



San Mateo County Parks

Midcoast Community Council Update on use of Air Curtain Burners at Quarry County Park



What is the need?

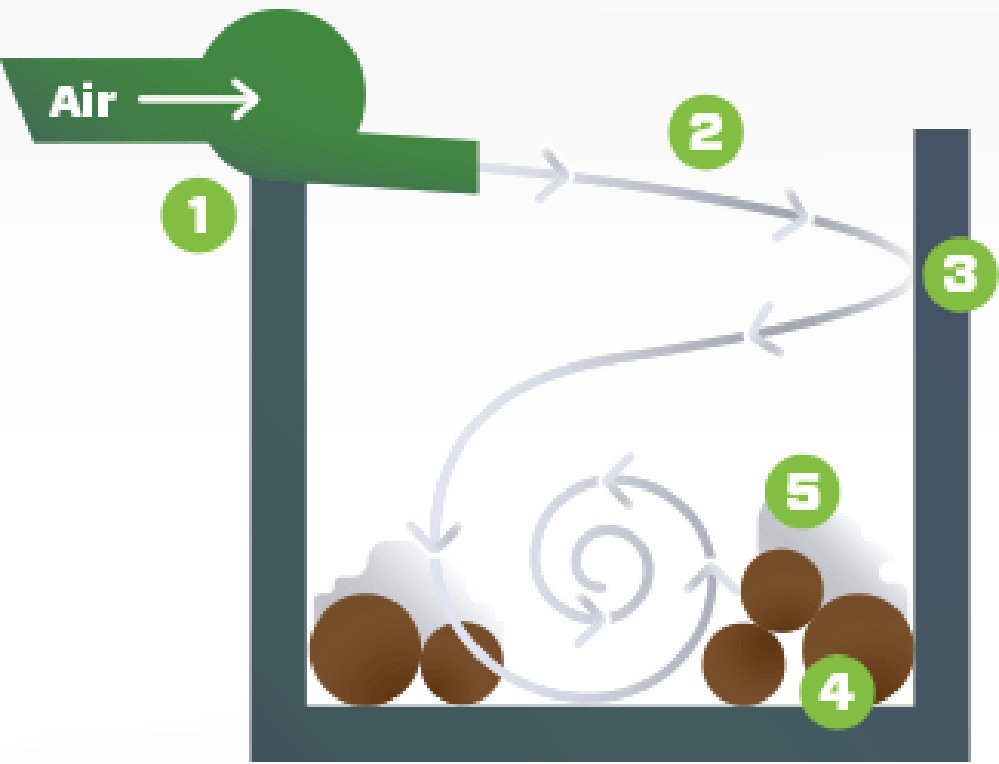
- Biomass management and disposal is a regional issue
- Other options are costly, have higher GHG emissions, and more waste
- Lots of logs at Quarry Park from recent work activities
- Seeking an environmentally friendly method



What is an Air Curtain Burner?

- Specialized equipment to manage logs and woody material
- Loaned to the Parks Department from CAL FIRE





How does it work?

- Fire is started inside box, logs loaded into box
- Air pushes smoke & embers down into the box to keep a continual burn & low emissions
- Material breaks down into ash





Air Curtain
Burning

Open
Burning

Benefits of this equipment



- Low emissions
- Low fuel consumption
- Safe
- Efficient
- Charcoal byproduct
- Regulatory approval

Alternatives?

- Landfill
- Trucking
- Chipping & disposal
- Open burning
- Do nothing

What to expect

- Operation of equipment during weekday park hours, not on weekends or holidays
- Sound: diesel engine on burner, excavator to move materials
- Smoke: similar to a campfire
- Park area closures: meadow area near ranger corp yard & pump track (~2 weeks). Mirada East trail closures (~4 weeks). Remainder of park will stay open



Safety

- Embers are few, air pushes all embers and smoke downward
- Operates only in an open area away from other vegetation
- Personnel monitor at all times
- Water tank on site to keep ground moist
- Personnel monitor during “warm up” and “cool down” stages



Questions?

