



August 12, 2019

Chairwoman Katie Rice  
Members of the Board of Directors  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**RE: Support Regulation 6 to Reduce Particle Pollution During Wildfires**

Dear Chairwoman Rice and Members of the Board of Directors:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our support for proposed amendment to *Regulation 6: Particulate Matter and Visible Emissions, Rule 3: Wood Burning Devices*. This rule is an important and commonsense step for protecting public health from the impacts of unhealthy air during wildfires.

It should go without saying that wood burning activities not be allowed on days of poor air quality from wildfire events. The Lung Association and the health community supports strong controls on wood burning to reduce health impacts in local communities and has worked for decades to educate the public on the harmful effects.

Particle pollution can trigger asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes—and can kill. Studies of children in California found that children who breathed the smoky air during wildfires had more coughing, wheezing, bronchitis, colds, and were more likely to have to go to the doctor or to the hospital for respiratory causes, especially from asthma. Wood smoke particles are so small, they can penetrate the airway defenses and enter directly into the lung and bloodstream and can cause damage from inflammation in many parts of the body. This can worsen lung disease or cause heart attacks. Wood smoke also produces toxic gases, including known carcinogens.

This important rule will further protect public health when wildfire smoke affects air quality in the Bay Area by prohibiting wood burning and other types of fires during wildfire events. Regulation 6: Rule 3 would allow the Air District to call a Spare the Air Alert on any day to notify the public when

particulate matter is expected to exceed unhealthy levels, thereby prohibiting the use of wood-burning devices, outdoor wood-burning devices, and recreational fires to protect the health of Bay Area residents. The rule will further reduce fine particulate emissions from wood burning and ensure that high PM2.5 concentrations, such as those that occur during wildfire events, are not further exacerbated by wood-burning activities.

Children, the elderly and those with existing lung and heart problems are at special risk from particle pollution. Ensuring that residents are not exposed to any additional particle pollution from wood burning activities is good public health policy.

We support this proposed change to better protect public health and reduce the impacts of particle pollution.

Sincerely,

Barb Sattler, PhD, RN, Co-Founder  
**Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments**

Lubna Hasanain, MD, President  
**Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association**

Will Barrett, Director, Clean Air Advocacy  
**American Lung Association in California**

Lorriana Leard, MD, President  
**California Thoracic Society**

Joel Ervice, Associate Director  
**Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)**

Robert M. Gould, MD, President  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
**Physicians for Social Responsibility**

Steve Heilig, Associate Executive Director  
**San Francisco Marin Medical Society**