



Talking Points

HPBA Pacific Bay Area Members

1. EPA stoves and Pellet stoves should be exempt from the mandatory no-burn program the district is considering.

A. Homeowners who have already changed out to cleaner burning hearth products should not be treated the same as owners of old un-certified stoves during a no-burn night. They should be allowed to use their appliances as long as they burn them properly, and use the proper fuels.

B. The proposed Opacity regulation insures that these appliances will be operated properly, which is to say, with no visible smoke.

2. The proposed Opacity regulation will give the District the authority it needs to act against people who are making most of the smoke in the region, the owners of old uncertified stoves who burn them at a very very low air setting. This provision alone, which is not currently in use in any other California Air District, will force stove owners to up-grade their appliances to the new clean burning standards. As we have seen in recent change-out programs, if there is no incentive for people who wish to burn solid fuel appliances (wood & pellet stoves) ie. exemption on no burn days, people will not up-grade, and the old polluter will remain in use. It also should be noted that, in urban areas a significant of wood stove owners (about 70%) will move to a gas fueled appliance.

3. Change-outs should be planned and encouraged to help the public remove older, more polluting woodstoves. Change-outs are most effective when people are encouraged with no-burn exemptions. If the Air District wants to truly clean up the pollution problem, they will encourage the inclusion of exemptions for all EPA Phase II and pellet devices, and by allowing those types of units to be operated during a no-burn period. Consumers will want to heat their homes and they will buy cleaner products to do so. Change outs across the country have proven this time and time again.