

Local District Perspective

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Today's Objectives

- District Rule 4106
- Title 17 Section 80160
- Current District procedures
- Challenges between ALMs and APCD
- Fire Policy
- Cooperation tools

Buckhorn Fire Sept 2010



Sheep Fire Sept 2010



Sheep Fire Sept 2010



Maggie Fire Sept 2010



Lion Fire July 2009



Shotgun Fire July 2009



Some 2009 Statistics

- 13,204 Acres treated (Rx and Managed)
- 53 Smoke Management Summaries Reviewed
- 18 Different LMAs – includes private landowners

Let's Look Briefly at District Rule 4106

Rule 4106 – Prescribed Burning and Hazard Reduction Burning

- Forest Management Burning – Use of Rx fire, as part of a forest management practice to remove forest debris/
- Land Manager- any federal, state, local, or private entity that administers, directs, oversees or controls the use of public or private land, including the application of fire to the land



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Rule 4106

cont'd

- Prescribed Burning – the planned application of fire, including natural or accidental ignition to vegetation on lands selected in advance of such application to meet specific planned resource management objectives
- Planned resource objectives – forest management, wildlife habitat management, range improvement, fire hazard reduction, wilderness management, weed abatement, watershed rehabilitation, vegetation manipulation, disease and pest prevention, ecosystem management



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Rule 4106 Requirements

- No trash/garbage
- District allocates/authorizes burning on predicted met conditions and whether burn will impact sensitive areas or create/contribute to an exceedance of an ambient air quality standard
- Don't create a nuisance
- Vegetation shall be in a condition to facilitate combustion and minimize the amount of smoke emitted during combustion (be aware of moisture, dirt in piles)
- Approved ignition devices



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Administrative Requirements

Paperwork!



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Smoke Management Plan

- Rule 4106 Sec. 3.15 defines a SMP as a document prepared for each Rx that provides the information
- Sec. 5.2 describes what is required to be in a plan
- Sec. 5.2 and Title 17 are FUNDAMENTALLY IDENTICAL!
- So if your SMS meets our Rule descriptions, it meets Title 17 requirements and it looks like the PFIRS data entry screens



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Smoke Management Summary Form

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Prescribed Burn Smoke Management Summary**

GENERAL INFORMATION (FOR ALL BURNS)											
Project Name:					Burner Name:						
Plan Burn Acres:			Bottom Elevation:		Top Elevation:			Mean Elevation:			
Lat:	deg	min	sec	Long:	deg	min	sec	Slope Range:	Aspect:		
Township:			Range:		Section:		County:				
Burner Address:											
Burner Contact:		Phone#:		24 Hour Phone:		FAX:		E-Mail:			
Nearest RAWS:											
PROJECT FUELS/EMISSIONS INFORMATION (FOR ALL BURNS)											
Fuel Type(s):											
Tons per Acre:				% Consumption:				<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		<input type="checkbox"/> Reentry	
Fuels Arrangement:											
Total Estimated Emission Tons: / PM 10: / PM 2.5: / NOx: / SO _x : / VOC: / CO:											
Comments (include black lining, segmenting potential, etc):											
BURN PRESCRIPTION / TIMING / BURN DOWN (FOR ALL BURNS)											
Temp Range: Low: °F High: °F				Relative Humidity: Low: % High: %							
Desired Wind Speed:					Desired Wind Direction:						
Ignition Method/Technique:					Expected Rate of Spread: (head fire) (backing fire)						
Days of ignition:		Start Date:		Daily Ignition Start Time:		Stop Time:		Daily Ignition Acres:			
Primary Burn Down Time:			Estimated Days to Complete Extinction:								
Method of Weather Observations:											
Method of Smoke Observations:											
Method of Public Notification:											
Comments:											
SMOKE SENSITIVE AREAS (list nearest to furthest) (FOR ALL BURNS)											
SMOKE SENSITIVE AREAS				ELEVATION		MILES		COMPASS			
Adjacent Air Districts:											
ALTERNATIVES AND BACM'S (FOR BURNS > 100 ACRES)											
Alternatives Considered and/or Used:											
Alternatives Rejected and Reasons for Rejection:											
Fuel Reduction: %			Emissions Reduction: %			Biomass Utilization: %					
SMOKE MITIGATIONS (FOR BURNS > 100 ACRES)											
List and Explain:											
Comments:											
SJVUAPCD Review											
SMP Area: #		PIRA begin date:		end date:		> 250 acres of > 25 tons of emissions, consult w/ARB					
Additional conditions:											
Reviewed by: Date:					ARB consultation with: Date:						

April 8, 2007



PIFAs

- Planned Ignition Forecast Advisory
- SJVAPCD has met staff on site
- Provide burn forecast for 96 hrs
 - Daily participation 1pm call (during season)
 - Project get unfavorable/favorable declaration
 - Compliance gives burn ignition authorization
 - Pile burning, NO PIFA needed, still subject to burn/no burn



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SMP

- Emissions reporting requirements
- Blackened acres; Rule 3135 - Fees
- Post Burn Evaluations (Lessons learned)

Emissions reporting/post burn required by
District Rule and Title 17

Fees - SJVAPCD exclusive



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Smoke Management Plan

- Per Title 17, District must provide ARB notice of “large” multi burn projects
 - > 250 acres
 - Use the Daily 1pm call
 - District Rule requires submittal 30 day in advance
 - We approve or disapprove
 - APPROVED plan is your burn permit



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Naturally Ignited Fires

- Title 17- Prescribed Fires
 - Fires ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives, INCLUDES naturally ignited wildland fires MANAGED for resource benefit - These require a SMP w/ 72 hours!
 - SJVAPCD can issue a FEDAA
 - Fire Emission Dispersion Advisory



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- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (FWFMP)
 - Wildland fire is a general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland
 - TWO DISTINCT TYPES OF FIRES
 - Wildfires- Unplanned ignitions or prescribed fire that are declared wildfires
 - RX fires- Planned ignitions

Bull Fire - 100,000 acres (aerial tankers, 1000s of firefighters on ground is a wildfire , per FWFMP)

Buckhorn Fire - (Remember from the earlier slide) remote area lightning strike – That is also a wildfire

How to apply:

Title 17?

District Rule 4106 ?



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Challenges

- Recognize the need to reduce fuels
 - Burn under RX conditions (Burn Days)
- Recognize the benefit of natural fires
 - Remote locations / reintroduce fire
- Natural ignitions come in Summer with poor air quality / dispersion



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Challenges

- Size of Fire
 - Made up example, Julia Fire, lightning strike, 1 acre in Mid-July. Good dispersion throughout July and Mid August (Wind blowing away from District residents/monitors)
 - Mid August , weeks of poor dispersion, September shorter days, begins down-sloping conditions. Julia Fire now at 2000 acres
 - Challenge “Should the District have requested suppression at 100 acres? 10 acres? Was suppression even an option?”



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Policy Challenges

- Per FWFMP, management response to a wildland fire on federal land is based on objectives established in the applicable Land/Resource Management Plan and or Fire Management Plan
- District Burn/No Burn is based on met conditions (Mother nature)

What happens when FWFMP and District objectives don't match?



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Cooperation tools

- Spring Registration (required by District Rule and Title 17)
 - SJVAPCD Cooperators meeting in March/April
- Unified Guidelines and Procedures Document
 - SJVAPCD and LMAs agree a set of procedures and forms
- Coordination and Communication Protocol Naturally Ignited Fires
 - Being updated in 2010
- LMAs Webcams, 1pm call, site visits
- Press releases, periodic updates



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Three Words

COMMUNICATION

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COMMUNICATION

Contact is very important and Title 17 states “Daily Coordination”

District needs info to make other burn decisions / health advisories, etc



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Current District Efforts to Minimize Public Health Impact from Fires

- **Work closely with land managers on prescribed fires**
 - Understand longer-term land management plans
 - Daily teleconferences to discuss meteorological outlook
 - On-site presence to assure minimal air quality impact
- **Closely monitor wildfires to mitigate localized and regional smoke impacts**



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Mitigating Future Wildfire Impacts

- Encourage removal of vegetative fuel materials
- Mitigate fires during unfavorable conditions, allow burning during favorable conditions
- Optimize prescribed burning
- Greater field presence, more real-time monitoring



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District's Governing Board Action May 2009 and January 2010

Legislative Platform

Support Policies and Initiatives that encourage rapid disposal of fuel supply

- Additional financial and staffing resources for public and private land owners to conduct Rx burning
- Additional resources to manage wildfires when they occur
- Lessening or removal of contradictory environmental protection policies that prohibit the use of mechanized methods, or Rx burning to reduce fuels when those are the only feasible methods available
- Changes in federal policies that better incorporate air quality concerns by shifting focus to Rx burning and employing fire management techniques that reduce air quality impact when they occur.



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Questions / Comments?



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