

# AIRlines

A Publication of the  
Sacramento Metropolitan  
Air Quality Management District

## Wood Burning Restrictions Start Again

— CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN —

**CHECK  
BEFORE YOU  
BURN**

The third season of Check Before You Burn begins November 1 and runs through February 28, 2010. No Burn days will be declared when fine

particle pollution is forecast to be elevated. This law applies to Sacramento County and its cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento.

The AQMD's Board of Directors wishes to thank the community for its positive response to the rule through awareness and compliance. The average air quality benefit from the 2008–09 season was a 23 percent reduction in fine particle concentrations from the Stage 2 – All Burning Prohibited days. While that reduction is impressive, it's not enough to achieve the federal health standard for fine particles. At its September

24 board meeting, the AQMD Board of Directors approved slightly lowering the thresholds for No Burn days while continuing to allow the burning of EPA certified devices or pellet stoves on a Stage 1 – No Burn day.

Anyone cited for the first time violating the mandatory restrictions will be fined \$50 or be given the option to complete and pass a wood smoke awareness course. Fines for subsequent violations are higher. To report a complaint or suspected violation, call 1-800-880-9025.

Exemptions include:

- Homes where wood is the sole source of heat
- Financial hardship if approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer – must be renewed each burn season
- Gas, propane or electric fireplaces and stoves
- Barbecues and other cooking devices
- Ceremonial fires related to specific religious activities

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## AQMD FUNDS HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD CHOICE:

### Replace Dirty Wood Burning Stoves and Fireplaces with Cleaner Burning Devices

As the cold winds of winter blow through Sacramento County, residents may find themselves shivering. In an effort to help keep residents warm while reducing wintertime wood smoke pollution, the Air District is offering Sacramento County residents an incentive to replace more polluting units with EPA certified or equivalent units.

The annual change out program is now taking applications. Program incentives start from \$150 and can go as high as \$750 to replace uncertified wood stoves, inserts or open hearth fireplaces. In addition, the District offers a Low Income Assistance program that covers the entire cost of the change out for residents who meet the eligibility requirements.

“Residents who participate in the program are making a healthy choice for their home and their neighborhood,” said Program Supervisor Aleta Kennard. “The program was designed to reduce the amount of particulate matter pollution from wood smoke in homes and neighborhoods.”

In addition to the Air District incentive, participating retailers in the Sacramento region are also offering discounts. To learn more, call 916-440-WOOD (9663) or visit [www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org).

## AIRlines Goes Paperless

It seems like everyone's “going green” and that includes the AIRlines newsletter. In an effort for the Air District to reduce its impact on the environment and save money during a tough economy, AIRlines will be offered through an electronic subscription as an alternative to the printed version currently mailed to our readers.

Please change your subscription preference and support our efforts. Simply e-mail [bmanzano@airquality.org](mailto:bmanzano@airquality.org) and tell him you want to go paperless!

# Going Green

»August 27, 2009

- Approved a resolution nominating candidates for the Special District Risk Management Authority Board of Directors.
- Received a report on barriers to lowering food-miles associated with food production and distribution.
- Received an EPA adequacy finding on motor vehicle emissions budgets proposed in the Sacramento Regional 8-hour ozone attainment and reasonable further progress plan.
- The Board supported the APCO's travel to COP 15 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. The travel expenses are covered entirely by NACAA.

»September 24, 2009

- Approved the request for emissions reduction credits from the community bank by Paramount Petroleum Corporation and Aerojet.
- Approved amendments to Rule 421 – Mandatory Episodic Curtailment of Wood and Other Solid Fuel Burning.

For more information on Board actions, visit [www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org) or call Nancy Abeels, AQMD, at (916) 874-4803.



news from the APCO

by Larry Greene, *Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer*

EPA DESIGNATES SACRAMENTO NON-ATTAINMENT FOR PM 2.5

On October 8, 2009, the EPA Administrator finalized the designations for areas of the country that do not meet the federal standard for particulate matter 2.5 microns in size and smaller (PM 2.5, also known as fine particulate matter). Sacramento County has been designated as part of a larger Sacramento non-attainment area. We have been anticipating this designation and have already started to respond to the tasks necessary to meet this new designation.

There are some serious health impacts associated with fine particulate matter. It is a complex mixture that may contain soot, smoke, metals, nitrates, sulfates and dust. The negative impacts on human health are indisputable. Studies have linked long-term exposure to particle pollution, especially fine particles, with serious health problems including decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, development of chronic respiratory disease in children (asthma), irregular heartbeat, nonfatal heart attacks, premature death in people with heart or lung disease and increased susceptibility to heart and vascular disease for post-menopausal women.

In addition, new health studies focused on breathing wood smoke have shown reductions in the blood's ability to clot, and specifically for children, decreased memory and lower IQ.

Children are more likely to suffer effects because their respiratory systems are developing and they breathe more air per pound of body weight.

While we already have rules at the state and local level that help address particulate pollution, Sacramento's most effective tool is, and will continue to be, Rule 421 – Mandatory Episodic Curtailment of Wood and Other Solid Fuel Burning. This program is publicly known as Check Before You Burn. As part of a recent update to that rule, the District hired Sonoma Technology to do an analysis of the effectiveness of the first rule passed by our Board of Directors in October 2007. Rule 421 has been the single most effective rule in reducing air pollution we have passed in many years and the study confirmed that on a No Burn day we had 23% less particulate pollution last winter.

Now that the official designation is out, our air quality will be measured over the next three winters to see just how much we need to reduce PM 2.5 levels to meet the new standard. The District will then develop a plan showing how we will make those reductions. We encourage the public to continue their excellent support of Check Before You Burn so that we minimize the remaining actions that will be needed to meet this new standard.

**Check Before You Burn**  
Continued from front cover

**FIVE WAYS TO CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN**

1. Visit [www.AirQuality.org](http://www.AirQuality.org) or [www.SpareTheAir.com](http://www.SpareTheAir.com)
2. Subscribe to Air Alert at [www.SpareTheAir.com](http://www.SpareTheAir.com) and check the Daily Air Quality Forecast box to receive a daily e-mail
3. Call 1-877-NOBURN-5 (1-877-662-8765) to hear a daily message
4. Check the Sacramento Bee's weather page
5. Listen for radio and television announcements

**PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT JOINS AQMD**

THE AQMD RECENTLY ADDED a public health professional to its staff, on a part time basis on loan from Sacramento County. Teri Duarte comes to the District with over 25 years of public health experience. In her role at the AQMD she'll help to highlight the health aspects of air quality improvement efforts. In her last five years in the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services she's advocated creating living environments in which physical activity is an easy choice. She's helped planning departments write planning and development policy and is a valuable resource on the health impact of community design and transportation strategies to increase walkability, improve air quality and public health.

If you'd like to contact Ms. Duarte, please call (916) 874-5257 or send an e-mail to [tduarte@airquality.org](mailto:tduarte@airquality.org).

All dates are tentative. For specific rule information, contact the AQMD staff member listed. For general AQMD rule information, call (916) 874-4800.

**Small Water Heaters, Boilers, and Process Heaters (Amendments to Rule 414)**

Establishes NOx and CO emission limits for new natural gas-fired units with rated heat inputs from 75,000 to less than 1,000,000 Btu/hr. Sets more stringent NOx emission limits for new natural gas-fired units with rated heat inputs less than 75,000 Btu/hr. *Public workshop tentatively scheduled for December 2009 or January 2010. Joe Carle, (916) 874-4838.*

**Carbon Credits (New Rules 250 and 350)**

Establishes a program and associated fees to generate carbon credits from the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. *Public workshop tentatively scheduled for December 2009 or January 2010. David Yang, (916) 874-4847.*

**AQMD Staff Drives Less**

A recent District employee commute survey showed that 72% of commute trips were made using alternative modes, resulting in the lowest drive-alone rate in the District's history. Congratulations staff!

**2nd Quarter (April, May, June)**

The following information reports the number of days that state and federal air quality standards were exceeded in Sacramento County during the second quarter 2009 compared to the second quarter 2008:

**Number of Exceedances\***

	2009	2008
O3- State 1 hr	13	12
O3- Federal 1 hr	0	2
O3- Federal 8 hr	17	13
CO- Federal 1 hr	0	0
CO- Federal 8 hr	0	0
PM10- State 24 hr	0	4
PM10- Federal 24 hr	0	0
PM2.5- Federal 24 hr	**	2

\* Preliminary Data, subject to revision or deletion.

\*\* 2nd Qtr 2009 PM2.5 data not yet posted to EPA AIRS database.

**COMPLIANCE CORNER**

**New Low VOC Solvent Cleaning Requirements**

On September 25 and October 23, 2008, the AQMD's Board of Directors adopted amendments to nine rules regulating a variety of industries where the cleaning of products and manufacturing equipment with solvents is conducted. Full implementation of all the changes to these regulations is expected to result in a reduction of 196 tons/year of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions to the atmosphere.

Of all the amendments made to these rules, one particular change was common to each of them. Specifically, all of these rules now have a provision requiring, in most situations, the use of solvents containing less than 25 grams/liter of VOC at facilities where product cleaning, manufacturing equipment cleaning, cleaning of spray equipment, degreasing, or surface preparation prior to the application of coatings, adhesives, sealants, or inks is conducted.

The following table identifies the rules amended, type of facilities affected by the low VOC solvent requirement, and the effective date of the requirement for each rule.

RULE #	TITLE/INDUSTRY AFFECTED	EFFECTIVE DATE
450	Graphic Arts Operations/Printing plants	10-23-09
451	Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products/ Any facility where metal parts are coated	09-25-09
452	Can Coating/Can manufacturing plants	09-25-09
454	Degreasing Operations/Any facility where degreasing is conducted	09-25-09
456	Aerospace Assembly and Component Coating Operations/Aerospace industries	10-23-09
463	Wood Products Coating/Cabinet shops and all other facilities where wood products are coated	09-25-09
464	Organic Chemical Manufacturing Operations/Chemical plants	09-25-09
465	Polyester Resin Operations/Facilities manufacturing fiberglass products	09-25-09
466	Solvent Cleaning/Any industry not regulated by industry-specific solvent cleaning rules identified above	09-25-09

Given that the California Health and Safety Code establishes penalties for violations of air pollution control rules, it is important for facility owners and operators to be aware of these new requirements and how they affect their specific operations.

In an effort to reduce penalties and improve compliance with these types of requirements, the Air District offers free, confidential assistance on all air pollution permit and rule requirements. If you have any questions, you may call the Compliance Assistance Program hotline at (916) 874-4884.



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Please e-mail [bmanzano@airquality.org](mailto:bmanzano@airquality.org) to change your subscription request and help us reduce our carbon footprint.

## CAPITOL REPORT

The state legislature has concluded its business for the 2009 regular session, although the Governor may call them back into special session to address unresolved water policy issues. Among the key air quality bills the legislature is sending to the Governor for signature are:

- **SB 406** (DeSaulnier) would enable regional transportation agencies such as SACOG to impose motor vehicle surcharges in order to help localities create the sustainable communities strategies called for by last year's SB 375.
- **SB 406** makes air districts eligible to develop joint agreements with air districts in order to help cities and counties identify ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with cars and trucks via improved transportation and housing investment strategies.

- **AB 892** (Furutani) would make it easier for our mobile source division to reallocate Goods Movement Emissions Reductions Program dollars to other qualified projects when a similar project is unable to go forward.
- **AB 1186** (Blumenfield) and **SB 728** (Lowenthal) would empower air districts to enforce the state's parking cash out law and would increase the number of employers subject to the parking cash out law.

In Washington, D.C., it's all health care all the time as you read this, but by October it's likely that climate change and transportation legislation will vie for congressional attention.

For more information, contact Chris Morfas, AQMD Legislative Liaison, at (916) 874-2876, or [cmorfas@airquality.org](mailto:cmorfas@airquality.org).

## Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

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### Web Sites

[SpareTheAir.com](http://SpareTheAir.com)    [AirQuality.org](http://AirQuality.org)



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Clockwise: Megan King, Kennedy Kell with Scooter, Alejandra Saldana and Emily Lempko.

## Scooter— Spare The Air Mascot

More than 5,500 people cast their votes for the name of the new Spare The Air mascot ...and his name is...Scooter!

Kennedy Kell of Sacramento submitted Scooter during the summer naming competition for kids 12 and under.

Kennedy chose Scooter "because riding a scooter uses less gas than driving a car."

She was one of four finalists chosen out of 150 entries. Our other finalists were Emily Lempko, Megan King and Alejandra Saldana. Congratulations to all of them! Look for Scooter at events next season.