

Public Scoping Meeting for Potential Amendments to District Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Heaters)

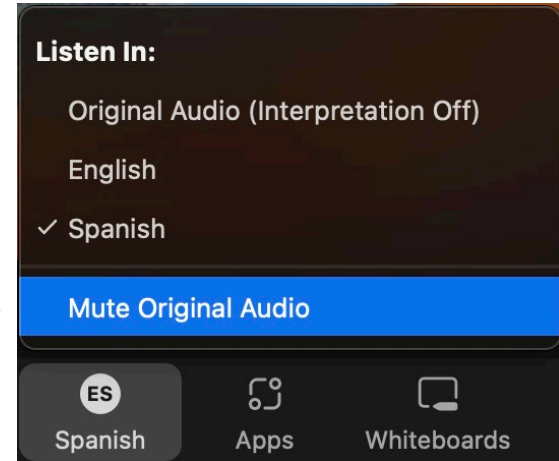
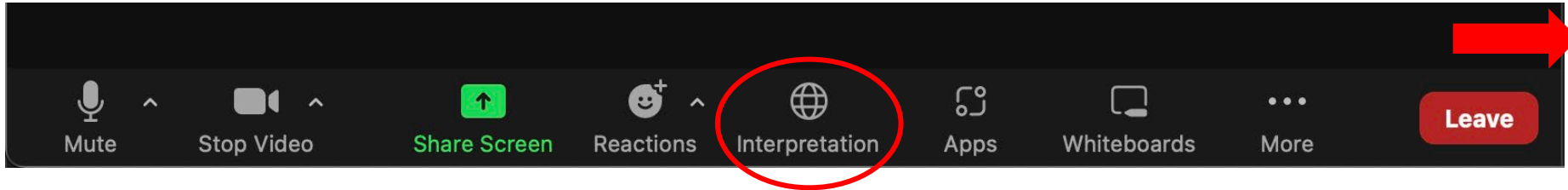
April 30, 2025
webcast@valleyair.org

How to Listen to the Webinar in Spanish

Cómo Escuchar la Interpretación Español

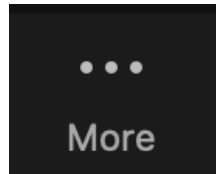
En Una Computadora

1. En los controles de la reunión o el seminario web, seleccione el **icono de interpretación**, que parece a un mundo en la parte debajo de la pantalla.
2. Seleccione español y silencie el audio original.



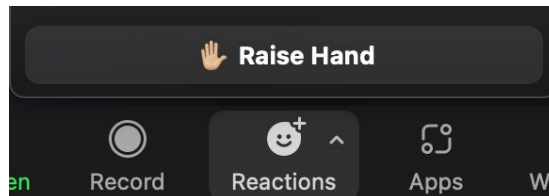
En Un Teléfono o Tableta

1. Seleccione los tres puntos para ver más opciones, seleccione interpretación y siga las mismas instrucciones de arriba.



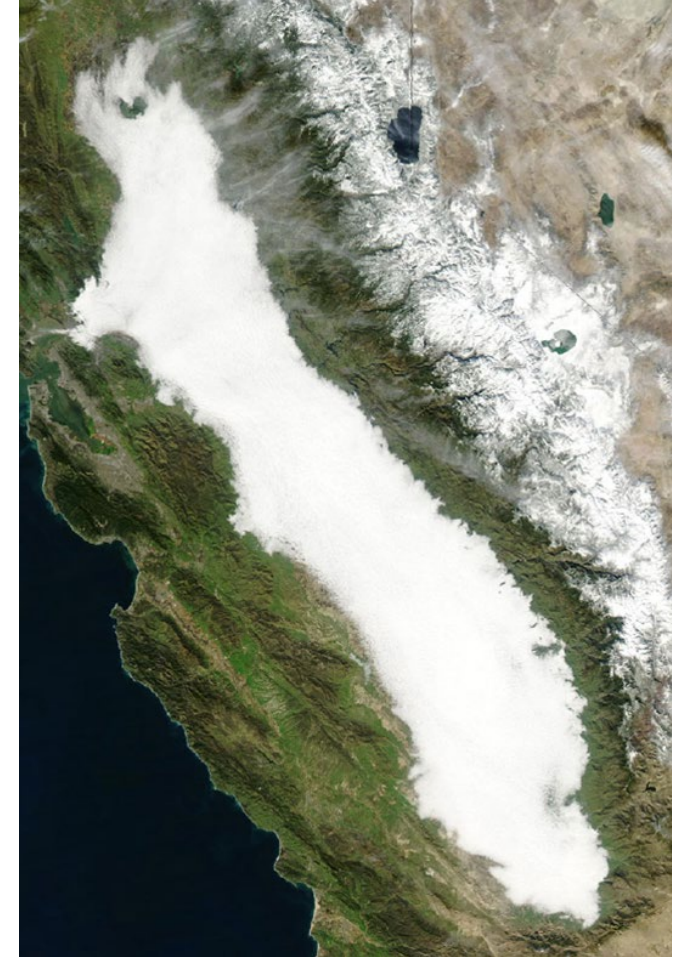
Para Hacer una Pregunta o un Comentario

1. Seleccione el icono de reacciones para levantar su mano



Valley's Air Quality Challenges

- Valley's challenges in meeting federal air quality standards unmatched due to unique topography and meteorology
- Valley designated as “Extreme” non-attainment of the 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; “Serious” non-attainment of federal standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})
 - Substantial emission reductions needed to achieve federal standards
- Need to go beyond already strict control limits
 - Comprehensive strategy in *2024 PM_{2.5} Plan* includes commitment to reduce emissions from a number of source categories, including residential wood burning

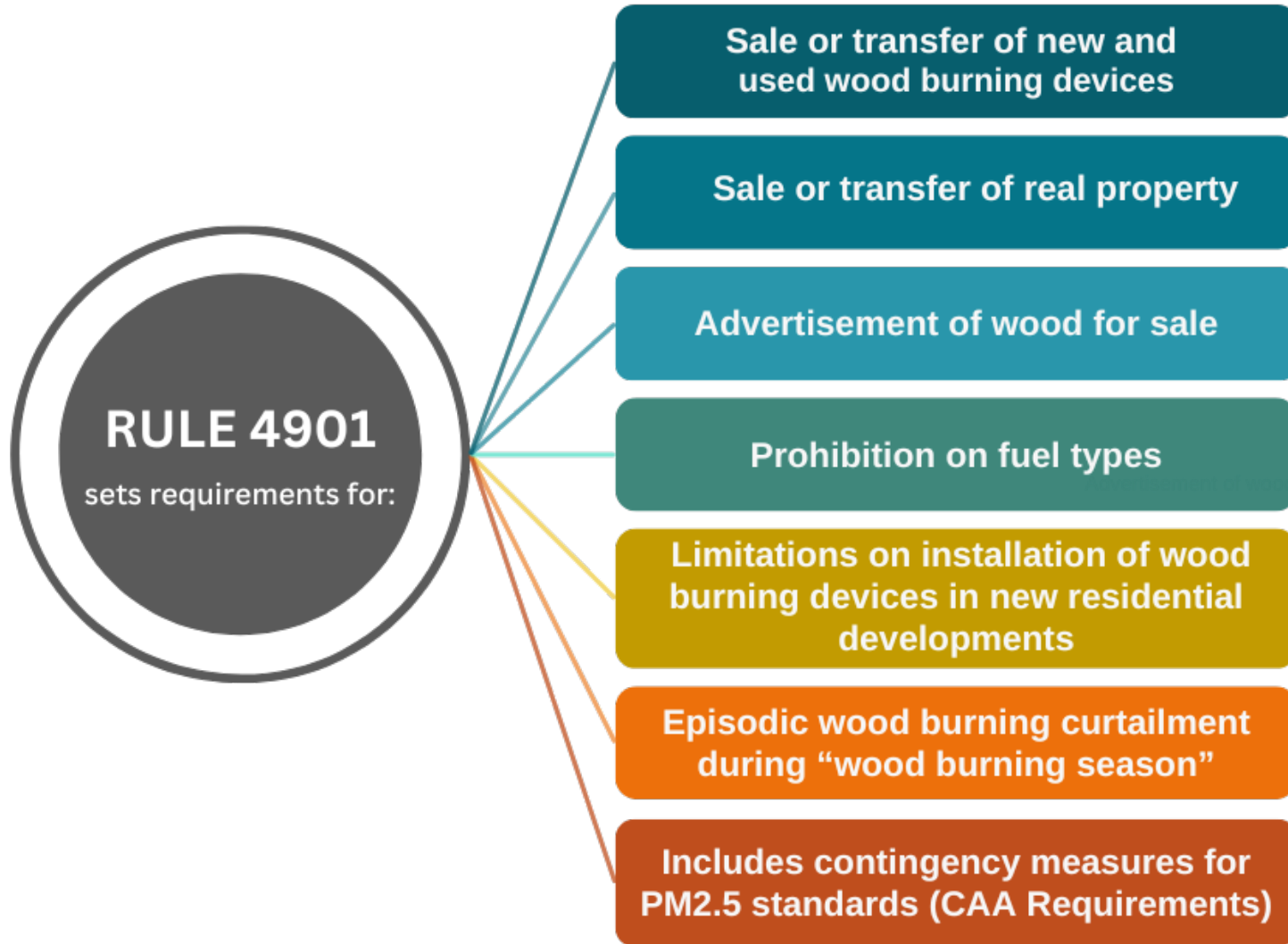


Current Wood Smoke Reduction Program

- District currently implements highly effective emission reduction strategy for residential wood burning
 - Most stringent wood burning curtailment regulation in nation
- Strong incentives for transition to cleaner devices
 - Replaced over 30,000 wood burning devices with EPA-certified devices, clean-burning natural gas or electric heat pumps
- Extensive public education and outreach
 - Multi-lingual outreach campaign
 - Residential Wood Smoke Reduction Program
 - Social media presence and partnerships with other media
 - Provide current air quality through EPA AirNow, Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), and District mobile app



Rule 4901 Overview



- Rule 4901, adopted in 1993 (amended five times), limits CO and PM emissions from wood burning fireplaces, heaters, and outdoor devices
- Reduces air pollution where and when needed most
 - During wintertime PM2.5 peak season, in Valley neighborhoods where residents live and work
- Through rule requirements, PM2.5 emissions for source category reduced by 71% from 2000-2024

Rule 4901 Current Requirements

Sale of New and Used Wood Burning Devices

Requires all wood burning fireplaces and heaters sold, advertised, offered for sale, transferred, or supplied be EPA certified or exempt from EPA certification

- Registration of eligible devices is required to use device during a “No Burning Unless Registered” curtailment

Sale or Transfer of Real Property

Requires real property containing a wood burning device, not be transferred unless device is EPA certified, exempt from EPA certification, or rendered inoperable

Advertisement Requirements for Sale of Wood

Prohibits the misrepresentation and supply of non-seasoned wood

- Moisture content of seasoned wood must be 20% or less by weight



Prohibition of Fuel Types

Bans burning materials not intended for use as a fuel in a wood burning device by a manufacturer

- Includes (not limited to): treated wood, plastic, rubber, waste petroleum products, paints & solvents, coal, or garbage

Rule 4901 Current Requirements (cont'd)

Limitations on Installation of Wood Burning Devices

New Residential Developments

Establishes guidelines for the installation of wood burning fireplaces in new construction based on the density of dwelling units within an area

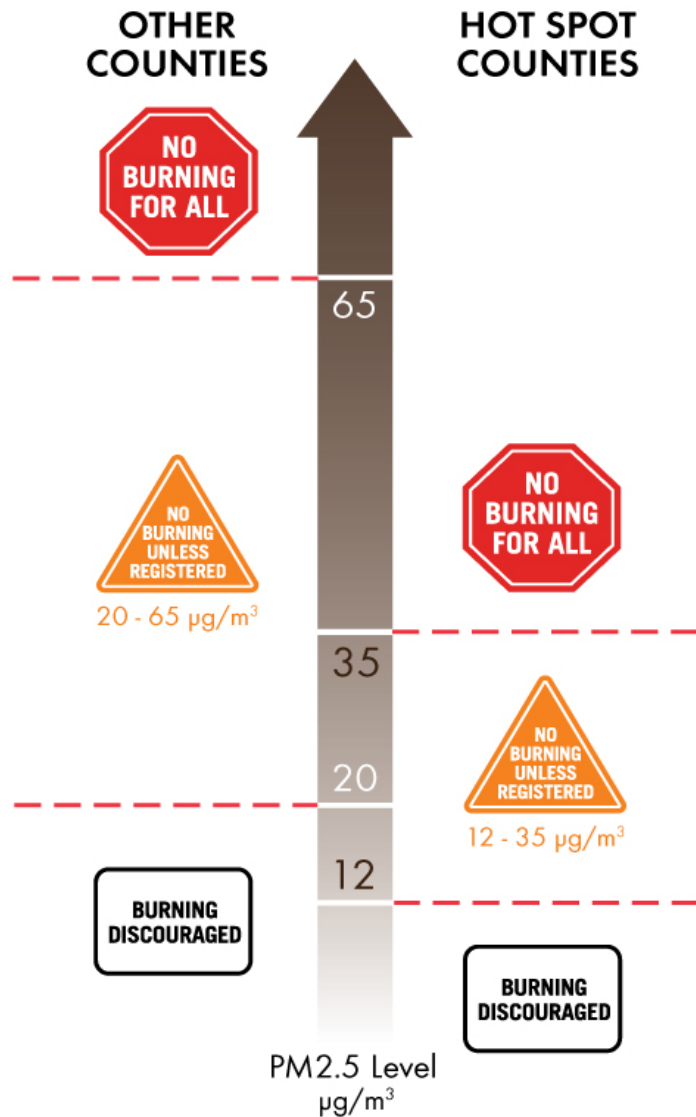
# of Dwellings Units per Acre	Restriction
> 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits installation of any wood burning fireplace Limited to installation of 2 EPA certified wood burning heaters
≤ 2	Limited to installation of 1 wood burning fireplace or EPA certified wood burning heater

Elevation

Sets requirements for installation of wood burning devices based on elevation and access to natural gas service

Elevation Level	Access to Natural Gas	Restriction
< 3,000 ft	Yes	Prohibits installation of any wood burning device
≥ 3,000 ft	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits installation of any wood burning fireplace or non-certified wood burning heater Limited to installation of 2 EPA certified wood burning heaters per acre, not to exceed 1 per dwelling unit

Rule 4901 Current Requirements (cont'd)



Episodic Wood Burning Curtailment

- Rule implements mandatory wood burning curtailments when PM2.5 concentrations are forecast to be elevated
- More stringent curtailment thresholds established in the Hot Spot counties (Madera, Fresno, Kern)

Hot-Spot County ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)		Non Hot-Spot County ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2
12	35	20	65

Rule 4901 Current Requirements (cont'd)

PM2.5 Contingency Measures

- Rule includes contingency measures per CAA requirements for PM2.5, which establish progressively more stringent curtailment level(s) upon final determination by EPA that Valley failed to:
 - (1) Meet any RFP requirement;
 - (2) meet any quantitative milestone in attainment plan;
 - (3) submit a quantitative milestone report;
 - or (4) attain applicable NAAQS by applicable attainment date

	Hot-Spot County ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)		Non Hot-Spot County ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 1	Level 2
Current	12	35	20	65
Contingency Measure 1	12	35	12	35
Contingency Measure 2	11	35	11	35

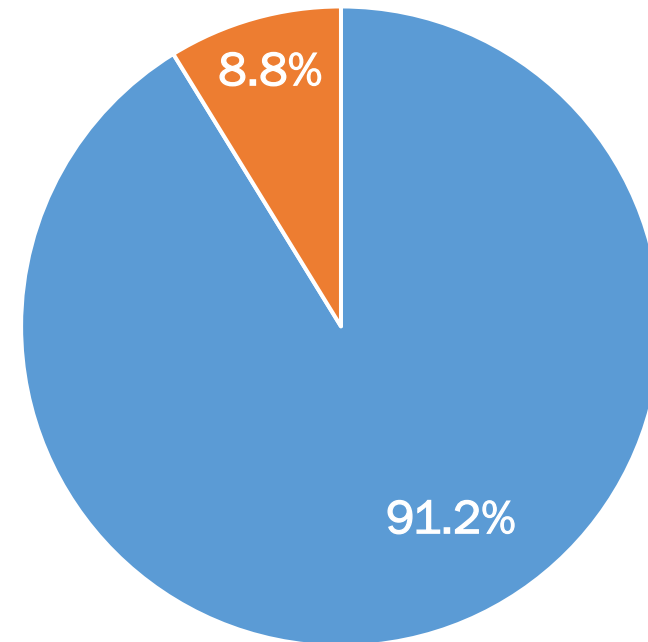
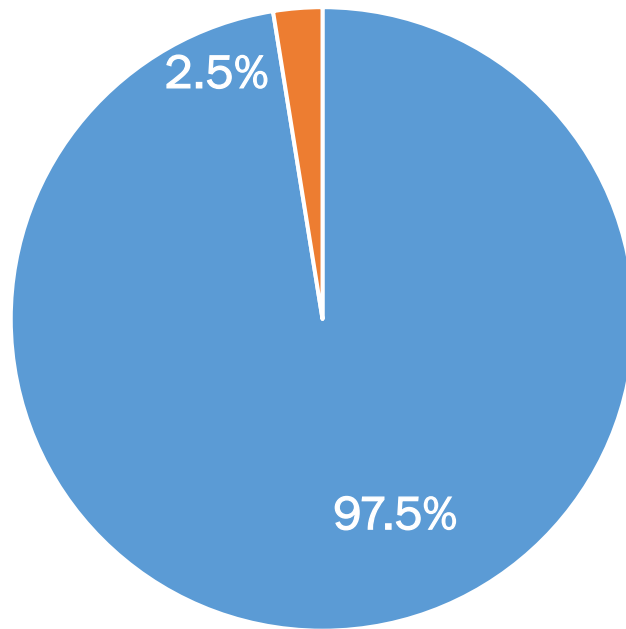
Hot-spot counties: Madera, Fresno, Kern

Non Hot-spot counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Kings, Tulare

Emissions from Residential Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Heaters in the Valley

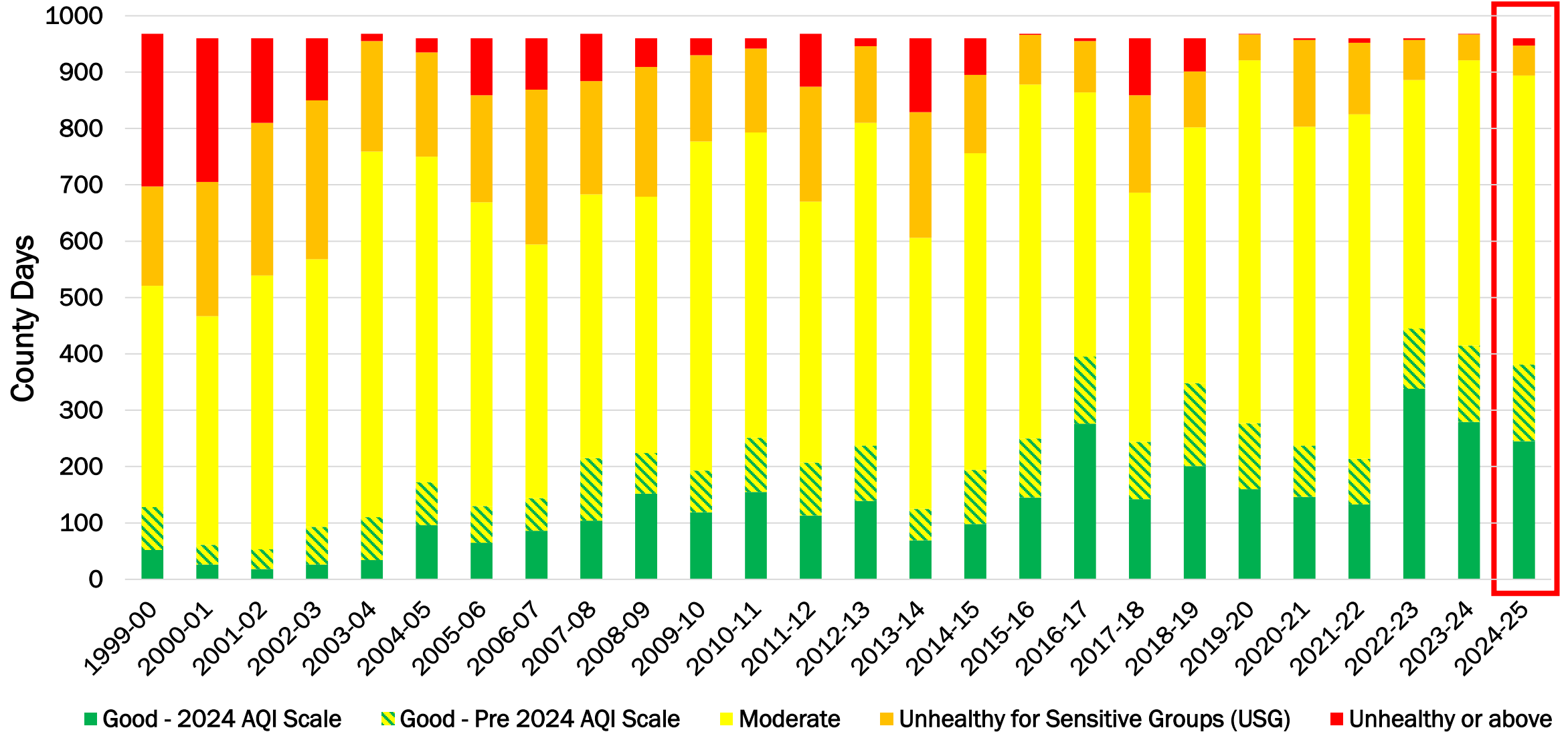
2024 Annual Average PM2.5 Emissions

2024 Winter Average PM2.5 Emissions

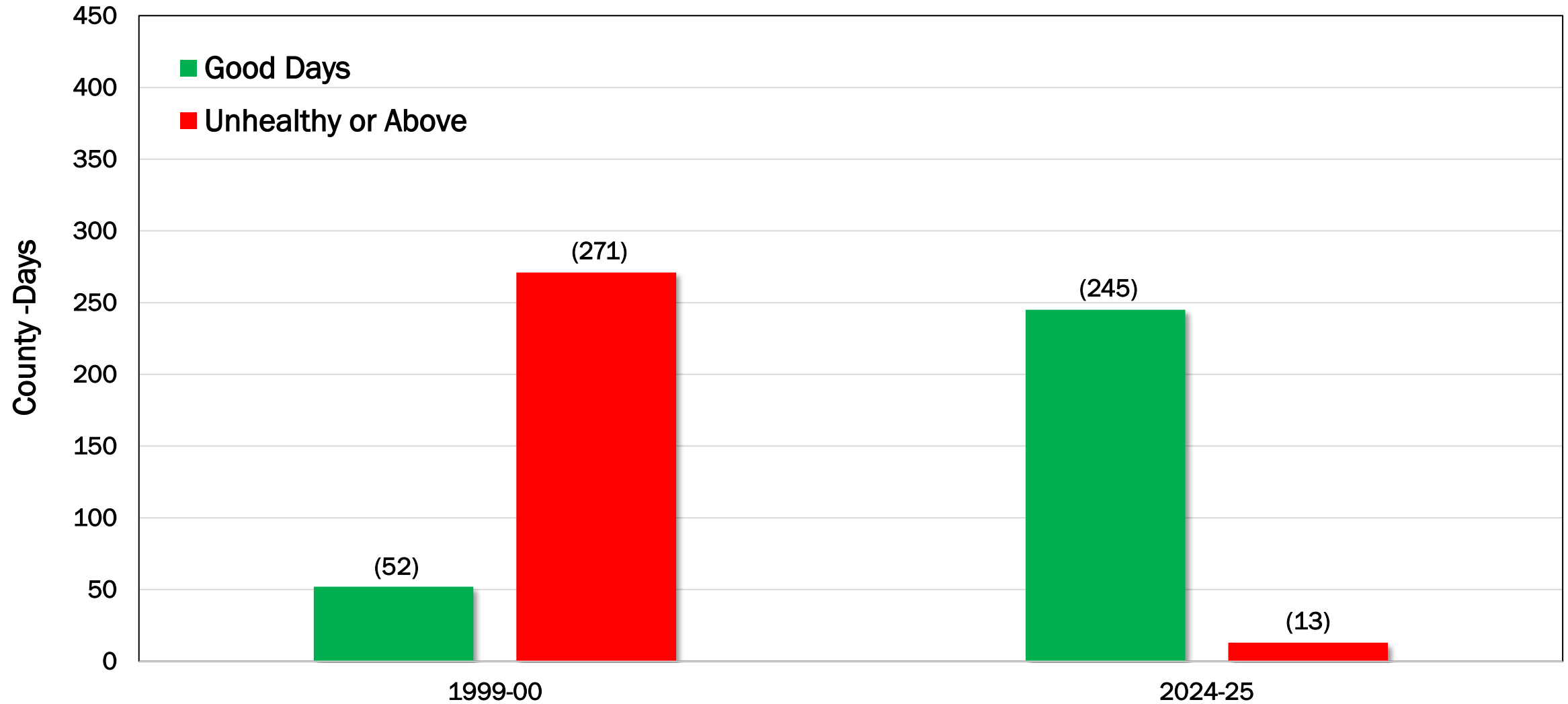


- PM2.5 from All Sources in Valley
- PM2.5 from Residential Wood Burning

Winter Season Air Quality Trends



Winter Season Air Quality Change



Summary of Proposed Amendments under Consideration

Plan Commitments

- 2024 *PM2.5 Plan* contains commitment to extend wood burning season through March 31
- Further reductions from residential wood burning key component to attainment strategy

Amendments Under Consideration

- Consistent with 2024 *PM2.5 Plan* commitment, extend wood burning season through March 31
- Other potential amendments to clarify rule language or remove expired language

Expected Impact of Proposed Amendments

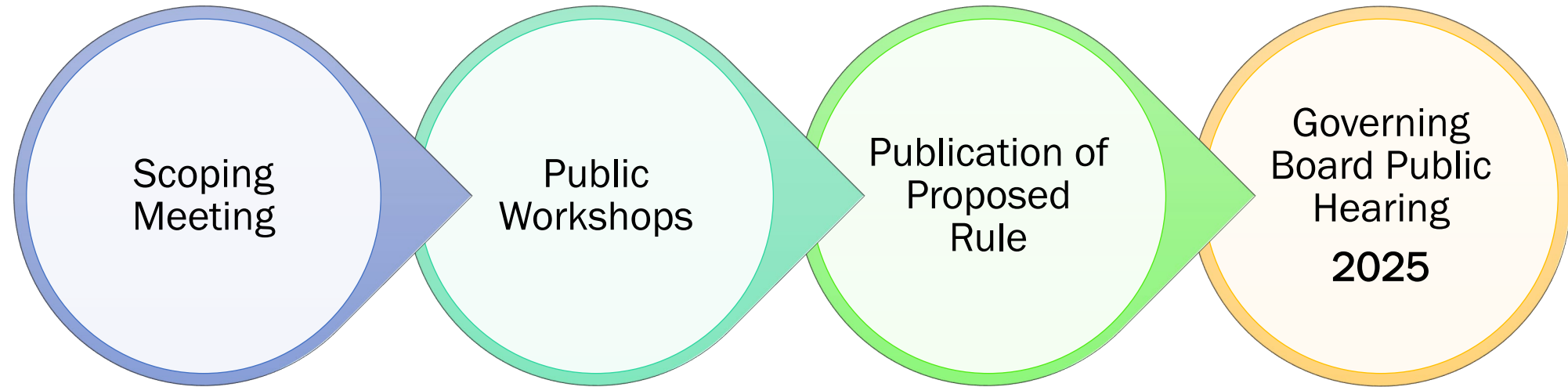
- District staff currently calculating emissions reductions from season extension
- Based on historical data (2019-2024), extension of wood burning season through March is estimated to result in 2 additional Level 1 curtailment days per County



Rule 4901 Evaluation Process

- District staff analyzing extension of wood burning season through March 31, by gathering preliminary data and researching potential impacts/emissions reductions
- Solicit initial comments and feedback on rule amendments under consideration
- Ongoing opportunities for public input
 - Additional public workshops will be scheduled in 2025
 - Regular updates to Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG), and District Governing Board meetings

Next Steps: Public Engagement Process for Rule 4901 Amendments



Public Participation and Comment Invited throughout Process

Contact and Resources



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to sign up for the District's Listserv

Comments/Questions

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