



February 2, 2024

Updated Phase-Out Schedule for Agricultural Burning and Available Funding Support

To address state mandates and continue to improve air quality, the San Joaquin Valley is in the final stage of a multi-year tiered phase-out of agricultural open burning under an established schedule adopted by the Valley Air District and California Air Resources Board. The phase out schedules for vineyard removals, orchard removals, and surface harvested prunings are all structured to phase out burning for larger agricultural operations first, then gradually phase out burning for smaller operations. As of January 1, 2024, the final stage of the phase-out schedule for vineyard removals, small orchard removals, and surface harvested prunings are now in effect, including the prohibition of raisin tray burning (please refer to attached infographic for details). While the vast majority of burning will be phased out by January 1, 2025, there are a few limited exceptions where burning will be allowed including: apple, pear, and quince removals; diseased materials, rice levees/banks, and limited maintenance purposes.

Due to unprecedented wildfires and stagnant winters with little precipitation, there may be significantly fewer opportunities to conduct burning through the District's Smoke Management Permitting System. **The District recommends all growers review the phase-out dates and consider alternatives to open burning as the prohibitions take effect.** Please note that regardless of when materials have been removed and piled, authorization to burn cannot be granted after the listed phase-out dates.

Grant Funding Available For Alternatives to Burning

The District has continually worked with agricultural stakeholders to identify alternatives for the disposal of agricultural waste and to make those alternatives more accessible to Valley growers through grant funding opportunities. In November 2018, the District's Governing Board approved the Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program (<https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/ag-burn-alternatives-grant-program>), which offers incentive funding for alternative disposal practices, including chipping and soil incorporation. As we enter the final year of the phase-out, the District's Governing Board took action in January 2024 to ensure continued funding and broad program access to Valley growers. Please note that the program provides specific funding per acre for various alternatives and crop types (including enhancements for smaller growing operations), and funding is capped at 250 acres of removals per entity per calendar year.

District Staff Available to Provide Assistance

District staff are available to provide assistance regarding the agricultural burn phase-out and to provide additional information on grant funding for alternatives to open burning. Please reach out to District staff if you should have any questions or need assistance with grant funding.

Ag Burn Phase-Out

Phone: (559) 227-7143
Toll Free: (800) 665-2876

Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program

Phone: (559) 230-5800
Email: grants@valleyair.org

Prepare for the...

Phase Out of Open Agricultural Burning in the San Joaquin Valley



CITRUS & FRUIT* GROWERS

Open Burning Currently Prohibited

- Orchard removal material from all removals >15 acres
- Orchard removal material from removals ≤15 acres at ag operations with >200 acres of total orchards at all locations

Jan 1, 2024

Prohibit orchard removal open burns ≤15 acres at ag operations with >100 acres of total orchards at all locations

Jan 1, 2025

All operations prohibited from burning all sizes of removals except in cases of disease and pest concerns

* Due to disease issues, apple, pear, and quince crops are currently exempt from these requirements



GRAPE GROWERS

Open Burning Currently Prohibited

- Cordon (Spur-Pruned)**
Prohibit burning at ag operations with >1,000 acres of total vines at all locations
- Cane-Pruned**
Prohibit burning at ag operations with >250 acres of total vines at all locations

Jan 1, 2024

- Cordon**
Prohibit burning at ag operations with >250 acres of total vines at all locations
- Cane-Pruned**
Prohibit burning at ag operations with >100 acres of total vines at all locations
- Raisin Trays**
Prohibit open burning of raisin trays

Jan 1, 2025

All operations prohibited from burning all sizes of removals except in cases of disease and pest concerns



NUT GROWERS

Open Burning Currently Prohibited

- Surface Prunings**
Surface harvested prunings >20 acres at all ag operations
- Surface harvested prunings ≤20 acres at ag operations with >50 acres of total orchards at all locations
- Orchard Removals**
Orchard removal material from all removals >15 acres
- Orchard removal material from removals ≤15 acres at ag operations with >200 acres of total orchards at all locations

Jan 1, 2024

Prohibit orchard removal open burns ≤15 acres at ag operations with >100 acres of total orchards at all locations

Jan 1, 2025

- All operations prohibited from burning surface harvested prunings
- All operations prohibited from burning all sizes of removals except in cases of disease and pest concerns

Incentive Funding is NOW AVAILABLE

CROP TYPE	Chipping <u>with</u> soil incorporation	Chipping <u>without</u> soil incorporation on-site	Chipping with off-site beneficial reuse
Orchards	Up to \$600/acre	Up to \$300/acre	Up to \$600/acre
Cane-pruned vineyard	Up to \$800/acre	Up to \$500/acre	Up to \$800/acre
Cordon-pruned vineyard	Up to \$1,300/acre	Up to \$1,000/acre	Up to \$1,300/acre

ADDITIONAL \$400 PER ACRE FOR SMALL AG OPERATIONS (100 ACRES OR LESS)

ANNUAL FUNDING CAP : 250 acres of orchard/vineyard removal per entity per calendar year

Please note this is a summary of new phase-out requirements. Please visit our website for full details on existing requirements and information regarding the District's smoke management system.

www.valleyair.org/agburnalternatives | (559) 230-6000 | grants@valleyair.org