South Coast Air Quality Management District's

Notice of Public Consultation Meetings

PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 444 (OPEN BURNING)

Thursday, June 13, 2013
5:30 p.m.
Hyatt Regency
1107 Jamboree Road
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Friday, June 14, 2013
5:30 p.m.
Embassy Suites
1440 East Imperial Ave.
El Segundo, CA 90245

Purpose of the Meeting

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff has scheduled a Public Consultation Meeting to present and solicit information and suggestions from the public regarding **Proposed Amended Rule 444 – Open Burning**. The proposed rule amendments are a continuation of efforts to amend Rule 444 provisions related to open burning at beach areas that began in March of 2013. SCAQMD staff is recommending that the Public Hearing be rescheduled to July 12, 2013. Look for updated information at: http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/beachfiremonitoring/homepage.html

Air Quality Objective

Adoption of the Proposed Amendments will reduce public exposure to fine and coarse particulate emissions from open burning at beach areas.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

Rule 444 amendments include provisions of paragraphs (b)(11) and (c)(7), subparagraph (d)(3)(G), and paragraphs (d)(4), (h)(5) and (h)(6) that include, but are not limited to:

- A new definition of Beach Burning.
- Prohibiting beach burning after June 1, 2014 **unless specified criteria are met.**
- State or local public agencies that provide fire pits for beach burning will be required to meet specific criteria.
- Additional amendments may also include minor changes intended to improve rule clarity.

It should be noted that local, county, and state park agencies, as well as the general public that participate in beach burning activities, will be impacted by this proposed rule amendment.

Supporting Documents

Copies of Proposed Amended Rule 444 and the Addendum to the Draft Final Staff Report will be available on or before June 6, 2013 by contacting:

Derrick Alatorre
Assistant DEO/Public Affairs
Public Information Center
SCAQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-2039

Submission of Documents or Comments

The public is requested to send documents, studies, data, reports, comments or other information relevant to Proposed Amended Rule 444 no later than June 26, 2013 to:

Michael Laybourn
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources
SCAQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone (909) 396–3066
E-mail: mlaybourn@aqmd.gov

Questions regarding Proposed Amended Rule 444 may also be directed to Mr. Laybourn.

California Environmental Quality Act

SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed project and determined that PAR 444 is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15308 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment. The proposed project would not require installation of control equipment of any type, equipment replacement, or reformulation of consumer products.

Comments or suggestions regarding the CEQA analysis for PAR 444 should be directed to:

James Koizumi
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources,
CEQA Section
SCAQMD
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Phone: (909) 396-3234
Email: jkoizumi@aqmd.gov