

Board Administration and Regulatory Coordination Unit

Division 3. Air Resources Board

Chapter 1. Air Resources Board

Subchapter 2. Agricultural Burning Guidelines

Article 3. Meteorological Criteria for Regulating Agricultural Burning

§ 80260. San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

(a) The North Section of this basin includes San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties.

(b) A permissive-burn day will be declared in the North Section when the following criteria are met:

(1) Near the time of day when the surface temperature is at a minimum, the temperature at 3,000 feet above the surface is not warmer than the surface temperature by more than 13 degrees Fahrenheit.

(2) The expected daytime temperature at 3,000 feet above the surface is colder than the expected surface temperature by at least 11 degrees Fahrenheit for 4 hours.

(3) The expected daytime wind speed at 3,000 feet above the surface is at least 5 miles per hour.

(c) The South Section of this basin includes Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin portion of Kern County.

(d) A permissive-burn day will be declared in the South Section when the following criteria are met:

(1) Above 3,000 feet msl*:

(A) Near 4:00 a.m., the mean 500 mb height over the Basin is less than the limiting mean height given in Table 2 of section 80320.

(B) The expected 4:00 p.m. mean 500 mb height over the Basin is less than the limiting mean height given in Table 2 of section 80320.

(2) Below 3,000 feet msl*:

(A) Near the time of day when the surface temperature is at a minimum, the temperature at 3,000 feet above the surface is not warmer than the surface temperature by more than 13 degrees Fahrenheit.

(B) The expected daytime temperature at 3,000 feet above the surface is colder than the expected surface temperature by at least 11 degrees Fahrenheit for 4 hours. (C) The expected daytime wind speed at 3,000 feet above the surface is at least 5 miles per hour.

(e) Special situations in the Basin are:

(1) If, when a no-burn day decision is declared, the state ambient air quality standard for ozone, carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matter (PM10) or visibility is expected to be exceeded during the valid period, a note to this effect shall be appended to the announcement.

(2) A permissive-burn or no-burn day decision that has been announced may be changed by the Air Resources Board at any time prior to 10:00 a.m. if the meteorological and air quality situation that actually unfolds so warrants it.

(3) A conditional permissive-burn day may be declared in the North Section of the Air Basin during the months of November through February for the burning of almond and walnut prunings (from not more than 300 acres of orchard in each county) following three or more consecutive no-burn days, provided that two of the three criteria set forth in section 80260(b) for permissive-burn days are met, and provided further that the state board determines that under expected meteorological conditions the burning of such prunings will not have an adverse effect on air quality.

*In place of the standard 3,000 feet msl level, the elevation may be specified in increments of 500 feet on a day-to-day basis as determined from vertical temperature soundings.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 39600, 39601, 41856 and 41859, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 41854, 41855, 41856, 41857, 41859 and 41863, Health and Safety Code.

REFERENCE