

Tehama County Board of Supervisors Authorizes Letter in Support of Wood Stove Change Out Program

By Julie Zeeb

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RED BLUFF >> The Tehama County Board of Supervisors Tuesday authorized a letter in support of a wood stove change out concept outlined in a California Air Resources Board plan. That program, if enacted, would bring money to Tehama County.

The wood stove change out program would be funded through grants, from which Tehama County can benefit, said Air Pollution Control Officer Kristin Hall-Stein. By writing a letter of support for the program, the county could see a minimum of \$100,000 annually in grant funding from the state to be used to replace wood stoves.

“These are just preliminary ideas developed in the investment plan of the green house gas auction,” Hall-Stein said. “It could bring about a big decrease in the effects from wood smoke in Tehama County.”

There are about 4,000 residences in the county that use a wood stove as their primary source of heat, which is about 19.4 percent of the county, Hall-Stein said. Many of the stoves are older, outdated and uncertified devices that are inefficient. This program would allow families to replace them with either the most efficient, lowest polluting wood stoves or with natural gas or electric heating devices.

“This program would have major benefits in terms of decreased climate pollutants, lower levels of toxic air pollutants and an overall increase in public health,” Hall-Stein said.

Resident Tom Moller spoke against the item, mostly because it was not public-driven, he said.

Moller said his concern was that the fires burning in the state are doing way more harm than any of the tractors, trucks and wood stoves put out.

“It’s all tax payers’ money,” Moller said. “The forests burning are putting off green house gases more than 10 years of cars will. Eventually wood stoves will be restricted. Why don’t we address the fires in green house gases?”

Supervisor Bob Williams said that was something that the Rural County Representatives of California, of which he is a part, is discussing in the form of forest management and biomass projects.

Supervisor Steve Chamblin said he was in favor of the letter being sent, as it could mean tax money coming back into Tehama County.

Signed by the governor in 2006, the multi-year plan is to reduce greenhouse gases to levels of 1990 by the year 2020. As a result of the plan, the Air Resources Board does a quarterly auction of state-owned allowances for greenhouse gases. Those proceeds are then invested into the greenhouse gas reduction fund and are available for

appropriation, which lead to the first investment plan. The wood stove program is part of a second investment plan.

The final draft of the second investment plan is due before the legislature by January 2016. Information on the plan and how to submit comments is available on <http://www.arb.ca.gov/investmentplan> .

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