

Principles for Alternatives to Agricultural Burning Grant

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is developing a grant to provide \$178.2 million to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) to strengthen and expand implementation of the District's existing Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Incentive Program. This funding, provided by the Governor and Legislature in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget¹, will help accelerate the transition to more sustainable alternative practices to open agricultural burning, consistent with CARB Board direction to phase out open agricultural burning in the San Joaquin Valley by January 1, 2025. This document outlines the principles which CARB will incorporate into development of the full grant agreement which is expected to be finalized in early September 2021.

- Strive to make funds available for incentive projects starting in late Summer/Fall 2021 so that additional equipment (e.g. chippers, grinders) is deployed for the 2021/2022 burn season.
- Limit incentive projects to non-combustion alternatives unless the CARB Board makes a finding in a public hearing, based on clear and convincing evidence, that such non-combustion alternatives are not available. If the CARB Board makes such a finding, continue to prioritize non-combustion alternatives.
- Manage incentive funds to ensure that smaller growers, who will be the last to be required to phase out burning per the District's adopted phase-out schedule, have access to incentive funds. This could be done through a set-aside of 30 percent of the funds, consistent with the District's current agricultural burning alternatives incentive program.
- Ensure the District operates the program in accordance with publicly available policies and procedures. These policies and procedures should describe the project categories; the schedule for solicitation and review of applications; procedures for project selection; procedures for notifying successful and unsuccessful applications; an outreach plan; procedures for grantees to submit invoices and receive payment; and procedures, schedules, and required content for participant reports.
- Ensure the District's efforts to inform Valley growers about available incentives include outreach in disadvantaged communities as defined by the most current final version of California's [CalEnviroScreen](#) web tool. The District should also conduct outreach to small farms.

¹ Senate Bill (SB) 129 (Skinner, Chapter 69, Statutes of 2021) provides \$180,000,000 and CARB is taking 1 percent for administration.

- Ensure District submits progress reports electronically to CARB on a semi-annual basis. These reports will be posted on the CARB website. Reports will contain information such as:
 - summary of projects under contract since the last progress report;
 - statement of work to be completed by the next progress report;
 - notification of any problems encountered and an assessment of the impact on the project's outcome;
 - project data necessary to calculate fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emission reduction benefits;
 - project data needed to track projects that are within and benefit disadvantaged and low-income AB 1550 communities;
 - documentation of project implementation funds expended during the reporting period;
 - and, if the project is behind schedule, an explanation of the reasons and an explanation of how the project will get back on schedule.