

On June 17, 2021, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (District) 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 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, 2021.

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 diseased materials, which have specific requirements that must be satisfied prior to burning. These requirements are outlined in District Rule 4103 – Open Burning (<https://www.valleyair.org/rules/currnrules/r4103.pdf>).

Growers seeking to burn diseased materials will need to follow the requirements established in District Rule 4103, including their County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) making specific determinations regarding the presence and impact of disease, and the feasibility of alternative disposal methods. To ensure diseased agricultural material burn requests can be reviewed and processed in a timely manner, CACs should provide the District with project-specific information to support their determinations and ensure rule requirements are met. This information should include third-party laboratory reports, third-party field survey reports, feasibility analyses of alternative disposal methods, or other supporting documentation. To help satisfy the requirements of Rule 4103, the District has developed the Diseased Agricultural Material Form (<https://ww2.valleyair.org/diseased-ag-form/>) in coordination with the CACs. Completing the form and providing the supporting documentation should provide the necessary information to begin processing requests to burn diseased agricultural material, though it should be noted that as the need to attain strict Federal air quality standards becomes increasingly more difficult, providing allocation for agricultural burning will become more challenging. **All growers with disposal deadlines are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and explore alternative means to dispose of agricultural waste to ensure grower's needs are met.**

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 utilize an alternative practice for the disposition of agricultural material from orchard/vineyard removals as an alternative to open burning. The program provides incentives to commercial agricultural operations located within District boundaries to chip agricultural material from orchard and vineyard removals and use for soil incorporation (whole orchard/vineyard recycling), on-site land application on agricultural land, 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 contact program staff at (559) 230-5800.

For questions regarding Rule 4103 compliance assistance, please call (559) 230-6000.