

2009 Procedures for Field Swapping and Other Changes to the Burn List

Under the existing Rules & Regulations of the Butte County Air Quality Management District, as well as the guidelines of the Basin Smoke Management Program, swapping field positions on the ready to burn list, including 2 or more fields for 1 field, while not addressed specifically, is implicitly allowed. The following guidelines are District policy to be applied when conditionally authorizing swaps. *(Note: there is a local administrative distinction in terminology; swapping generally means switching list positions on the ready to burn list.)*

1. The field must be registered as a current planted field. For rice straw, the field must meet the requirements for burning under a Conditional Rice Straw Burn Permit.
2. A 10% limit on field size increase exists, i.e., two 60-acre fields could be swapped for a 110-acre field, but could not be swapped for a 100-acre field. If the swap results in a net decrease in the amount of acreage at the top of the list to be burned, then the 10% limit would not apply.
3. Swapping within a growers' fields can be done over the phone, with District staff preparing the paperwork and cost incurred to be billed. However, swapping which involves 2 or more permittees is not allowed. All 2 for 1 swaps require a paper trail, as well as computer data entry.
4. If more than 2 fields are involved in the swap, then the largest field involved must assume the lowest list number of the 3 fields. The intent is to keep the system equitable for all growers.
5. Splitting a field requires that the data sheet be modified. Permittee must come to the District Office to effect the change.
6. The swap must be done at least 2 days in advance of the burn.
7. All requests for swaps, including office visits and phone calls, will be done only in the afternoon, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. (The morning hours are reserved for performing the logistics of placing and calling out rice field allocations to growers on the ready to burn list.)
8. Costs: A \$20 modification fee will be charged and deemed payable at the time of each swap or modification of the initial registration form as determined by Rule 507.3.
9. **Trading of burnable acres is no longer allowed, in accordance with state law.**