



STAFF REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2013

To: Town Council

From: Town Manager

Subject: Air Pollution Control District Presentation/Discussion Regarding Open Burning

Date: February 28, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:

Hear Presentation, Discuss and Direct Staff

DISCUSSION:

At the February 12, 2013 Town Council meeting, a request was made by a member of the Council to agendize a discussion regarding the effect of open burning on Loomis Union schools and what is and could be done to reduce the impacts on the school children during school hours.

For the past few months complaints have been made to a Council Member and staff regarding air quality issues due to open burning near LUSD schools during school hours. In November, a complaint was emailed to former Mayor Calvert from a Physical Education teacher at Franklin School. In part, the email stated:

“Two days last week, Wednesday and Thursday. The smell of smoke was thick in the air. On Wednesday, my kids (I teach PE in the afternoons) had to do PE outside, as we do not have access to the gym that day. Several kids mentioned the "smell", and a few (myself included) we coughing. I did modify our activities for the day to limit hard cardiovascular work, but we still had to be outside. We could see the smoke rising from the fires near by. On Thursday the smell and feeling of heaviness in the air was even worse, but thankfully we had access to the gym. In the future, I will have to do PE in one of our classrooms...that means 40-50 kids in one room trying to be active!”

Following this email, the Town Manager contacted the Placer County Air Pollution Control District. Placer County administers the county's burn program as provided for in the California

Health and Safety Code. I spoke with Air Quality Specialist, Ann Hobbs. Ms. Hobbs was extremely helpful and immediately dispatched field staff to investigate the burning. In addition, Ms. Hobbs stated that the APCD would contact the Placer County Office of Education regarding the possible distribution of a FAQ regarding air quality complaints, to the Superintendents and Principals. The FAQ, which will be completed in the future, will explain how to reach the Air District when there is an air quality concern or complaint.

The APCD has recently sent a residential burn pamphlet out to both the residents in the Town and in the unincorporated portion of Loomis, in resident's Recology bill. In the last month, the Placer County Chipping Program has had some outreach in local newspapers and through the Placer County's E-News (which is a weekly email).

Ms. Hobbs' will be present information in a Power Point presentation, discussing the Districts programs in greater detail.

Town staff contacted John Rowe of Recology to see what green waste programs are currently available. Currently, Recology offers the following green waste service in the Town of Loomis:

1. There are approximately 475 rural based residential customers who receive a pass for free disposal of two yards of green waste twice per year—one in the Spring, one in the Fall.
2. There are approximately 1,800 urban based residential customers who receive weekly green waste service using a 96 gallon toter at no additional cost.
3. There are two cleanup days where residential customers can dispose of additional material, including green waste, at no charge. Cleanup days are also scheduled with one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

In addition, John Rowe let Town staff know that he would meet with the property owners near the schools and develop programs to assist those owners with disposal of their green waste instead of burning. Recology will be present at the Council meeting to answer any questions.

CEQA :

The proposed presentation and discussion is exempt from CEQA.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no financial impact to the Town

Attachments:

- Green Waste Pass
- Residential Outdoor Burning Pamphlet



“Green Waste” Pass

R **Recology**
Auburn Placer JJ
WASTE ZERO



**Two Yard "Green Waste" Pass for
April 1st - April 30th, 2013**

As a bonus to our valued customers, from April 1 - 30
2013, Auburn Transfer Station will accept up to two yards
of green waste at no additional charge.

"GREEN WASTE" PASS

Rules of Acceptance

1. Pass limited to two yards of green waste. You will be charged for waste above the two yards provided by the pass.
2. One pass per account redeemable by customer only. Customer identification will be required.
3. Pass valid from April 1st - April 30th, 2013. No exceptions.

Pass valid only at the following locations:
Auburn Transfer Station
Western Placer Waste Management Authority MRF

**P.O. Box 6566
Auburn, CA 95602
(530) 885-3735**

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 25
AUBURN, CA 95603

"Green Waste" Pass

PASS VALID FOR GREEN WASTE ONLY

LAWN CLIPPINGS LEAVES BRANCHES

To avoid weekend delays, you may wish to use this pass
during regular weekday hours, Monday - Friday

(Town of Loomis residents only)

HOURS

Auburn Placer	7 days a week	8am-4:45pm
Western Placer Waste Management Authority MRF.....	Mon-Fri	7am-5pm
	Sat-Sun	8am-5pm

ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

Chipping:

Residential chipping is available through the Placer County Chipping Program. In Western Placer County call (530) 889-0111 ext. 3. In the greater Lake Tahoe area call (530) 546-4347.

Composting:

Composting is easy and can be done at home. Contact the Rotline at (530) 889-7399 for information on how to compost.

Recycling:

Placer County has two Material Recovery Facilities (MRF). One is located in Western Placer County between Roseville and Lincoln and is run by the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA). The other is the Eastern Regional Landfill near Truckee. Both of these facilities are helping Placer County meet the State's 50% waste reduction goal. These recycling facilities are used to sort trash and recover recyclable materials, such as steel, aluminum, plastic, glass, cardboard, newspaper, junk mail, office paper, paperboard, magazines, brush and wood.

Yard waste is composted on site at the WPWMA facility. Both facilities chip woodwaste that is used for fuel for the generation of electricity. Compost and chips are available for purchase.

For more information: In Western Placer County visit www.wpwma.com or call (916) 543-3960. In Eastern Placer County call (530) 583-0148.

For information on recycling buy-back centers please call (800) RECYCLE (800-732-9253).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about residential burning contact the Placer County Air Pollution Control District at (530) 745-2330 or visit us at www.placer.ca.gov/apcd

For more information on fire safety contact your local fire agency.

The air in our communities will be healthier for us to breathe with your cooperation.



AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

110 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603
Office: (530) 745-2330
Fax: (530) 745-2373
Website: www.placer.ca.gov/apcd

Burn Day Information Telephone Numbers

In the Greater Auburn Area
(530) 889-6868

Cell phone users:
(530) 889-6868

Landlines in other areas of Placer County
(800) 998-BURN (2876)

On the web
www.placer.ca.gov/burnday

RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR BURNING



**KNOWING
WHAT YOU CAN
AND CANNOT BURN
AND WHY IT'S
IMPORTANT**

WHAT IS RESIDENTIAL ALLOWABLE BURNING?

Legal residential burning is the disposal of dry vegetation by outdoor burning, in a pile, on the property of a one or two family dwelling where the vegetation originated or was grown. Burning is allowed only on a burn day.

On January 1, 2004 the California Air Resources Board's Toxic Control Measure went into effective which prohibits the use of a burn barrel and the burning of cardboard and paper for disposal. However non-glossy cardboard and non-glossy paper can still be used to start a fire.

Burning on a vacant lot or parcel or at a business is not considered residential burning and requires a burn permit from the Air District; if not otherwise prohibited.

WHAT PERMITS ARE REQUIRED?

An Air District Burn Permit is not required for residential allowable burning however a fire agency burn permit may be required. Call your local fire agency before burning at your residence to find out their requirements. Other types of open burning such as, agricultural, forestry, range improvement, prescribed fire, ditches, levees and roadways are required to have a Burn Permit from the Air District. A fire agency permit may also be required. Contact the Air District, if in doubt, about these burning requirements.

BURNING CAUSES AIR POLLUTION

Smoke from residential burning is an uncontrolled source of air pollution. Smoke released from burning can affect the burner, their family and neighbors.

Smoke is not merely a nuisance, but may contain

harmful air pollutants and toxic chemicals. Burning of both illegal and legal materials can expose people to unhealthy air. Immediate health effects may include burning and itching eyes, shortness of breath, headaches, and asthma attacks. Long-term effects may include respiratory disease, lung damage, cancer, and premature death.

WHAT CAN BE BURNED?

Only dry vegetation originating on the premises of a residence can be burned. These include:

- Dry trees and trimmings
- Dry brush/shrubs
- Dry leaves/pine needles
- Dry grasses and forbs
- Dry plants and flowers
- Dry weeds
- Dry vines
- Stumps greater than 12" in diameter must be split and free of dirt

Lawn clippings, oleander and poison oak are not allowed.

WHEN CAN I BURN?

Burning can only be done on a burn day as determined by the California Air Resources Board and the Air District in cooperation with local fire agencies. To find out the daily burn day status in your area, including the burn hours, call one of the following telephone numbers or check our burn day website. This information is updated by 8 a.m. daily.

In the Greater Auburn Area and for cell phones
(530) 889-6868

Or other areas of Placer County (landlines only)
(800) 998-BURN (2876)
www.placer.ca.gov/burnday

WHAT MAKES A NO-BURN DAY?

An air quality no burn day is declared when certain weather patterns are present.

Under high pressure, colder air is held at ground level by a layer of warm air above. This warm layer of air is known as an inversion. This inversion acts as a lid, trapping pollution below and preventing vertical mixing or dispersion.

When such inversions are present, the atmosphere is known to be stable. This means that smoke near the ground is less likely to lift away. The more stable the atmosphere is the less a smoke plume will rise.

A "no burn" day declaration may also be issued due to hazardous fire conditions, or on a day with high ozone levels such as a "Spare the Air Day." Elevated levels of particulate matter also factor into a no-burn declaration.

BE FIRE SAFE--MINIMIZE SMOKE

When burning, follow these simple steps to be fire safe and to minimize smoke production:

- Contact your local fire agency for their burn requirements.
- Call for burn day information before lighting.
- Burn only on a permissive burn day.
- Burn only dry allowable vegetation, free from dirt.
- Burn only when smoke blows away from your neighbors.
- Maintain a 10' clearance of flammable materials from around the burn pile.
- Never use flammable materials such as gasoline to start a fire.
- The fire must be attended by a responsible adult at all times.
- Maintain a source of water and a long handled shovel close by.