



To address state mandates (SB 705, Florez, 2003), the Valley has reached the end of a multi-year tiered phase-out of nearly all agricultural open burning. The state-required phase-outs began in 2005, and effective January 1, 2025, small orchard removals, vineyard removals, and surface harvested prunings will be prohibited from open burning. While the completion of these phase-outs marks a significant reduction in open agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley, state law provides limited exceptions for certain materials that will continue to be eligible for permitted agricultural burning. Though the vast majority of burning will be phased out on 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. Please visit this web page which identifies the materials that may continue to be burned with a valid District-issued burn permit:

<https://ww2.valleyair.org/agriculture/agricultural-burning>.

For certain materials, an on-site inspection by a District inspector may be required to determine burn permit eligibility. After a permit is issued, all burning is subject to daily burn authorization through the District's automated Smoke Management System (SMS). Permit holders can request burn authorization by calling 1-800-665-2876 or via the internet at <https://sms.valleyair.org>.

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. In November 2018, the District's Governing Board approved the **Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program**, which provides incentives to commercial agricultural operations to utilize an alternative practice for the disposal of orchard and vineyard removal material. Alternative practices include chipping and soil incorporation (whole orchard/vineyard recycling), on-site land application without reincorporation, or off-site beneficial re-use (mulch, composting, land application near roadways for dust suppression, and other District approved beneficial re-use of the chipped material). Additionally, the program provides incentives for the use of air curtain burners to dispose of diseased materials as well as material with embedded wire, such as cordon (spur-pruned) vineyard material. For additional information on this grant opportunity, please visit <https://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/ag-burn-alternatives-grant-program>, or call the number below to speak with grant program staff.

District Staff are Available to Provide Assistance

Ag Burn Permits and Authorizations

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

Ag Burn Alternatives Grant Program

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