



July 6, 2009

To: All Field Crop Growers
Subject: 2009-2010 Conditional Rice Straw Burning Permit Program Registration

No changes have been made to the program for the 2009-2010 burn season. Continuing this year, the Sacramento Valley Smoke Management Program allows each County Agricultural Commissioner to make a county-wide disease determination for all fields in his or her jurisdiction. The Butte County Agricultural Commissioner has made a county-wide finding of disease and all fields may be listed on the conditional rice straw burning permit (for the 2009-2010 burn season, this includes all fields planted to rice during the 2009 growing season). For the 2009 growing year, a maximum of 25% of each grower's total planted acreage is eligible for burning subject to the 125,000 limitation burnable acres basinwide. Growers planting 400 or fewer acres may burn all planted acreage once every four (4) years. **State law does not allow trading of burnable acres.** The statutory restrictions on the total acres burned by each grower will be enforced through the field allocation process.

The District is now gathering information necessary for registering the fields you may wish to burn in the 2009-2010 burn season. The following items are included in this packet:

1. Grower Appointment Letter;
2. Last year's *Field Crop Registration* Information. Note any changes on this form;
3. Blank *Field Crop Registration Form*. Complete this form for new fields;
4. Sample of completed *Field Crop Registration Form*;
5. Smoke management zone map identifying burn zones;
6. Blank *Air Quality Burn Permit* Application;
7. Blank *Conditional Rice Straw Burn Permit* Application.

The District has scheduled a specific date and time to personally assist you in completing the registration process. The attached appointment letter lists the date and time of your scheduled appointment. Please complete the registration materials as discussed below and bring them to your scheduled appointment. The District requests that you keep your appointment, or reschedule your appointment as necessary so that District staff can discuss with you the program requirements. **If you cannot make your appointment, no longer farm rice, or do not plan to participate in the rice straw burn program; please notify Terry Bayer at the District office, (530) 891-2882 ext. 108, to change or cancel your appointment date.**

1. Field Crop Burn Data. Review last year's *Field Crop Burn Data* form.

- A. Make corrections to the farm name and permittee. Provide a maximum of three phone numbers in the order that you would like to be notified. The District will issue a new permit number for conditional rice straw burning during your appointment.

- B. For the 2009-2010 program, the District is asking for all growers to please provide an assessor's parcel number for each field. The District is asking for parcel numbers to assist in placement of field burns.
- C. Make any necessary changes in the blanks below each printed field. Only one field should be listed per line. A field name cannot exceed twenty-five (25) characters. Wild rice is not considered part of the total planted acreage but must be listed separately on an agricultural burn permit (and NOT on the conditional rice straw burn permit) in order to be eligible to burn. Please make sure that the crop type is listed correctly.
- D. Make sure that the correct planted acreage is shown for each field. Fill in the blanks for total acres at the bottom of the form.
- E. If a field is not listed on last year's form, please make additions on the blank form provided. Use the sample form as a guide (please include previous owner/lessee name when possible).
- F. Make sure that the required wind for burning is shown for each field if a hazard exists. Consult the enclosed smoke management zone map and determine which wind direction is required for your field in order to provide safe burning conditions and prevent smoke impacts. Enter "N" for north wind, "S" for south wind.
- G. Sign and date the form.

2. Field Map. Submit a parcel map showing all planted rice fields (parcel numbers may be substituted in place of map).

- A. Clearly label each field with the correct field name/number.
- B. Indicate nearby roads and other major landmarks.
- C. Indicate direction and distance to population centers within ten (10) miles.

3. Burn Permits. A rice grower will need to obtain **two** burn permits - The standard burn permit will be issued to burn weeds on ditches, levees and roads, wild rice, and other non-rice crop waste, and a conditional rice straw burn permit to burn rice straw:

- A. The standard District burn permit can be obtained during your scheduled appointment. Base fee for permits is \$15.00 per permit plus the applicable acreage fee as required by District Rule 507. The Sacramento Valley Basinwide Control Council fee is \$5.00 per permit.
- B. The conditional rice straw burn permit will list each field registered planted as an attachment. Base fee for permits is \$15.00 per permit with an additional \$50.00 program registration fee required by District Rule 507. The Sacramento Valley Basinwide Control Council fee is \$5.00 per permit. The District acreage fee is \$2.50 per burned acre of rice stubble (determined monthly based on acreage allocation and billed).

Registration/Permit Fees		
District	BCC	Total
\$65.00	\$5.00	\$70.00

Burn Acreage Fees Billed (per acre burned)	
District	Total
\$2.50	\$2.50

4. **Return Forms.** Please bring completed forms to your grower appointment. Growers choosing to mail-in their packets need to be aware of the following:
- A. **Incomplete mail-in packets will not be processed. The grower will be notified if the packet is incomplete.** The incomplete materials may be processed through an appointment made by the grower after August 10, 2009, or through the mail.
 - B. **A grower's harvested rice fields will not be recorded and no burning will be allowed until the registration data is processed and a conditional rice straw burning permit is purchased.**

The rice-burning season officially begins on **September 1st** and the District's top priority from that time on will be to issue burn authorizations to growers on the ready-to-burn list. It is important, then, that a grower's registration process be completed prior to September 1st. After September 1st registration appointments will not be allowed until after the burn authorizations have been completed for the day. In addition, a minimum of a two-day delay can be expected to register after this time.

If you have any questions, please contact Ursula Parker at the District office at (530) 891-2882 x 109. We seek to make the field crop registration process as efficient and friendly as possible and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Robert McLaughlin
Assistant Air Pollution Control Officer