

December 23, 2024

Sheraz Gill
Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, California 93726
sheraz.gill@valleyair.org

Dear Mr. Gill:

The California Air Resources Board appreciates the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District providing its *Final 2024 Staff Report and Recommendations on Agricultural Burning* (2024 Report). The 2024 Report includes recommendations for postponement of the prohibition of the open burning of agricultural material required by California Health and Safety Code sections 41855.5 and 41855.6 for specified crop categories.

California Health and Safety Code section 41855.6 provides that the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District may postpone the burn prohibition for specified crop categories if the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District determines there is no economically feasible alternative means of eliminating the agricultural material; there is no long-term federal or State funding commitment for the continued operation of biomass facilities in the San Joaquin Valley or development of alternatives to burning; the continued issuance of permits for that specific category or crop will not cause, or substantially contribute to, a violation of an applicable federal ambient air quality standard; and the California Air Resources Board concurs with the determinations.

The California Air Resources Board has reviewed the 2024 Report and finds that it makes the necessary determinations. The California Air Resources Board also finds that the 2024 Report discusses the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's success implementing California Air Resources Board staff recommendations for a near-complete phase-out of agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley, satisfying the conditions for California Air Resources Board concurrence through January 1, 2025. Therefore, the California Air Resources Board concurs with the 2024 Report recommendations to postpone the burn prohibition for the specified crop categories, effective through January 1, 2030. The California Air Resources Board will continue to collaborate with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, other agencies, and agricultural and community stakeholders to advance the use of alternatives to open burning.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (279) 208-7106, or have your staff contact Dr. Michael Benjamin, Chief of the Air Quality Planning and Science Division at (916) 201-8968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edie Chang', with a stylized flourish.

Edie Chang, Deputy Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board

cc:

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer, San Joaquin Valley Air
Pollution Control District
samir.sheikh@valleyair.org

Michael Benjamin, D. Env., Chief, Air Quality Planning & Science Division