Agricultural Operations in California

have long been exempt from federal and state air pollution control laws. In response to new federal mandates and growing public health concerns, Senate Bill 700 (SB700) was adopted by the California Legislature in 2003 to remove most of those exemptions. In addition, the State of California recently adopted open burning restrictions and new performance standards for diesel engines that may apply to agriculture. This brochure describes how the new regulations may affect local agricultural operations and the resources available to help farmers and ranchers comply with these requirements.

Agricultural Emissions & Public Health

Agricultural operations often have several sources of pollutant emissions, including stationary and mobile diesel engines and activities such as tilling and burning of greenwaste. Particulate matter (PM) from diesel exhaust is of particular concern due to its toxicity, accounting for 70% of public health risk statewide from airborne toxic compounds. Open burning and dust emissions from tilling also produce large amounts of fine PM which can have both immediate and long-term health effects. While PM exposure affects everyone, children and the elderly are especially sensitive to its harmful effects. Scientific studies have linked PM exposure to diseases such as asthma, lung cancer, and heart disease.

Avoid the Need for a Permit - Reduce Air Emission

One way to reduce emissions and possibly preclude t need for a permit is to replace diesel irrigation pumps either electric motors or with clean-burning engines. T Air District administers grant funding programs availa for engine replacement.

How to Find More Information

Check out the APCD's website at www.slocleanair.org look under Business Assistance. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) also maintains a website on th topics at www.arb.ca.org/ag/ag.htm.

For more information contact the

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTR
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

805-781-5912
www.slocleanair.org/programs/grants.a

Diesel Engines Used for Irrigation & Crop Protection

NEW STATIONARY ENGINES greater than (>) 50hp must meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) off-road emission standards, which are "tiered" according to purchase year. New Ag engines are currently subject to the Tier II standard; however, move to a more stringent Tier III standard in 2006.

PORTABLE ENGINES are defined as engines that can b moved to different locations but do not propel a piece equipment. Starting in the year 2010, most portable engines >50hp must be certified to meet EPA's off-roa emission standard. Exceptions are allowed for emerge standby and low use engines (<80 hours per year) if th owner commits to replacement with a Tier IV engine within 2 years of that engine's availability, currently projected for 2011.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: ***For stationary and portable engines at large agricultural operations (see below), APCD permits are required; however, very few farms will be classified as large in SLO County. For all other stationary engines used at agricultural operations, sales information fil engine dealers will be used to determine compliance. Portable engines will likely be required to secure state registrati Air District permit by 2009.***

Alternatives to Permitting for Portable Engines

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) operates a Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) that smaller agricultural operations may want to utilize instead of an Air District permit. The intent of this program is to provide a uniform statewide registration system to allow portable engines to move between air districts without requiring multip permits -- making it easier to move engines from farm to farm. PERP registration fees are currently less than an Air Distr permit. However, existing agricultural engines will only be allowed to enter the PERP program by December 31, 2005. Starting in 2006, all engines entering the PERP will need to meet new engine emission standards. For more informatio to www.arb.ca.gov/perp/perp.htm.

Agricultural Operations Subject To Air District Permit Requirements

The Air District has been issuing permits to non-agricultural emission sources for over 30 years to ensure emissions are minimized and public health protected. The permit program is cost recovery based and funded through annual permit renewal fees. With the adoption of SB 700, the permit requirement is now extended to specified agriculture operations. The following list summarizes the main aspects of agricultural activities that are subject to new air quality regulations, some of which include a requirement for permit:

- ***Very large agriculture operations that generate more than 50 tons of a single pollutant per year***
- ***Stationary and portable diesel engines rated at 50 horsepower and greater***
- ***Large Confined Animal Facilities such as dairies with over 2,000 milk-producing cows, feed lots with over 5,000 steers or chicken ranches with over 1,300,000 chickens***
- ***Agricultural Burning***

Engines or Boilers Used for Purposes Other than Irrigation or Crop Protection

Stationary engines >50 hp that are not used for water pumping or crop protection most likely require an Air District permit. These include all diesel generators (standby power included) and prime use engines regardless of fuel type. An Air District permit is also required if the total ratings of all boilers at a facility is 2.0 mmBtu/hr or higher.

Large Agricultural Operations

An agricultural operation includes all contiguous acreage owned, controlled or operated by the same entity. Please note that public roads, railroads, or county lines do not break a contiguous determination.

If your agricultural operation farms over 5,000 acres or uses 230,000 gallons of diesel fuel for water pumping or crop protection, an Air District permit may be required. Checkout the emission calculators on the APCD website or call us at 805-781-5912.