

ALTERNATIVES TO AGRICULTURAL OPEN BURNING INCENTIVE PROGRAM ORCHARD/VINEYARD REMOVALS

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) is accepting applications for the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning Incentive Program. This program provides incentives to commercial agricultural operations located within Air District boundaries to chip agricultural material from orchard and vineyard removals and use for soil incorporation (whole orchard/vineyard recycling), on-site land application on agricultural land, or off-site beneficial re-use (mulch, composting, land application near roadways for dust suppression, and other District approved beneficial re-use of the chipped material). Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis while funds are available. Land conversions intended for non-agricultural purposes are not eligible for funding.

Applicant must have not chipped, nor can begin chipping, any of the acres of the orchard or vineyard to be removed at the location referenced in their application until they have received an executed voucher.

Final disposition of agricultural material must be used for soil incorporation (whole orchard /vineyard recycling), on-site land application, or off-site beneficial re-use (mulch, composting, land application near roadways for dust suppression, and other District approved beneficial re-use of the chipped material beyond soil incorporation or land application), and cannot be used in any combustion processes such as biomass power generation, pyrolysis, or air curtain burners.

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Grants and Incentives Department
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244**

You may also contact us by phone, email, or visit our website:

(559) 230-5800
grants@valleyair.org
www.valleyair.org

ELIGIBLE MAXIMUM INCENTIVE AMOUNTS

The incentive amount is based on number of acres removed and the final disposition of the agricultural material.

Project Type	Orchards	Cane-Pruned Vineyard	Cordon-Pruned Vineyard
Chipping with Soil Incorporation (whole orchard/vineyard recycling)	\$600 per acre	\$800 per acre	\$1,300 per acre
Chipping without Soil Incorporation (on-site land application)	\$300 per acre	\$500 per acre	\$1,000 per acre
Off-site Beneficial Re-use (mulching, composting, land application near roadways for dust suppression)	\$600 per acre	\$800 per acre	\$1,300 per acre
Additional incentive of \$100/acre is provided for each incentive category to agricultural operations with less than 100 total acres within the San Joaquin Valley			

*** The final funding amount reimbursed may be less than the maximum incentive amount if the final invoiced amount for the project is less than the maximum incentive amount or if the final project is different from the proposed project. For example, the project proposed and funded was 100% soil incorporation but the final project was 50% soil incorporation and 50% land application.**

ELIGIBLE CROP TYPES

- Orchard and vineyard removals
 - As defined by Sections 3.25 and 3.38 of District Rule 4103 (Open Burning)
 - Orchard Removals: includes leaves, branches, trunks, roots, stumps and untreated sticks
 - Vineyard Removal Materials: agricultural waste generated by the removal of vineyards. This includes grape vines, grape canes, trunks, roots, untreated grape stakes, and wires, as well as similar materials from kiwi vineyards.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS

1. Only commercial agricultural operations are eligible to apply
2. Grower and crop location must be within the Valley Air District boundaries
3. The voucher will be issued to, and redeemed by the grower
 - a. Chipping contractors are not eligible to apply
 - b. Third parties may submit an application and receive a voucher with authorization from a grower on a case-by-case basis (please contact District staff for approval)
4. Funding for orchard and vineyard removals (as defined above) must be for soil incorporation (whole orchard/vineyard recycling), on-site land application, off-site beneficial re-use (such as mulch, composting, and land application near roadways for dust suppression) or other District approved practice
 - a. Chipped material is not to be used in any combustion processes such as biomass power generation, pyrolysis, or air curtain burners.

5. Approved methods include chipping or shredding. The District may, in its discretion, approve other methods upon request
6. Concurrent funding through an NRCS program is allowed, however any other funding that the Applicant applied for or is planning to apply for must be disclosed on the application
7. Grower must certify the continued agricultural use of the property from which the orchard or vineyard was removed
8. District staff will conduct a pre-inspection prior to issuing a voucher
9. Pre-inspection by District staff before chipping and post-inspection by District after chipping and soil incorporation, on-site land application, and/or off-site beneficial re-use are required
10. Approved vouchers are valid for twelve (12) months from date voucher is issued
 - a. Extensions may be approved on a case-by-case basis upon written request from the Applicant

THE PARTICIPANT MUST:

1. **Not make any non-refundable payments or begin chipping orchard or vineyard removal materials on this project until a District Voucher is issued.**
2. Certify the continued agricultural use of the property from which the orchard was removed

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Applicant submits complete application packet to the District (via mail, email, fax, or web portal). A complete application includes:
 - a. Completed and signed Application
 - b. IRS Form W-9
 - c. Confirmation of crop/acreage and location of orchard/vineyard removal site
 - i. i.e. site map, google map, assessor's map
 - d. Dated and itemized quote from service provider(s) for the planned activities
 - i. The quote must provide an itemized breakdown, including specific information and associated costs with pruning/wire/support removal (vineyards), pushing/piling, chipping/shredding, spreading, soil incorporation (ripping/discing), hauling (beneficial re-use), move-in fees, and any additional costs.
 - e. Documentation of estimated costs by participating grower, if additional costs are beyond those on the quote(s) for contracted services.
2. District staff notifies Applicant if incomplete or ineligible.
3. If complete and eligible, District staff will schedule the pre-inspection of the orchard and/or agricultural material.
4. Upon the completion of the successful pre-inspection and complete application, District will issue voucher to Applicant via email (postal mail if no email address provided).
5. Applicant has twelve (12) months from the date the on the voucher to complete the project.
 - a. If the project type changes or additional time is needed, please contact District staff

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

After receipt of an approved voucher:

1. Applicant completes the project as described on the application and on the Voucher.
 - a. If the applicant needs to complete the project in a way other than what is allowed on the voucher, applicant must ensure it meets the requirements and obtain District approval of the project changes
2. Applicant submits a claim for payment packet including the following:
 - a. Completed and signed Voucher
 - b. Completed Claim for Payment Form
 - c. Completed Breakdown of Services and Costs Form
 - d. Invoice(s) from contractor services
 - i. Invoice(s) must show the breakdown of services conducted, i.e. pruning/wire/support removal (vineyards), pushing/piling, chipping/shredding, spreading, soil incorporation (ripping/discing), hauling (beneficial re-use), move-in fees, and any additional costs.
 - e. Documentation of incurred costs by participating grower, if additional costs are beyond those on the invoice for contracted services
 - i. Additional costs must be itemized and applicable payment date(s) identified
 - f. Proof of payment
 - i. Copies of checks, receipts or finance documents
3. Upon receiving your completed Claim for Payment packet, District staff will schedule your post-inspection site visit of the removal location **and** of the final disposition of agricultural material
 - a. The post-inspection site visit must be completed and deemed by staff to meet program requirements before incentive funds can be released. District staff will complete a monitoring report and take photographs during the site visit, including inspection of the removal site **and** final disposition of agricultural material.
4. Complete the post-inspection site visit with District staff
5. Following receipt and verification of a complete claim packet and completion of the post-inspection, the District will issue payment, generally within forty-five (45) working days

MAP OF SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

