

# Potential Amendments to Rule 4901 Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters

December 12, 2018  
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# Purpose of Meeting

- Kick-off public rule development process for potential enhancements to wood-burning emission reduction strategy
  - Share information on potential changes under consideration
- Receive initial comments and feedback on rule amendments under consideration
- All changes to Rule 4901 will be taken through a robust public process with opportunities for public input

# Meeting Overview

- District's ongoing mission to improve air quality and protect public health
- Current wood burning emission reduction strategy and need for additional emission reductions
- Potential enhancements to current strategy
- Rule development public process
- Public comments and input

# What is PM2.5?

- Particles with a diameter of 2.5 microns and smaller
- A mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets in the air
- Emitted directly or formed indirectly through chemical reactions between gases

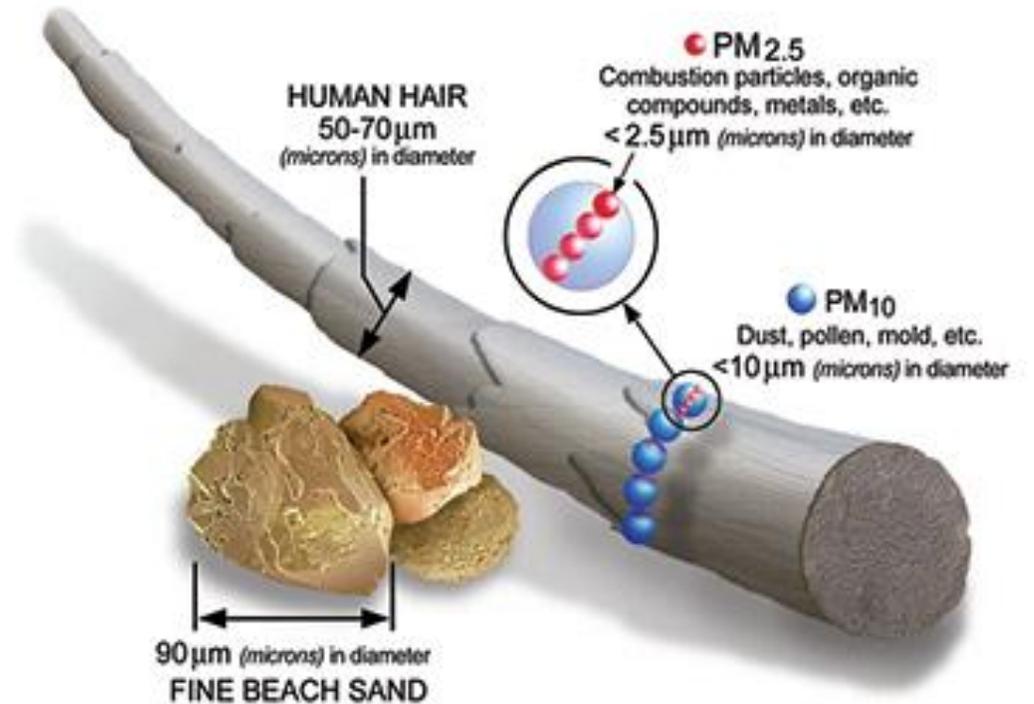
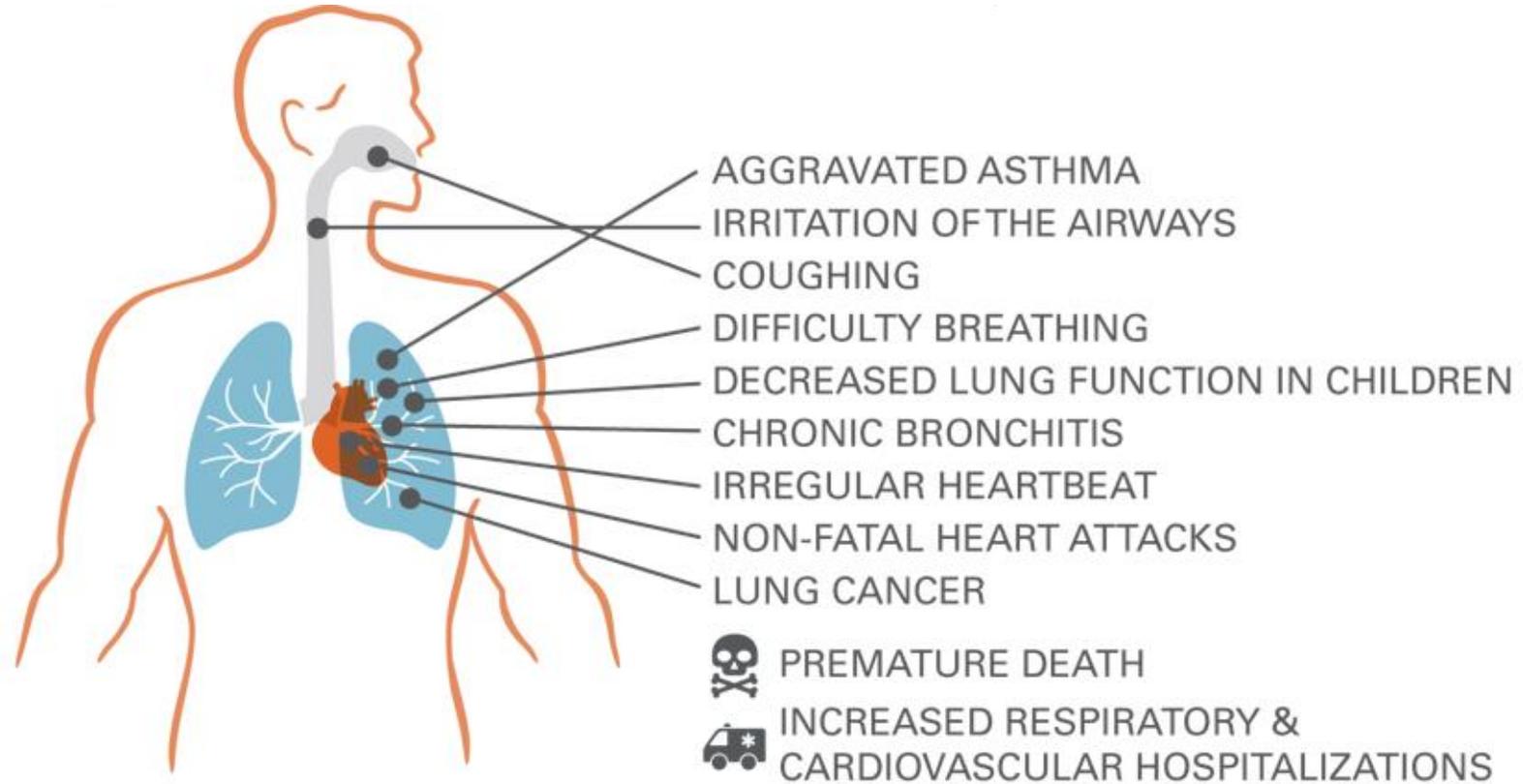


Image courtesy of the U.S. EPA

# Health Effects of PM2.5

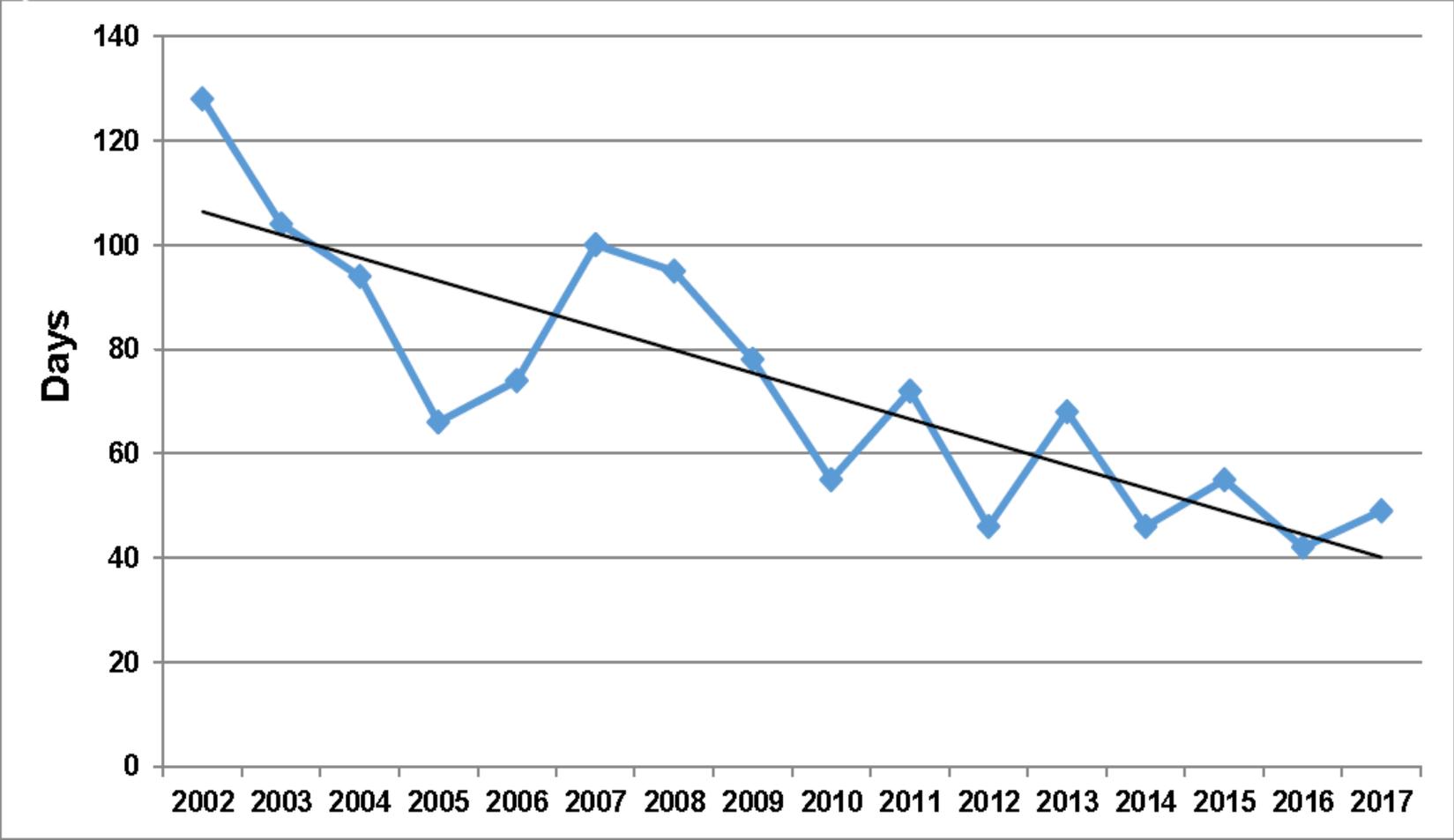


*Children, older adults, and individuals with heart or lung diseases are the most likely to be affected by PM2.5.*

# District's Ongoing Mission to Improve Air Quality and Protect Public Health

- District/CARB have adopted numerous attainment plans
  - Toughest stationary/mobile regulations in the nation
  - District adopted nearly 650 stringent rules and regulations
  - Groundbreaking rules serve as model for others
- Stationary source emissions reduced by over 90%
- Strong incentive programs (over \$2.2 billion in public/private investment reducing over 145,000 tons of emissions)
- Due to the significant investments made by Valley businesses and residents and stringent regulatory programs by the District and CARB, the Valley's air quality continuing to improve
  - Valley now in attainment with federal PM10 standard, one-hour ozone standard, and 24-hour PM2.5 standard of 65  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

# Decrease in Days Valley Exceeded 2006 Federal 24-hour PM2.5 Standard (35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



# Evolution of Wood Burning Regulation/Strategy



1993

- Voluntary curtailment
- Public education program
- Prohibit sale of used wood burning heaters
- List of prohibited fuel types identified

2003

- Mandatory curtailment threshold set at 65  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Restrict installation of wood burning devices in new residential developments with density requirement

2008

- Lowered mandatory curtailment threshold set to 30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

2014

- No burn for non-registered units set at or above 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- No burn for all devices above 65  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

# Current Emission Reduction Strategy for Wood Burning Fireplaces and Heaters

- District currently implements highly effective emission reduction strategy for residential wood burning
  - Most stringent wood burning curtailment regulation (Rule 4901) in the nation
- Strong incentives for transition to cleaner devices
  - Partnered with over 30 hearth retailers throughout the Valley
  - Replaced over 14,000 high-polluting wood burning devices with cleaner alternatives
- Extensive public education and outreach
  - Multi-lingual outreach campaign
  - Check Before You Burn Program
  - Social media presence and partnerships with other media
  - Provide current air quality through the Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) and mobile app

# Importance of Reducing Residential Wood Burning Emissions

- Reduces air pollution where and when needed most
  - During wintertime PM2.5 peak season
  - In Valley neighborhoods where residents live and work
- Valley cannot attain federal PM2.5 standards without additional emissions reductions from wood burning fireplaces and heaters
  - Key component of Valley's strategy to attain federal health-based PM2.5 standards in recently adopted *2018 PM2.5 Plan*
  - Includes Valley-wide measures and targeted strategy (hot-spot) aimed at reducing emissions from areas of the Valley with greater air quality challenges (Madera County, Fresno County, and Kern County)

# Valley-wide Measures Under Consideration

- Maintain existing strict curtailment levels in non-hot-spot areas
- Continue to offer current level of incentives in non-hot-spot areas
- Prohibit wood-burning devices in new construction
  - At higher elevations, only allow EPA-certified devices, subject to density requirements
- Enhanced outreach and education efforts to increase awareness of wood burning health impacts and residential wood burning reduction strategy
- New visible emissions limitations for residential wood burning

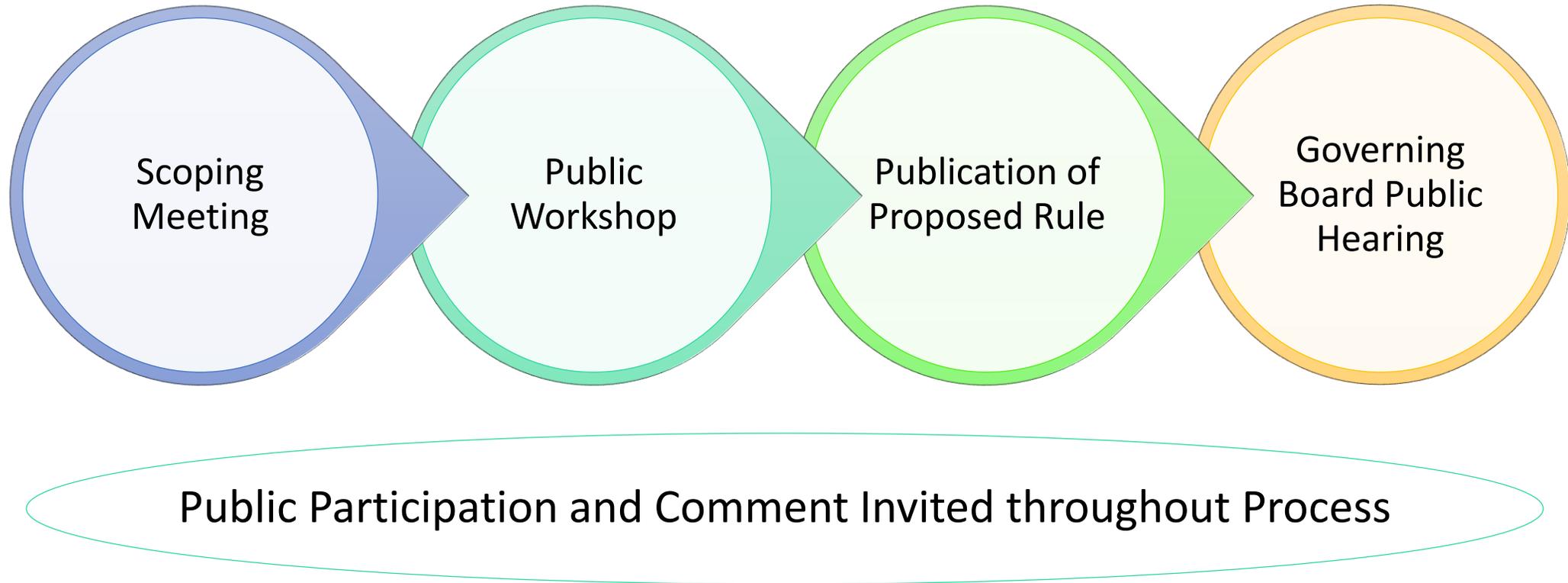
# Valley-wide Measures Under Consideration (cont'd)

- Require removal of open-hearth fireplaces during significant remodels
- Only allow seasoned wood to be burned
- Enhanced enforcement to assure continued high compliance rate
- Enhanced enforcement during transfer of real property by requiring verification forms for all house transfers in the Valley
- Enhanced curtailment forecasting through use of new meteorological and air quality models and tools as feasible

# Measures Under Consideration in Hot-Spot Areas

- More stringent wood burning curtailments in hot-spot areas
  - Lower burn prohibitions for non-registered units from 20 to 12  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
  - Lower burn prohibitions for all devices from 65 to 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- Burn Cleaner Program enhancements in hot-spot areas
  - Provide enhanced levels of incentives to replace wood burning devices in hot-spot areas with only natural gas or propane units
- To address contingency requirements for the *2018 PM2.5 Plan*, require enhanced residential wood burning curtailments in remaining counties in event they do not attain by deadlines

# Public Engagement Process for New Residential Wood Burning Strategy



# Contact

Please submit comments by December 19, 2018 at 5 PM

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# Open Discussion

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