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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District to begin accepting applications for the Greater Portola Wood Stove Change-Out Program on April 9!

On Saturday, April 9 (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District will be holding a Wood Stove Change-Out Fair at the Portola Veteran’s Hall to inform residents about the Program. Participating wood stove retailers will be demonstrating various heating devices and the best ways to heat your home more efficiently while saving money!

The Air District is holding this Fair to officially ‘kick-off’ their five year voluntary residential wood stove change-out program for the Greater Portola Area – which includes the City of Portola and the outlying areas of Iron Horse, Delleker, C-Road, Mohawk Vista, Plumas-Eureka, Blairsden-Graeagle, Gold Mountain, Whitehawk, Clio, Johnsville, and portions of Lake Davis.

To be eligible for this program a resident must have a currently installed, operating non-EPA certified wood stove. Disqualifications will occur if the old device is removed from the home prior to application approval OR if the new woodstove is purchased before application approval.

For more information about the program, you can go to the Air District website at www.myairdistrict.com or call the Wood Stove Change-Out Information Line: 530 832-4067.

The Air District received a \$2.48 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to encourage owners to replace older wood stoves with cleaner burning devices and significantly improve air quality and public health in the Greater Portola federal PM2.5 nonattainment area. The grant is part of the U.S. EPA’s 2015 Targeted Air Shed Grant Program intended to improve air quality in areas of the U.S. with the highest levels of pollution.

In January 2015, the U.S. EPA designated the City of Portola and surrounding parts of Plumas County as a federal nonattainment area for the annual PM2.5 health-based standard. PM2.5 is the fine particle pollution found in smoke. Studies indicate that the main source of smoke in Portola is from residential woodstoves and fireplaces.

Portola City Manager, Robert Meacher stated, “The air quality issue has been a priority for this and previous City Councils, and City staff understands the need to address this issue not only from a public health stand point, but also from a quality

of life issue, as more and more people look to our City and region as a great place to live where you want to play.”

Portola City Mayor, Bill Powers added, "The City has been working with the Air District for many years to develop a plan to reduce smoke levels from woodstoves. This important grant provides funding to help Portola residents with older wood stoves move to cleaner burning alternatives for keeping their families warm through the winter with less effort, lower fuel costs and less smoke. This is exactly what the City needed in order to reach the goal of cleaner, healthier air which will continue for generations.”

Mayor Powers continues, “A few years ago I replaced my old, clunky wood stove for a cleaner burning EPA wood stove. My house is warmer and I actually use less wood, which has saved me money and a lot of effort. But the real pay-off is how good it feels to know that this small change is improving my neighbors' health.”

The Air District will be partnering with the City of Portola, Portola Family Resource Center, the USDA, and the California Air Resources Board.

After a public selection process, Wolf Creek Wood Stoves and Quincy Hot Spot have been selected as District-approved retailers for the Change-out Program.