


Rule 4901
Wood Burning Fireplaces and
Wood Burning Heaters


March 27, 2014
webcast@valleyair.org



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Purpose of Tonight's Meeting


- Kick-off the public rule development process for potential changes to wood-burning strategy:
 - Share information on potential changes under consideration
 - All changes to wood-burning strategy will be taken through a public process with opportunities for residents to provide input



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Meeting Overview

- Importance of Rule 4901
- Current Strategies
- Summary of Potential Changes
- Public Rule Development Process
- Public Comments and Input



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Importance of Rule 4901

- One of the most cost effective and health-protective District rules
 - Reduces emissions when most needed
 - Reduces emissions at neighborhood level
 - Priority under District's Health-Risk Reduction Strategy
- Lowering curtailment level minimizes PM2.5 emissions buildup during multi-day periods of stagnation
- Valley cannot attain federal PM2.5 standard without additional emissions reductions from wood burning

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Importance of Rule 4901 (cont'd)

- Key component of Valley's efforts to attain federal particulate matter standards
 - One of the largest sources of directly-emitted PM2.5
 - 14% of total directly-emitted PM2.5 on average "winter" day
 - Valley-wide "No Burn" day reduces 16 tons of emissions
 - Made a commitment to consider strengthening Rule 4901 in recent 2012 PM2.5 Plan

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Why Does Valley Experience High PM2.5 during Winter?

- Winter temperature inversions prevent pollutant dispersion
 - Causes PM2.5 concentrations to rise
 - Longer inversion periods combined with wood-burning and other emissions result in higher PM2.5



Inversions can trap fog as well as PM2.5

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Current Strategy - Rule 4901

- Limits emissions from wood burning devices
 - “No Burn” days based on air quality
 - Current threshold 30 µg/m³
 - Restricts the sale and transfer of wood burning devices
 - Establishes a list of prohibited fuel types
 - Limits the installation of wood burning devices in new residential developments



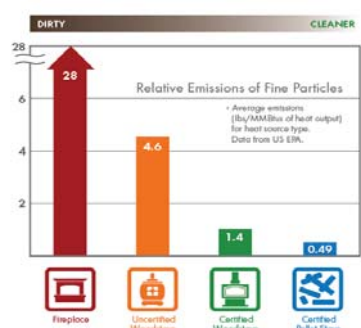


Current Strategy – “Burn Cleaner” Incentive Program

- District runs highly successful incentive program to encourage upgrade to cleaner devices
- Over 30 hearth retailers throughout Valley are partnered with the District
- To date, District has helped fund the replacement of nearly 4,000 devices
- Clean devices reduce emissions even when burning is allowed



Types of Wood Burning Devices



Current Strategy – Public Outreach and Education

- Multi-lingual outreach campaign
- “Check Before You Burn” Program
- Communication of burn status and air quality
 - Social media
 - Media partners
 - 1-800-SMOG INFO
 - District website: <http://www.valleyair.org/airinfo/cbyb.htm>
 - Hourly air quality data communicated to the public through District’s Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) program
- 2013/2014 Wood Burning Season
 - 51 Media interviews about extreme weather and wood burning
 - Hundreds of public calls and emails



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2014 Public Opinion Survey

- District-funded 3rd party survey of Valley residential wood burning habits. Results:
 - 32% reported having a wood-burning device
 - 80% of people are aware of the District’s Check Before You Burn program
 - 78% have reduced wood-burning activity
 - 17% of those surveyed knew about the District’s Burn Cleaner incentive program
 - Motivation to upgrade to a cleaner device:
 - 29% if it allowed them to burn on certain “No Burn” days
 - 24% up to a 50% discount on the new unit



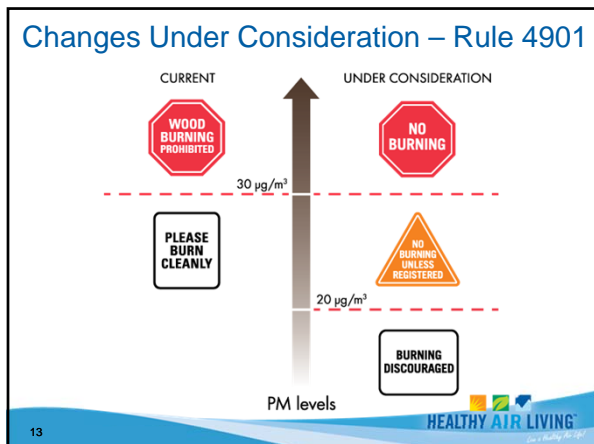
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Changes Under Consideration – Rule 4901

- Create a new prohibition level for wood-burning that only allows use of registered clean burning devices
 - Reduce wood-burning emissions during stagnation episodes beyond the “No Burn” days in existing rule
 - Encourage transition to clean devices by allowing their use during new level
- Some key issues:
 - Enforceability (Registration? Ongoing maintenance?)
 - Maintain simplicity/avoid complicated messaging



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County	 Current ≥30 µg/m ³	 New Level Under Consideration 20 - 29 µg/m ³	Total "No Burn" Days for Non-Registered Devices
San Joaquin	24	29	53
Stanislaus	36	36	72
Merced	19	36	55
Madera	29	38	67
Fresno	49	36	85
Kings	39	31	70
Tulare	36	33	69
Kern	44	35	79

* No Burn days based on the 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 wood burning seasons.


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HEALTHY AIR LIVING


- ### Registration Issues to Consider
- Definition of Clean Burning Device?
 - EPA Tier 2, pellet stoves, new standards?
 - Timing of certification?
 - When purchased? Installed?
 - Registration Process?
 - Registration form
 - Registration fee (amount to be determined)
 - Maintain device per manufacturer instructions
 - Renew registration periodically
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- HEALTHY AIR LIVING

Changes Under Consideration – Rule 4901

- Expand season (currently Nov-Feb) to include October and March
 - Benefits minimal due to limited burning because of warmer weather
 - Worth considering to achieve additional reductions, even if benefit is not as large as during current season?




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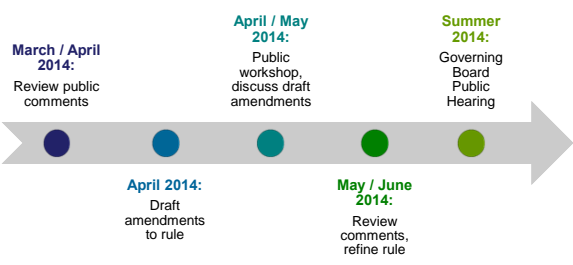
Changes Under Consideration – “Burn Cleaner” Incentive Program

- Incentive program will play a key role in overall strategy by encouraging residents to upgrade to cleaner devices
- Potential enhancements to incentive program:
 - Increased funding levels for clean wood burning and other devices
 - Increased accessibility for low-income families, including rebate process, extending eligibility to rental homes, and other enhancements
 - Streamlining to improve the process for participants



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Next Steps...




March / April 2014: Review public comments

April / May 2014: Public workshop, discuss draft amendments

Summer 2014: Governing Board Public Hearing

April 2014: Draft amendments to rule

May / June 2014: Review comments, refine rule



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Comment Period

Please submit comments by April 10, 2014 at 5PM

Contact: Anna Myers
Email: Anna.Myers@valleyair.org
By Mail: San Joaquin Valley APCD
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726
Phone: (559) 230-6100
Fax: (559) 230-6064

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Open Discussion

Please come to podium
State name and affiliation

Webcast@valleyair.org

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