3, please contact Eric Pop, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-5172, or [epop@baaqmd.gov](mailto:epop@baaqmd.gov).

### TRANSLATION SERVICES

If you require translation services, please contact Ruth Argueta, *in advance*, at [rargueta@baaqmd.gov](mailto:rargueta@baaqmd.gov) or (415) 749-4778, so we can arrange to accommodate your request.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Attendees are encouraged to ride public transit, rideshare, bicycle, walk or use other non-motorized modes to and from the public meetings. Please see the following web sites for help in locating available public transportation:

[www.transit.511.org](http://www.transit.511.org), [www.bayareatransit.net](http://www.bayareatransit.net), [www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local\\_gov/transit.html](http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/local_gov/transit.html)

For directions to the sites, see the link under each site address for a map.