



# Air Resources Board



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

**Mary D. Nichols, Chair**  
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812 • [www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

December 23, 2015

Mr. Samir Sheikh  
Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer  
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District  
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno, California 93726

Dear Mr. Sheikh:

In May 2012, the Air Resources Board (ARB) granted a three-year concurrence with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) assessment for limited exemptions to the phase-out of agricultural burning, consistent with requirements in Health and Safety Code sections 41855.5 and 41855.6. Limited exemptions to the phase-out of agricultural burning are allowed if economic and technical considerations make alternatives to burning impractical. Based on information provided in the 2015 Agricultural Burning Review, ARB concurs that the limited exemptions are appropriate through 2020.

The District has documented that since 2012, five out of eleven biomass power plants, which had previously provided an alternative to the open burning of agricultural waste, have ceased to operate. The District has also documented that the total acreage of agricultural materials burned has been reduced by about 80 percent since 2002, largely due to the implementation of Rule 4103 (Open Burning) and the District Smoke Management System.

ARB will continue to work with the District, other agencies, and the agricultural community to manage agricultural burning to ensure protection of air quality in the Valley, as well as on continued development of viable alternatives to burning.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 322-2739 or via email at [kurt.karperos@arb.ca.gov](mailto:kurt.karperos@arb.ca.gov), or Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division, at (916) 322-7137 or [karen.magliano@arb.ca.gov](mailto:karen.magliano@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Kurt Karperos  
Deputy Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Karen Magliano, Chief  
Air Quality Planning and Science Division

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency