CERP AMENDMENT –
ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL BURNING

EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY (ECV) CSC MEETING #16
APRIL 16TH, 2021

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OVERVIEW – ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL BURNING

- CSC comments on Agriculture Burning
- State Law on Agricultural Burning Phase Out
- Recap of South Coast AQMD’s Open Burn Program
- Alternatives to Agricultural Burning
- CERP Actions
- CSC Discussion
SUMMARY OF ECV CERP COMMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL BURNING

Summary of ECV CERP Comments

• Reduce the amount of material burned
• Phase out agricultural burning
• Enforce Rule 444 – Open Burning
• Identify feasible alternatives to open burning
CSC COMMENT – REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL BURNED

Open Burn Program Comparison

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<tr>
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<th>South Coast AQMD</th>
<th>Imperial County APCD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily burn limit</td>
<td>41 acres per day</td>
<td>1,600 acres per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres permitted per year</td>
<td>500 – 1,500 acres per year</td>
<td>10,000 – 60,000 acres per year</td>
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CSC COMMENT – PHASE OUT OPEN BURNING

• State law prohibits air districts and CARB from banning agricultural burning

• California Code of Regulations §41850*:

“It is the intent of the Legislature, by the enactment of this article, that agricultural burning be reasonably regulated and not be prohibited…”

* California Code of Regulations §41850 is available at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=26.&title=&part=4.&chapter=3.&article=3
CSC COMMENT – ENFORCE RULE 444 (OPEN BURNING)

• **Rule 444 – Key Requirements**
  – Must be at least 1,000 feet from nearest school, home, community center, and/or day care center
  – Burn piles must be dry and lit with an approved ignition device
  – Burning occurs between limited hours
  – Requires a pre-burn inspection and burn authorization number for every permitted burn

• **Staff presented on enforcement of Rule 444 in August 2020**
Common Types of Permitted Burning in ECV:
• Removing native brush and trees
• Trimming or removing:
  • grapevines
  • date palm fronds
  • citrus trees

Alternatives to Agricultural Burning:
- Grind and use onsite (i.e., soil incorporation, mulch)
- Grind and haul off-site (i.e., composting site, biomass facility)
- Dispose of material in local landfill
CERP ACTIONS TO ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL BURNING

**GOALS**

**Improve Monitoring Network**
- Establish an air quality sensor network to gain an understanding of and improve public information on PM2.5
- Identify areas where burning occurs to understand the potential impact on nearby communities and information to address open burning

**Reduce Emissions from Open Burning**
- Develop a feasible list of available technologies, best practices, alternatives, and new requirements
- Enhance enforcement efforts with additional inspections and follow-up investigations
- Collaborate to identify opportunities to reduce open burning and focused enforcement
- Identify funding to implement emission reduction projects (e.g., chippers)
- Conduct outreach and provide information on best burn practices/methods, open burning rules and regulations, and reporting illegal burning

**Reduce Exposure from Open Burning**
- Collaborate to develop and distribute informational materials relating to open burning, fire safety, and air pollution
- Develop an online system to inform the community when South Coast AQMD permitted burning is expected to occur
- Identify funding to implement exposure reduction projects (e.g., air filtration systems)
CSC comments or questions?