



The BAAQMD is revising their Wood Burning rule. Their new rule is going to place stricter regulations on when you can burn wood, remove the sole source of heat exemption, not allow EPA Certified devices into new construction, and create a confusing registration program for those who are looking for a sole source of heat exemption.

Together with the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association, we urge you to call your local Air Board Representative now and discuss these points with them:

New Building Construction Requirements: Ask the air district to include EPA Certified and Qualified Devices into New Building Construction. Limiting consumer and builder choices to gas and electric devices is poor governing by the Air District. There are a number of hearth products available that will help the district achieve their regional PM 2.5 goals. Removing all solid fuel options inhibits consumers from making an informed decision on how to heat their home.

Qualified Devices should be allowed: Qualified devices are a great option for some homeowners. These devices have lower emissions and Phase 2 Qualified models are cleaner and pollute less than those models that have not met this emissions level. If installed properly, fireplace retrofit devices can reduce pollution by approximately 70%. These devices burn cleaner than traditional fireplaces.

Sale or Transfer of Real Property: Change the current language to read: Upon the sale of a home with an uncertified device, the current owner can either install a new certified wood burning appliance or permanently installed a set of gas logs or wood heater insert. Permanently installed gas logs will make it impossible to have an open fireplace.

Mandatory No Burn Ban: Calling Mandatory No Burn Bans without a PM threshold implies that the district could potentially call no burn days when there is no need for them. Please include a PM threshold versus saying the air is unhealthy.

Sole Source Of Heat Exemption: A sole source of heat exemption must be included for those persons who are low income and can't afford to change out or upgrade their device. To preserve their dignity, this should not include any type of registration process. This should be a separate category all together.

Contact the air district today to make your voice heard. If you don't speak up now, there will not be any option in the future for wood burning in new building in the Bay Area no matter how clean burning the appliance. Below is a list of air board members. Write, email or call all of them and let them know of your wishes.

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