



County of El Dorado
Air Quality Management District

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Mary Nichols, Chairperson
California Air Resources Board
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Support for Woodstove Change Out Program in Second Investment Plan

Chairperson Nichols:

El Dorado County (EDC) Air Quality Management District supports the woodstove change out concept in the Concept Paper for the Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Second Investment Plan. Many EDC residents use old uncertified woodstoves as their primary heat source. Replacing old stoves with new cleaner burning woodstoves and other efficient heat source creates significant toxic, short lived climate pollutant and GHG emission reductions.

EDC began a change out program in 2007. The incentive amounts ranged from \$200 to \$450 per resident. During the program's first six years 77 stoves were replaced.

In 2013, the incentive amount range was increased to \$500 to \$600, plus building permit cost (~\$100), and aggressive marketing began. In 2014, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) contributed \$55,000 to the program. Those funds were used to increase the incentive by \$300, bringing the total to \$800-\$900, for replacements at EDC homes in the Tahoe basin. The result of these revisions is 315 stoves replaced in just over two years.

Only 14% of EDC residents live in South Lake Tahoe communities. But due in part to the additional TRPA \$300 incentive, 39% of replacements in 2014 and 2015 have been at homes in South Lake Tahoe communities. The TRPA funding will soon be depleted.

In addition to public health benefits, wood burning residents realize economic benefits. Certified stoves use 30% less firewood. Funds spent on firewood stays in the community. Funds spent on gas and electricity goes to large corporations. Thank you for considering investing in a rural woodstove change out program with Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

Dave Johnston
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