

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

PROPOSED SUBMISSION OF REGULATION 9: INORGANIC GASEOUS POLLUTANTS, RULE 4: NITROGEN OXIDES FROM NATURAL GAS-FIRED FURNACES AND REGULATION 9: INORGANIC GASEOUS POLLUTANTS, RULE 6: NITROGEN OXIDES EMISSIONS FROM NATURAL GAS-FIRED BOILERS AND WATER HEATERS INTO THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will conduct a public hearing on **June 21, 2023**, at the Air District Headquarters' Board Room, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, California, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider the submission of the current versions of Regulation 9: Inorganic Gaseous Pollutants, Rule 4: Nitrogen Oxides from Natural Gas-Fired Furnaces (Rule 9-4) and Regulation 9: Inorganic Gaseous Pollutants, Rule 6: Nitrogen Oxides Emissions from Natural Gas-Fired Boilers and Water Heaters (Rule 9-6) to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

On March 15, 2023, the Air District adopted amendments to Rules 9-4 and 9-6 after notice and consideration of robust public comment. Rule 9-4 applies to the natural gas-fired space-heating furnaces commonly found in single-family homes, and Rule 9-6 applies to natural gas-fired water heaters commonly found in residential and commercial applications. Space and water-heating appliances generate a large portion of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from sources in the Bay Area. NO_x is formed during natural gas combustion when ambient nitrogen and oxygen combine at high temperatures. The amendments will substantially reduce NO_x emissions from these appliances and therefore secondary particulate matter formation. No changes to Rules 9-4 and 9-6 will be proposed by staff at the public hearing on June 21, 2023. Comments regarding the substance of Rules 9-4 and 9-6 will not be considered by staff at this time.

Rule 9-4 has been included in the State Implementation Plan since 1986. The Air District plans to submit the current versions of Rules 9-4 and Rule 9-6 in their entirety (as amended on March 15, 2023) for inclusion in the SIP to assist with the anticipated need for particulate matter reductions throughout the region. Written comments relating to the upcoming public hearing regarding whether to submit Rules 9-4 and 9-6 for inclusion in the SIP may be submitted to staff through mail to Rule Development, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105. Only comments related to the inclusion of Rules 9-4 and 9-6 in the SIP will be considered by staff at this time. Comments may also be sent by e-mail ruledevelopment@baaqmd.gov prior to the hearing. Verbal comments are welcome up to the day of, and during, the Public Hearing.

Philip M. Fine, Ph.D.
Air Pollution Control Officer
Bay Area Air Quality Management District