## Whole orchard recycling increases soil organic matter and second generation almond tree growth and yield

by

Brent A. Holtz, Ph.D.

UC Farm Advisor in San Joaquin County

California Air Resources Board Hearing February 25, 2021





Two Treatments:
Orchard Grinding with Iron Wolf
Pushing and Burning Trees



## Whole Orchard Recycling has:

- Increased soil organic matter
- Increased soil organic carbon
- Increased soil nutrients
- Increase soil microbial diversity
- Increased water infiltration/ holding capacity
- Increased orchard productivity

## Closure of more biomass plants reduces options

By Christine Souza

The closure or threatened closure of more California biomass power plants leaves farmers with fewer options for disposing of tree prunings or of trees uprooted during planned orchard removals. "The last few projects that we've done,



In 2015 growers started using manure spreaders to spread wood chips back on the soil surface





University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

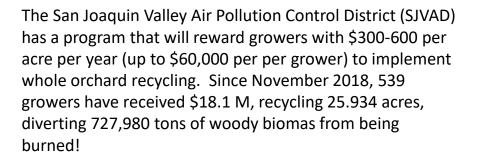






Agriculture and Natural Resources







CDFA's Healthy Soils Program has approved Whole Orchard Recycling as a practice that growers can receive incentives for practicing <a href="www.cdfa.ca.gov">www.cdfa.ca.gov</a> 14 growers received \$680,342 in 2020.



Since 2015 over 40,000 acres have been recycled!







This project evolved from farming on the urban edge







Thank You!





