

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
El Dorado County Air Quality Management District
Proposed amendments to Rule 239, Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters and
AB 2588 Air Toxics "Hotspots" Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has scheduled a public hearing on October 21, 2025, at 8:00 AM or thereafter, at the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, California. The AQMD will recommend that the Air District Board of Directors adopt proposed amendments to Rule 239: Natural Gas-Fired Residential Water Heaters and will present the 2024 Annual Air Toxics "Hot Spots" AB 2588 Report.

Ozone is created by a chemical reaction between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) in the presence of sunlight. Breathing ozone has both short- and long-term negative health effects, ranging from decreased lung capacity, chest pains, and wheezing to lung disease and potentially an increased risk of cardiovascular problems. The U.S. EPA established ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), beginning with a 1-hour standard in 1979, followed by 8-hour standards in 1997, 2008, and 2015.

The Sacramento Regional 8-hour Ozone State Implementation Plan and Reasonable Further Progress Plan (SIP) for the 1979 and 1997 ozone standards outlines strategies to meet Clean Air Act requirements. This plan includes control measures, SIP commitments, and specific AQMD actions, such as reducing NO_x emissions from smaller water heaters, to secure emissions reductions needed for attainment. The other air districts within the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA)—Sacramento Metropolitan, Placer County, Yolo-Solano, and Feather River air districts—have already revised and adopted water heater rules included in the SIP. This update to Rule 239 is a commitment previously made by AQMD in the SIP.

The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act of 1987 (AB 2588) is a California public right-to-know law. Local air quality management and air pollution control districts must collect information about the location, type, and quantity of toxic compounds emitted into the air by specified local businesses and industries. The California Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 44363 requires the air districts to prepare and publish an annual report that describes the priorities and categories of the permitted facilities, summarizes the results of health risk assessments, ranks and identifies facilities according to the degree of cancer risk posed to the public, identifies facilities which expose the public to noncancer health risks, and describes the status of the development of control measures to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants. Per HSC section 44363(b), the Air District Board is required to hold one or more public hearings to present the report and discuss its content and significance.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if adopted, Rule 239 will be submitted through the California Air Resources Board to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a revision to SIP.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN All interested persons may examine or request a copy of the proposed Rule 239 and associated documents, or the AQMD AB 2588 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Report and associated documents, at the AQMD office, 330 Fair Lane, Building A, Placerville, CA 95667, Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM, by advance appointment. Copies of this notice and the rule are posted on the AQMD website <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Land-Use/Air-Quality-Management-District>. Please submit any comments in writing to EDCAQMD, 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667, or via aqmd@edcgov.us. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact Rania Serieh at (530) 621-7509.