



The Cleaner Air Partnership

August 8, 2007

Re: Business-health support for winter woodburning ban on poor air quality days

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Cleaner Air Partnership, the business-health partnership between the Sacramento Metro Chamber and Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, would like to relay its support for the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's Rule 421, the mandatory no-burn restriction in Sacramento County. We urge you to support this proactive, common-sense measure that will both improve our air quality and health and protect our transportation funding – with minimal impacts to our region's economy.

The rule's goal to reduce small soot or particle pollution is important to our region. Portions of the Sacramento region, including Sacramento County, are not expected to meet new federal standards for small particle pollution known as PM 2.5. We are already known as one of the nation's most polluted metro areas for such pollutants.

Nonattainment of air quality standards is linked to increased risk of asthma, lung disease, decreased lung development, heart difficulties and other dangerous health problems. It also threatens to delay or reduce federal transportation funding for our region, endanger the permitting of job-creating large businesses, create the specter of additional regulations and downgrade the quality of life that is crucial to attract and retain talented employees from today's highly mobile workforce.

At 45 percent, residential wood burning is the largest single source of Sacramento County's wintertime PM 2.5 problems. While there are many sources of particulate pollution affecting our health, based on performance in other regions, Rule 421 has the potential to advance our area to near-attainment levels *by itself* – and by regulating a completely recreational and optional but polluting activity. The rule will not affect woodburning as a sole heat source or commercial activities such as restaurant cooking.

We urge you to support Rule 421 a proactive air quality measure with the potential for great impact on health and small impact on our economy. We appreciate your consideration, and please contact us if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Bill Mueller
Manager, Cleaner Air Partnership

The Cleaner Air Partnership is a joint project of Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, the Sacramento Metro Chamber and Valley Vision to help the Sacramento Region meet clean air standards that protect health and promote economic growth.

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