



Updated Phase-Out Schedule for Agricultural Burning

On June 17, 2021, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (District's) Governing Board voted to approve the District's Supplemental Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning. The supplemental report was developed by District staff in close coordination with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the interested public, and agricultural stakeholders, to address SB 705 (Florez, 2003) mandates and develop an updated phase-out schedule to achieve the near-complete phase out of agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley by January 1, 2025. CARB provided concurrence with the supplemental report on June 18. 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.

Accompanying this bulletin are the detailed phase-out schedules for the remaining crop categories. 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, and will then gradually phase out burning for smaller operations. Due to unprecedented wildfires and stagnant winters with little precipitation, there may be significantly fewer opportunities to conduct burning. 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 will not 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. In November 2018, the District's Governing Board approved the [Alternative to Open Ag Burning Incentive Program](http://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/ag-burn-alternatives-grant-program) (<http://ww2.valleyair.org/grants/ag-burn-alternatives-grant-program>), which offers incentive funding for chipping and soil incorporation. In developing the agricultural burning phase-out strategy, the District and CARB recognized that substantial funding was needed to offset the costs of implementing new alternatives necessary to achieve the goal of a near-complete phase-out of agricultural burning by 2025. Thanks in part to lobbying efforts by the District, CARB, and Valley agricultural leaders the District was successful in receiving \$178.2 million in grant funding for alternatives to agricultural burning to be spent over the next three years. For additional information on this grant opportunity please contact (559) 230-5800.


Requesting Burn Authorization and Assistance

Permit holders requesting authorization to burn orchard and vineyard removal material are required to complete a vineyard or orchard removal application form available on the District website (<https://ww2.valleyair.org/agriculture/agricultural-burning>) under Forms and Applications. For other types of continued agricultural burning, burn permit holders are encouraged to use the automated smoke management system or the online portal when seeking burn authorization. Please be advised that in almost all instances, burn authorizations are for the crop type to be burned on that day and permit holders should report only the amount of material that will be burned on that day. Burn authorizations may be requested by telephone by calling **1-800-665-2876** and clerks are available to help between 6:00 and 11:00 AM daily, and the automated system and internet portal (<http://sms.valleyair.org>) are available 24 hours a day.

For questions regarding the information contained in this Compliance Assistance Bulletin, please call **(559) 230-5950**.

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Phase Out of Open Agricultural Burning in the San Joaquin Valley



CITRUS & FRUIT* GROWERS


Open Burning Currently Prohibited	Jan 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Prohibit orchard removal open burns ≤15 acres at ag operations with >100 acres of total orchards at all locations	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	Jan 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025
<p>Cordon (Spur-Pruned) Prohibit burning at ag operations with >1,000 acres of total vines at all locations</p> <p>Cane-Pruned Prohibit burning at ag operations with >250 acres of total vines at all locations</p>	<p>Cordon Prohibit burning at ag operations with >250 acres of total vines at all locations</p> <p>Cane-Pruned Prohibit burning at ag operations with >100 acres of total vines at all locations</p> <p>Raisin Trays Prohibit open burning of raisin trays</p>	All operations prohibited from burning all sizes of removals except in cases of disease and pest concerns



NUT GROWERS

Open Burning Currently Prohibited	Jan 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025
<p>Surface Prunings Surface harvested prunings >20 acres at all ag operations</p> <p>Surface harvested prunings ≤20 acres at ag operations with >50 acres of total orchards at all locations</p> <p>Orchard Removals Orchard removal material from all removals >15 acres</p> <p>Orchard removal material from removals ≤15 acres at ag operations with >200 acres of total orchards at all locations</p>	Prohibit orchard removal open burns ≤15 acres at ag operations with >100 acres of total orchards at all locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 : 500 acres of orchard/vineyard removal per applicant 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