

DRAFT Proposed Changes to the 2009 Smoke Management Program Plan

5. PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The basic Program elements include the following:

Collection and dissemination of burn data. Air pollution control agencies compile their information on the amount of acres ready to burn, burned yesterday, burned by zone, and burned by crop category. This information is collected, summarized, totaled, and provided on a county-by-county, zone-by-zone, and crop-by-crop basis through the ~~Central Computer Operations (CCO)~~ Smoke Management Program Coordinator (SMPC).

Computerization and centralization of data and communications. The Program centralizes and computerizes burn data storage and communications. Daily, during the fall burn season, the SMPC collects and transmits information to the local air districts and the ARB via a ~~bulletin board system~~ website. The SMPC also stores and analyzes these data. The SMPC will conduct at least one workshop with air district burn staff to discuss SMP policies and procedures prior to the start of the fall burn season on September 15. The workshop(s) may be held in the north, central and south areas of the Air Basin. Testing of computer file transfers and website data communications will also be performed prior to the start of the fall burn season.

7. PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATION AND ADJUSTMENTS OF ACREAGE

Daily acreage allocation and distribution considerations

The allocation and distribution methods will use the following information:

- 1) Atmospheric stability, inversion heights, and depth of the mixing layer
- 2) Wind speeds and directions (upper level and surface)
- 3) Relative humidity, and fuel moisture and cloud cover
- 4) Baseline air quality PM10 and PM2.5 data and airport visibilities
- 5) Quantity and location of agricultural residue to be burned
- 6) Consideration of downwind populated areas
- 7) Presence of ongoing prescribed burning and nearby wildfires

Emphasis shall be placed on the consideration of expected mixing depths during the burn hours in making burning management decisions. The meteorological services consultant and the ARB will comment on atmospheric mixing in their computer files and this will also be discussed each morning between the ARB duty meteorologist and the SMPC in determining the initial acreage allocation. The Smoke Management Program Coordinator may, if conditions warrant, reduce the acres allocated by ARB to the Air Basin.