

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Notice of Public Workshop

Proposed Amended Rule 445 – Wood-Burning Devices

Thursday, February 27, 2020
at 1:30pm

South Coast AQMD Headquarters
Conference Room GB
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Purpose of This Meeting

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has scheduled a public workshop to present and solicit information and comments on Proposed Amended Rule (PAR) 445 – Wood-burning Devices. PAR 445 is scheduled for a Public Hearing before the South Coast AQMD Governing Board on May 1, 2020.

Rule Background

Rule 445 applies to persons that manufacture, sell, or install a wood-burning device; commercial firewood sellers that sell or supply wood or other wood-based fuels for burning in a wood-burning device; and any property owner or tenant that operates a wood-burning device. A wood-burning device includes fireplaces, wood-burning heaters, and similar permanently installed, indoor or outdoor device for burning wood-based fuel. Rule 445 imposes mandatory winter burning curtailment (No-Burn) days, which generally prohibits the operation of any wood-burning device that day. No-Burn days are announced based on forecasts of exceeding the threshold amounts of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in the ambient air. No-Burn days are called for the particular area that is forecast to exceed the threshold limit. Exemptions exist for low income households, where the device is the sole source of heating, geographic elevations 3,000 or more feet above mean sea level, and ceremonial fires. Provisions regarding the use of fire rings/pits are covered by Rule 444 – Open Burning.

Objective of PAR 445

Staff is proposing amendments necessary to implement U.S. EPA contingency measure requirements and Control Measure BCM-09 from the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan. The proposed amendments would codify the existing practice of declaring a Basin-wide No-Burn day for any threshold exceedance and automatically trigger implementation of incrementally more stringent contingency measures in the event the Basin fails to attain the applicable PM_{2.5} standards or comply with certain other air quality requirements by the applicable deadlines. Implementation of these contingency measures would result in incrementally lower thresholds for declaring a No-Burn day, declaring No-Burn days on a Basin-wide basis, and a corresponding reduction in PM_{2.5} emissions. Other proposed minor rule amendments are as necessary to clarify rule requirements, including definitions of terms.

California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and South Coast AQMD's Certified Regulatory Program (Rule 110), the South Coast AQMD, as lead agency for the proposed project,

will be reviewing the proposed project and will determine if it will result in any potential adverse environmental impacts. Appropriate CEQA documentation for the proposed project will be prepared based on the analysis.

Comments and suggestions regarding the CEQA analysis may be directed to:

Mr. Ryan Bañuelos
Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources, CEQA Section
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-3479
Email: rbanuelos@aqmd.gov

Available Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents will be available on or before the public workshop date:

- Proposed Amended Rule 445 – Wood Burning Devices
- Preliminary Draft Staff Report for Proposed Amended Rule 445

To Obtain Copies of the Above Documents

Copies of the proposed amended rule and the preliminary draft staff report, available on or before the Public Workshop date, may be obtained from:

Ms. Fabian Wesson
Public Information Center
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2001
Email: PICrequests@aqmd.gov

The proposed amended rule and the preliminary draft staff report documents will also be made available on or before the public workshop date on the South Coast AQMD website at:
<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/scaqmd-rule-book/proposed-rules>

Submission of Documents or Comments

You are invited to attend the meeting and may also send comments, documents, or other information relevant to the proposed amended rule listed above to:

Mr. Henry Pourzand
Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2414
Email: hpourzand@aqmd.gov

Written comments on this proposed amended rule should be submitted by March 13, 2020.