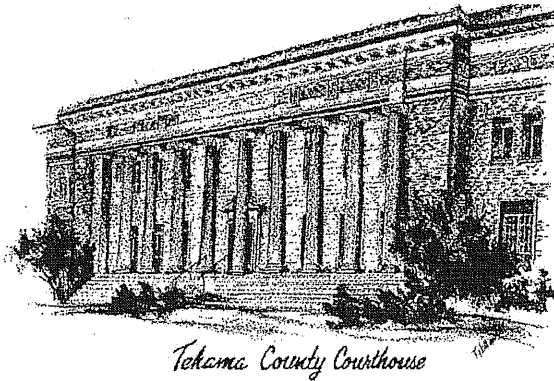


Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TEHAMA

District 1 – Steve Chamblin
District 2 – Candy Carlson
District 3 – Dennis Garton
District 4 – Bob Williams
District 5 – Burt Bundy



Williams J. Goodwin
Chief Administrator

August 18, 2015

Mary Nichols, Chairperson
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Support for Woodstove Change out Program in Second Investment Plan

Dear Chairperson Nichols,

On behalf of the Tehama County Board of Supervisors, we are writing in support of a woodstove change out concept included in the Concept Paper for the Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Second Investment Plan released July 27, 2015. Our County is located within a rural area of the state, in which many of the residents use woodstoves as their primary source of heating with a high percentage being older uncertified devices. Reducing the number of these inefficient stoves by replacing them with either the most efficient, lowest polluting woodstoves, or with natural gas or electric heating devices, will have major benefits in terms of decreased climate pollutants, lower levels of toxic air pollutants, and an overall increase in public health.

Incomplete combustion of wood occurs when using low-efficiency wood stoves, the type most common in our County. An estimated 4,536 residences currently use wood as a primary heating source in Tehama County. When wood is burned in these stoves, many pollutants are emitted, including greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. A woodstove change out program would result in significant and measureable reductions in these pollutants, as much as a 1 ton reduction in CO₂e per cord of wood for every uncertified stove converted to a certified stove with catalyst.

A woodstove change out program would also have measureable co-benefits. Wood smoke contains black carbon, a short-lived climate pollutant specifically mentioned in Governor Brown's January 2015 Inaugural Address. Estimates previously made by ARB indicate that fireplaces are the fourth largest contributor to black carbon emissions, making it essential that we decrease black carbon emissions from these sources in order to meet the Governor's targets.

Another co-benefit of replacing older woodstoves with more efficient heating devices would be the potential improvement to public health in communities affected by woodsmoke. Wood heating is a source of PM 2.5, and decreasing PM 2.5 from older woodstoves will improve indoor air quality as well as outdoor air quality, where the particulate matter can become trapped in the air due to the natural topography and stagnant weather conditions.

Many air districts around the state have already implemented woodstove change out incentive programs when local funding is available, and have been highly successful in targeting lower income areas with high uses of wood heat and/or areas where woodsmoke causes significant public health impacts. With the incentives that could be provided through a woodstove change out program, residents in rural, often low-income communities, could be incentivized to replace their older stoves with a more efficient heating option, and in turn decrease climate and toxic pollutants, improve overall public health, and save money on monthly energy bills.

We greatly appreciate the Air Resources Board's work on the Concept Paper for the Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Second Investment Plan, and especially commend the inclusion of a woodstove change out provision. Our district looks forward to working with you to further develop a statewide program for wood stove replacements to help California meet its climate and public health goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burt Bundy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Burt Bundy, Chairman
Tehama County Board of Supervisors

CC: Jim Nielsen, State Senator, District 4
James Gallagher, State Assemblymember, District 3