

SACRAMENTO VALLEY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: January 20, 2011
To: Air Pollution Control Officers in the Sacramento Air Basin
From: Mat Ehrhardt, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Sacramento Valley Basinwide Air Pollution Control Council
Subject: Policies and Procedures of the Sacramento Valley Smoke Management Program

The Sacramento Valley Smoke Management Program (SMP) is a regional program involving nine air districts and eleven counties. The primary goals of the SMP are to protect air quality in the Sacramento Valley, protect public health and safety, and effectively manage daily burning operations. The Air Pollution Control Officers (APCOs) of the nine air districts have primary responsibility to ensure that the SMP is understood by their staff and is properly implemented.

Failure to adhere to the SMP plan creates health risk for the breathing public and risk for agricultural businesses dependent upon burning. Businesses risk further regulation if the legislature and public perceive that burns are not managed properly. Particulate episodes caused or exacerbated by poorly managed burning can negatively affect air quality planning efforts and attainment status, thereby resulting in more strict control measures for all industry and valley residents.

The undersigned APCOs commit to have their burn staff trained in SMP policies and procedures and agree to ensure that their burn staff members follow those policies and procedures.

APCOs will ensure that burn staff will have training from the SMP coordinator at least once per year. Burn staff means any and all staff who spatially and temporally manage burns, give out acres, set burn permit conditions, give permission to burn, or participate in any decisions resulting in permission to burn. Such staff include, but are not limited to, air pollution control specialists or engineers, agricultural biologists, weights & measures staff, clerical staff, supervisors, and managers.

The SMP Coordinator will offer at least two training sessions per year in the Basin, typically prior to commencement of the fall burn season. Any staff member unable to attend at least one of the training sessions shall spend at least two hours with the SMP Coordinator to receive training prior to commencement of his or her burn duties. The SMP Coordinator may provide other practical training scenarios depending on the situation.

Critical training components include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Types of burn days, burn hours, and review of daily program information
- Meteorological conditions, AMOS and airport data, wind shifts, straw moisture, and rainfall effects
- Burn decision making
 - Spatial management of burns among district management zones
 - Timing of burns throughout burn hours
 - Lighting techniques, smoke plumes, and smoke transport
 - Acreage of burns and field conditions
 - Factors in acreage allocation and distribution methods
- Communications
 - Communication with SMP Coordinator, transfer of daily files, and accessing the Valley SMP Web site.

- Telephone requirement: Burn staff must all have a cell phone or be in the office and reachable by telephone during burn hours (10 AM to 3 PM); a telephone recording does not suffice; the SMP Coordinator and other burn staff must be able to reach each other by telephone during burn hours.
- Consultation with adjacent downwind air districts and checking surrounding air quality levels prior to giving permission to burn.
- Advising growers of their responsibilities to comply with SMP requirements

Concur:

Air District	APCO	
Butte County Air Quality Management District	W. James Wagoner	_____ Date: _____
Colusa County Air Pollution Control District	Harry Krug	_____ Date: _____
Feather River Air Quality Management District	David Valler	_____ Date: _____
Glenn County Air Pollution Control District	Mark Black	_____ Date: _____
Placer County Air Pollution Control District	Tom Christofk	_____ Date: _____
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District	Larry Greene	_____ Date: _____
Shasta County Air Quality Management District	Russ Mull	_____ Date: _____
Tehama County Air Pollution Control District	Alan Abbs	_____ Date: _____
Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District	Mat Ehrhardt	_____ Date: _____