Monterey Bay Air Resources District
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Serving Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

MONTEREY BAY AIR RESOURCES DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

MBARD Announces Spare the Air Program
November 9, 2026 - Monterey, California

Starting November 9, 2026, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) will begin issuing annual wintertime Spare the Air alerts for the San Lorenzo Valley in Santa Cruz County. During a Spare the Air alert, MBARD will ask residents to choose an alternative home heating source such as electricity, propane, natural gas, or pellets in lieu of wood burning. MBARD will send out notifications by 3:00 pm when conditions warrant a Spare the Air alert. Such conditions include colder temperatures and a temperature inversion, which traps wood smoke pollution close to the ground.

MBARD implements this voluntary program to address unhealthy air quality conditions that may occur in the San Lorenzo Valley. Public awareness and active participation are critical to reducing wood smoke pollution during stagnant winter conditions.

MBARD requests that news services include Spare the Air alerts in weather and news broadcasts using the orange logo below. The program will run from November through March.

Please call our office at (831) 647-9411 with any questions and/or concerns. To sign up for email alerts, please visit our website at www.mbard.org and click “Subscribe to Email Lists” under the “I Want To” menu.

spare the air

Richard A. Stedman
Air Pollution Control Officer