

## **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release:**  
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### **Air District seeks public input on fireplace and wood stove controls**

The public is invited to help shape rule amendments that would reduce pollution from fireplaces and wood stoves in the San Joaquin Valley.

Public meetings for amendments to Rule 4901 are scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, December 4 at 2 p.m.; and Thursday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be video teleconferenced among the District's three regional offices. Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings and provide comments. District offices are located in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.; in Modesto at 4230 Kiernan Ave., Suite 130; and in Bakersfield at 2700 M St., Suite 275. Anyone unable to attend the meetings may also submit comments by mail to Tom Jordan, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave, Fresno, CA 93726 or by e-mail to [tom.jordan@valleyair.org](mailto:tom.jordan@valleyair.org).

The Air District's current residential wood-burning rule (Rule 4901) was adopted in 1993 to reduce emissions of particulate matter PM in the San Joaquin Valley. PM is a mixture of pollutants, including microscopic pieces of soot, ash, salts, nitrates and smoke particles. Breathing the particles can reduce lung function, especially in children; aggravate heart and lung conditions such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis; increase the risk of heart attacks; irritate throats and sinuses; and trigger headaches and allergies.

In February 2002, the EPA ruled that Rule 4901 does not fully comply with Clean Air Act requirements for the control of residential wood burning. The proposed amendments seek to address these deficiencies and include:

Mandatory curtailment of wood burning on days when airborne particulates reach unhealthy levels. The District projects the restrictions would be in effect approximately 20 days each winter. Gas and propane devices would not be subject to the rule. Additionally, other cleaner burning technologies, such as those certified by the

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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), may be exempt on some restricted days. The District is considering exemptions for homes where wood burning is the sole source of heat and/or that are above 3000' elevation. Similar mandatory wood burning curtailment programs are currently in effect in Mammoth Lakes, Calif.; Reno, Nev.; Denver, Colo.; and Spokane, Wash.

Limits on the number of wood-burning devices allowed in new housing developments.

This density requirement would limit the number of new indoor and outdoor wood burning devices, such as wood-burning fireplaces and wood-burning stoves, in new housing developments.

Required retrofit or retirement of non-certified wood-burning equipment upon the sale of existing homes. This amendment would require the current owner of a property to remove, replace or render a non-compliant woodstove inoperable before selling or transferring ownership of property.

Additional information regarding the upcoming meetings and Rule 4091 are available on the District's website at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).