

Butte County

Air Quality Management District

AIR CARE NEWS BULLETIN

June 27, 2008

What's been happening? Over the last two months staff have conducted several public workshops to provide information on the fine particulate pollution problem resulting from the use of woodstoves and fireplaces, present potential measures to mitigate the pollution, and receive public comments. District staff developed recommendations on how to proceed. Staff's report to the District Governing Board, including recommendations, may be accessed through the District website (see below).

What's new? At the June 26th meeting the District Governing Board received staff's report on this process to date and staff recommendations. The Board also received public comments. The District Board did not make any final decisions at the June meeting. The Board did, however, provide the following direction to staff: 1.) Develop an updated public education program for Board consideration at the September 25th Board meeting; 2.) Develop an enhanced voluntary "Don't Light Tonight" program, with focus on the high smoke impacted area of the Chico Urbanized Area, for Board consideration at the September 25th Board meeting; 3.) Develop a model ordinance for the Board to review that would require replacement of uncertified woodburning units at the time of a remodel, where the value of the remodel is more than \$25,000; and, 4.) Develop recommendations on amendments to Rule 207 *Residential Wood Combustion*, that would prohibit the installation of new residential woodburning water heaters and boilers, limit the number of woodburning devices in new construction based on total emissions, and provide for a mandatory "Don't Light Tonight" program on poor air quality days in high smoke impacted areas, such as the Chico Urbanized Area, effective for the 2009 season. The District staff will also be providing information at a later Board meeting on mandatory woodstove change-out programs that have been or are being implemented in other areas.

What's next? Staff will present the recommended public education program and voluntary "Don't Light Tonight" program at the September 25, 2008 Board meeting. The Board will consider approving these two programs at this meeting. Staff will also provide a report on the recommended ordinance and rule amendments. Board action on a recommended ordinance and amendments to Rule 207 will be considered at a future meeting.

Why is this necessary? The residents of Butte County want healthful air, and must have the ability to heat their homes. The District is dedicated to finding solutions to balance these interests so that our communities can meet the state and federal health-based air standards.

What is not being considered? A ban on existing wood stoves is NOT being considered, nor is prohibiting the use of wood stoves on poor air quality days if wood heat is the sole source of home heating.

How can I get more information? If you have questions or comments, please contact Gail Williams at 891-2882 or toll-free (888) 891-2882, or online at www.bcaqmd.org.

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