



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 11, 2019

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### **Air District hosts public workshop on wildfire rule amendments**

*Public input sought for rule changes to increase wildfire prevention and response efforts*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is hosting a public workshop in San Francisco focused on two rule amendments which are part of the Air District’s Wildfire Air Quality Response Program.

At the workshops, the public, local government and industries will have an opportunity to learn about the draft rules, ask questions of Air District staff, and share feedback and ideas to inform the final rule making process.

“Wildfire smoke is increasingly impacting Bay Area residents and diminishing decades of gains we have made to reduce harmful air pollution,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “These proposed rule amendments will help reduce wildfire risks and provide more tools to reduce harmful pollution impacts that will help protect public health in the event on a wildfire. We encourage the public to attend this workshop, learn more about what the Air District is proposing and weigh in on this crucial issue.”

#### **Workshop Schedule**

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

4 - 6 p.m.

Bay Area Metro Center

Yerba Buena Conference Room, 1st Floor

375 Beale Street, San Francisco

Proposed amendments to rules include:

**Draft amendments to Regulation 5** complement statewide efforts to prevent catastrophic wildfires through prescribed burning. The draft amendments will exempt public agencies from open burning fees when conducting prescribed burns for wildfire prevention.

**Draft amendments to Rule 6-3** aim to further protect public health when wildfire smoke affects air quality in the Bay Area. The draft amendments would allow the Air District to call a Spare the Air Alert year-round to notify the public when particulate matter is expected to exceed unhealthy levels. A Mandatory Burn Ban, which prohibits the use of wood-burning devices, is announced through a Spare the Air Alert.

For more information about the proposed rule amendments, visit: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/rule-development/rules-under-development>.

For those who cannot attend, a live webcast will be available on July 24 at 4 p.m., or an archived video will be available at: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/rule-development/rules-under-development>.

To submit comments or questions on the amendments or the workshop report, contact Patrick Wenzinger at 415-749-4934 or [wildfireprogram@baaqmd.gov](mailto:wildfireprogram@baaqmd.gov). Comment deadline is Monday, August 12, 2019.

For language interpretation, contact Aneesh Rana, [arana@baaqmd.gov](mailto:arana@baaqmd.gov), 415-749-4914 at least 72 hours before the workshop.

Para información en español, llame al 415-749-4609

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The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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