

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

September 2022



## Calendar contest entries needed!

The Valley Air District invites teachers and parents to send in their students' artwork for its 2023 Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar Contest. The grand prize winner will be featured on the cover and receive a prize. Thirteen additional artwork will be included in the calendar. Entries are due by Friday, Oct. 14, 2022.

Artwork should contain a message about how to live a Healthy Air Life, such as "Switch to an electric lawn mower," "Be cool and carpool when going to school," or "Don't burn wood, switch to gas."

To see an example of this year's calendar and additional contest information, visit: [www.valleyair.org/kidscalendar](http://www.valleyair.org/kidscalendar).



## Incentive program assists farmers phase out of open burning

By the end of 2024, open burning will no longer be an option for most farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. To help with the transition, the Valley Air District encourages farmers to take advantage of the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Incentive Program, which provides incentives with the processing of vineyard and orchard removals through new non-burning alternatives such as chipping or shredding.

The District, in collaboration with California Air Resources Board (CARB), adopted a new strategy in 2021 for the remaining agricultural open burning of woody waste from orchard and vineyard removals by the end of 2024.

Incentive funding for orchard and vineyard removal are for agricultural operations located within the District's boundaries. The woody vineyard and orchard removals must be chipped or shredded and used for soil incorporation or land application on the property or on other off-site agricultural land.

### Information regarding the new phase-out requirements:

[ww2.valleyair.org/agriculture/agricultural-burning](http://ww2.valleyair.org/agriculture/agricultural-burning)

### Information regarding available local, state, and federal resources:

- Valley Air District's Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Incentive Program: [valleyair.org/grants/alt-ag-burning.htm](http://valleyair.org/grants/alt-ag-burning.htm).
- USDA-NRCS EQIP Program: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1044009](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1044009)
- California Department of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Program: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/healthysouils/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/healthysouils/).

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