News Release
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Attn: Local news and assignment editors

Air District schedules wood-burning public workshop
More wood-burning bans possible under amended rule

The Valley Air District will seek public comments on the wintertime wood-burning rule at an upcoming public workshop at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27. The meeting will be video-teleconferenced from all three regional District offices and also be webcast.

Rule 4901 (Wood Burning Fireplaces and Wood Burning Heaters) is being amended to further reduce the Valley’s wintertime wood-burning emissions, protecting public health and bringing the air basin closer to attaining the federal health standard. Among the strategies being considered is establishing a lower prohibition level that would allow the use of clean wood-burning devices, while increasing the number of “no-burn” days for all other residential wood-burning devices. The District is also planning to enhance its Burn Cleaner incentive program, which provides funding to Valley residents to replace old wood burning devices with new, cleaner hearth options, such as natural gas inserts or EPA-certified devices.

Residential wood burning is the largest single contributor to harmful fine-particulate (PM2.5) emissions, which are associated with lung disease, heart attacks and strokes. Since the wood-burning rule was adopted in 2003, wintertime emissions have decreased significantly.

The workshop may be attended at the following locations: in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.; in Bakersfield, at 34936 Flyover Court; and in Modesto, at 4800 Enterprise Way. Spanish-language translators will be available. It will be webcast at www.valleyair.org/workshops/public_workshops_idx.htm.

Information about this meeting is available at http://www.valleyair.org/rules/1rulsidx.htm. Paper copies of this information can be obtained by calling (559) 230-6100. Email notifications for this rule can be subscribed to at http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm.

For information about the Valley Air District, visit www.valleyair.org or call (559) 230-6000.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern. Visit www.valleyair.org to learn more.